

# The Local Authority challenge



# How important are bus services?

In the year ending March 2015:

- there were an estimated 5.16 billion bus passenger journeys in Great Britain, around two-thirds of all public transport journeys,
- of these 4.65 billion journeys were in England,
- of which more than half were in London



- There were around 9.8 million older and disabled concessionary bus passes in England, with an average of 102 bus journeys per pass per year



# What is the role of the LAs?

- Under section 63 of the *Transport Act 1985*, English local authorities outside London have a duty to provide subsidised bus services where there are no commercial services *and where they think it appropriate*.
- A council is entitled to take account of the funding that is available in deciding what, if any, level of service is provided.



# Support from public policy

- Transport Act 2000
- Local Transport Act 2008
- Making Sustainable Transport Happen 2011
- NPPF 2012
- Buses Green Paper 2012
- Door to Door 2013
- Total Transport Pilots 2015
- Buses Bill 2016



# Result

- Bus passenger journeys in England decreased by 0.6% in 2014/15 compared with the previous financial year
- This was largely due to 10% reduction in mileage on local authority supported services outside London



# No reduction in concessionary fare support.

## Concessionary Travel Spend per passenger journey (subsidised and non-subsidised)

- 09/10 40.0p
- 10/11 41.0p
- 11/12 38.7p
- 12/13 39.4p
- 13/14 39.0p



# Bus Service Operators Grant

per passenger journey (commercial and LA)

- 09/10 17.4p
- 10/11 16.6p
- 11/12 16.7p
- 12/13 13.7p
- 13/14 13.3p
- 14/15 12.9p





# Net public transport support

per passenger journey (all services)

- 09/10 20.4p
- 10/11 19.8p
- 11/12 17.5p
- 12/13 16.7p
- 13/14 15.2p



# Total net public sector support

per passenger journey (all services)

- 09/10      77.9p
- 13/14      67.4p



# Where are we now?

## Passenger journeys per head of population

- Cornwall 18.7
- Devon 37.6
- Dorset 23.9
- Gloucestershire 32.9
- Somerset 16.4
- Wiltshire 20.5



# Where are we now?

## Vehicle miles supported by LA

- Cornwall 2.8m 26%
- Devon 6.0m 31%
- Dorset 1.5m 24%
- Gloucestershire 3.1m 30%
- Somerset 1.8m 23%
- Wiltshire 3.3m 44%



# The future?

- Somerset
  - May 2015
  - Reduction of £446,460 pa
- Devon
  - June 2015
  - reduction of £1.762 million pa
- Dorset
  - reduction of £1.5 million over two years from April 2016
- Wiltshire
  - Consultation with a view to cuts of over £2 million

