

## LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

**SIG Name:** Public Transport Consortium

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### **Membership**

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER COUNCIL

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

THURROCK COUNCIL

BRIGHTON & HOVE

## **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:***

Future of Transport Rural Strategy

Planning Reforms

DfT Future of Regulatory reform

Transport Focus guidance on bus service changes

DfT Creating a plan to decarbonise transport

***Liaised with:***

Department for Transport:

- topics such as Covid 19 Bus Services Support Grant.
- Corresponded with Secretary of State for Transport, Minister of State for Transport, Baroness Vere

LGA Transport Officers

Transport Focus: research; Travel during Covid 19

SYSTRA – Future of Bus Services

Bus Users UK

Network Rail

Transport Knowledge Hub, including representation on the Board.

The regional meeting and study tour to Suffolk had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Consortium maintained contact with members through weekly news updates. The business of the Consortium has continued through liaison with the Executive committee and through plenary meetings via MS Teams. The main focus for the Consortium in this year was to support members through the frequent changes to passenger transport due to Covid.

We have maintained our proposed five meetings during the year which have been held by MS Teams and the number of attendees has been at least as large and in some cases larger than in person meetings. In the future It is proposed to hold two in person and three virtual meetings, with the opportunity for members to join in-person meetings virtually.

***Topics considered in the discussion sessions included:***

Public Transport Post Pandemic – Roger French  
Future of the Bus Market – Local Government Association

East West Rail - Martin Tugwell

Network Rail – Becky Lumlock

Future of Bus Services – Neill Birch, SYSTRA