FUTURE OF RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Melanie Watson Independent Consultant

Sample Footer Text

Via Constantine Bas

WA20 DKU

### OVERVIEW - A RURAL PERSPECTIVE

- Cornwall Context
- Background
- Service Provision
- Recent Funding BSIP / BFP
- One Network, Timetable, Ticket, Brand
- Key Challenges
- Lessons Learnt

## CORNWALL CONTEXT

- Growing population, over half a million 10% growth by 2031
- 25% population over 65 compared to 18% for England & Wales, ageing at faster rate
- 2 in 5 people live in small settlements of less than 3,000 people rural
- Deep inequalities in health and wealth exist low average salaries
- Inequalities in health, education and safety outcomes between different groups of people and different places in Cornwall – some of which most deprived in UK
- House prices around 9 times the average wage
- Rural isolation is a key issue, especially for children and young people
- Politically strong support for public transport, shown by significant investment in buses and rail over the last 8 years.



#### BACKGROUND

- Rural authority ٠
- **Devolution Deal 2015** •
- £15m public transport • investment
- £35m+ Operator ٠ investment
- Led to One Public ٠ Transport System for Cornwall
- Voluntary Partnership with operators
- New innovative tender ٠



102 new buses – delivered through Covid-19. Best rural fleet in UK?

#### SERVICE PROVISION

- First are main commercial operator, covering around 1/3 mileage.
- Innovative 8 year options tender -2019
- Ambitious Package bid agreed with Go Ahead for all tendered buses in Cornwall
- Integrated commercial and tendered mileage to provide better links, more connections and upfront investment in a new fleet
- Linked school journeys into the wider network to provide more cost effective mileage
- Also includes delivery of one brand and customer service centre
- New network launched as Covid-19 hit, lost opportunity for launch
- Network remains largely intact, with significant subsidy from Cornwall Council



#### Bus Service Improvement Plan for Cornwall

Developed by Cornwall Council and the Bus Partnership Group October 2021









#### UNLIMITED BUS TRAVEL ACROSS CORNWALL FOR A FIXED COST



#### HT TO YOU BY NAKE ransport RIG or Cornwall SAVINGS RIG SAVINGS RIG A BUS RIG A BUS

#### **BSIP & BUS FARES PILOT**

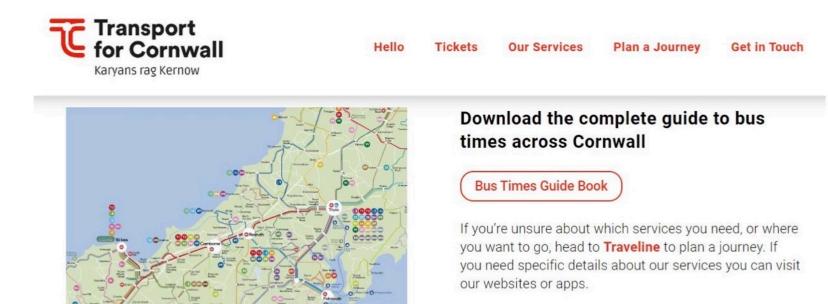
- One of the successful BSIP authorities, but massive shortfall in revenue bid for
- But, separate award for Bus Fares Pilot - £23.5m
- Allows 4 year fares trial to recover and grow patronage
- First year outcomes achieved – recovered pre-covid patronage
- Landed positively.
- DfT pilot £2 now in operation – challenge around how this is sustainable for longer rural journeys?

## ONE NETWORK

#### **Integrated information**

In the last 12 months, and with the Enhanced Partnership in place from April, partnership delivery has stepped up a gear.

In January this year, Go Cornwall Bus, working in partnership with Cornwall Council and the other operators, developed a microsite to bring together all the transport information for customers. This website provides ticket information, bus network map, timetable booklets, operator contacts and a link to plan your journey.



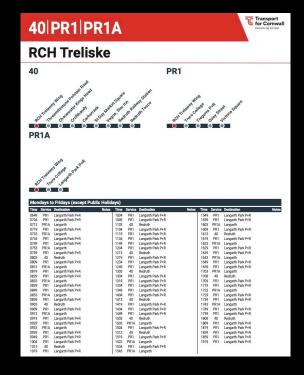
## ONE TIMETABLE

Go Cornwall Bus & First South West joined forces to introduce a single public transport map featuring all bus services in Cornwall, accompanied in April by one set of 3 regional timetable booklets and then consolidated to one single timetable booklet in September.



GWR is also represented in our Enhanced Partnership and shares our vision for an integrated network. Working with GWR, on-board train announcements have been installed at the key bus / rail interchange points, announcing onward connections by bus and directing customers to <u>transportforcornwall.co.uk</u> for further information. Way finding between rail and bus stops has also been improved, alongside the rollout of TfC branding.





## ONE TICKET





Karyans rag Kernow

AKE BLG AVINGS BUS

ANY BUS, ANY ROUTE\*

transportforcornwall.co.uk

TOWN ZONE DAY TICKET 250 TOWN ZONE DAY TICKET 250 CATCH NE ACROSS CORNMALL 25

Transport for Cornwall





#### ONE BRAND

# Transport for Cornwall

Karyans rag Kernow





## LESSONS LEARNT?

- No one size fits all Cornwall building from a strong base
- It needs a lot of investment Cornwall subsidise 50% of the mileage, but benefits are real and wide ranging
- Need to consider the 'whole' and how it fits together
  - Role of rail, school transport, CT, active travel, e-bike etc
  - DRT under review as part of wider network development
- Have to accept some compromises and trade offs
  - School transport integration
  - Post-16 college flows
- Need to understand journey patterns and prioritise some movements
- Network is key, but so is customer service and ticketing needs to be seamless and reduce barriers
- More work needed around interchange we can't provide direct journeys for all
- Behaviour Change could be a key tool, but under funded / utilised to date?

## KEY CHALLENGES

- Funding rural transport networks are not commercially viable
- BSIP Priorities most rural areas want revenue funding to underpin service provision they did not get this
- Attractiveness to the customer service levels are critical
- Fares DfT £2 scheme welcome but how viable longer term?
- Rural authorities often have longer journeys made....
- Cornwall has put in a huge amount of subsidy to deliver other areas don't see it as a priority?



PASSENGERS ARE RETURNING - THEY SHOULD BE AT THE HEART OF OUR THINKING.

TRANSPORT PROVIDES A LIFELINE AND CHANGES LIVES!



Karyans rag Kernow