



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE – 22ND JULY 2024

BRIEFING NOTE: MATTERS RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

1. CHARTER REVIEW

Added as main agenda item.

2. MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETINGS – CHARTER

Question from Town and Community Councils

CCBC consider an additional point in the Charter that the Joint meetings are to be held solely in person and not in any hybrid format?"

Response from Officers

The requirement for Local Authorities to hold their formal meetings on a multi-locational/hybrid basis is a provision of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 - Section 47 – Attendance at Local Authority Meetings.

3. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Question from Town and Community Councils

"The Committee are concerned at the lack of community transport in the communities. Can we have an update on CCBC's plans for more community transport options, please? In what areas does community transport operate and what is the take-up?"

Response From Officers

We acknowledge the importance of accessible transportation services for our residents, this is why the Authority operates five local bus service routes, a school service and weekly shoppers' buses in the Caerphilly and Bargoed areas. Our minibuses are also available for private excursions outside our scheduled services hours.

Whilst there is no requirement for local authorities to provide Community Transport, CCBC is committed to providing existing community transport services with our limited fleet of vehicles and staff resources.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic Welsh Government has provided the bus industry with over £200m funding support to maintain bus services across Wales.

From 1 April this year Welsh Government is introducing the Bus Network Grant (BNG). In addition to the £25m Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG), BNG will provide local authorities across Wales with £39m to secure bus services that they deem socially necessary that the commercial market will not provide when previous funding comes to an end. The new scheme will include specific conditions that will encourage improved regional co-ordination of bus services and network ticketing.

BNG will bring about stability to the industry as well as increased public control of bus services. It will also act as a bridge from the emergency funding that has been provided to bus franchising. BNG will be a twelve-month scheme.

Operating community transport can be financially burdensome due to essential operational expenses such as fuel, insurance, staff salaries and maintaining aging infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment, leading to heightened maintenance costs. These services typically depend on a variety of funding sources, including grants and subsidies.

Fluctuations in government funding or alterations in grant availability can profoundly affect the sustainability of community transport services. This has been observed in recent years, evidenced by a community transport provider in the Blackwood area being compelled to cease its operations.

Unfortunately, there is no further funding currently, and we do not have a budget available to significantly increase the demand for community transport options. However, we remain open to exploring alternative funding sources or partnerships to address this issue in the future.

We are open to suggestions on how our community transport offerings can expand further for residents, it's crucial to note that our resources are already allocated, and any expansion would be subject to the availability of budget, vehicles and staff and contingent upon our existing commitments.

Please be assured that we are actively reviewing our capacity and exploring opportunities to enhance community transport services where possible.

Connect2 operate the following Community Transport Services

Day	From	To	No. Of Passengers
Monday	Pleasant Place, Caerphilly	Asda, Caerphilly	Up To 13 Passengers
Tuesday and Friday	Nelson via Avril Estate	Nelson Co-op – (registered as C1 service)	Up To 6 Passengers
Wednesday	William Forbes Bungalows, Aberbargoed	Bargoed Town Centre	Up To 6 Passengers
Wednesday	Gilfach, Gelligaer, Cefn Hengoed	Cefn Hengoed OAP	Up to 9 Passengers

[Please Click Here for - Caerphilly County Borough - Connect 2](#)

[Please Click Here for - Caerphilly County Borough - Public Transport and Advice](#)