

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name:	Public Transport Consortium
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Membership	
Bath & North East Somerset Council	Hertfordshire County Council
Blackpool Council	Kent County Council
Bristol City Council	Lancashire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council	Lincolnshire County Council
Cheshire West & Chester Council	Luton Borough Council
Cheshire East Council	Norfolk County Council
Devon County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council
Durham County Council	Somerset County Council
East Sussex Council	South Gloucestershire Council
Essex County Council	Staffordshire County Council
Gloucester County Council	Suffolk County Council
Halton Borough Council	Surrey County Council
Hampshire County Council	Warwickshire County Council

Aim

The Consortium aims to:

- act as a forum for discussion and promotion of public transport issues affecting local authorities outside metropolitan areas;
- promote the exchange of experience and good practice between member authorities and in liaison with other bodies;
- advise appropriate committees or other executive bodies of the LGA on public transport issues;
- represent interests of member authorities to Government, the Local Government Association, operators and other organisations involved in public transport; and
- provide advice and guidance to member authorities concerning Passenger Transport policy and operations

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The Consortium has responded to the following consultations:

Taxi & private hire licensing;
DfT Pay as you go rail fare consultation;
Rail industry review (Williams);
East West rail;
Legislative changes to the operator licensing system;
Carbon offsetting in transport;
Home to school transport guidance;
responded to HoC Transport Committee;

Liaised with:

Department for Transport:

- topics such as Bus Open Data; the use of Section 19 & 22 permits and the short distance exemption for community transport; the Inclusion Leaders Transport Scheme; updates on the implementation of the Bus Services Act 2017; Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations.

LGA Transport Officers

Transport Focus: research

Confederation of Passenger Transport:

- Trends in English Bus Patronage
- Moving forward together – the future's better with bus

Bus Users UK: Rural Buses – reversing the decline

Rail Delivery Group – fares reform

Network Rail – building a stronger working relationship

Transport Knowledge Hub, including representation on the Board.

Arranged a regional meeting and study tour to Blackpool, reviewing their use of transport as part of local regeneration.

In addition to six planned meetings, the Consortium maintains contacts with members through regular and timely news updates. Due to the lockdown, the final meeting in the programme for 2019-20 had to be cancelled, but the business of the Consortium has continued through liaison with the Executive committee.