

# A Community Transport Strategy for North Yorkshire

A COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STRATEGY for North Yorkshire is being prepared. There are many successful community-based transport schemes across the county, providing door-to-door transport (e.g. dial-a-ride and voluntary car schemes), group travel (e.g. minibuses driven by trained volunteers), and other unconventional transport services (e.g. "wheels to work" moped hire). At the same time, some parts of the county are not served, and there is uncertainty about the level, and stability, of financial support, where it is required.

## Looking ahead

The Community Transport Strategy is being prepared by consultants Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd. and TAS Partnership Ltd. It will provide a route map for sustaining and developing community transport over the next ten years. It has been commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council, with support from the Countryside Agency.

## Make your views known

We now want to hear from individuals and organisations in North Yorkshire. How do existing community transport services meet people's local transport requirements? What will be demanded of community transport in the future? How should this be organised? Above all, how should it be paid for?



## Defining community transport

The traditional view is that 'community transport' - or CT - has a strong community base, involving users in the design and delivery of its services, with an independent voluntary management committee. There are, however, many ways in which the term can be used.

CT can be operated by voluntary organisations set up specifically to provide transport for others. Voluntary sector transport organisations are usually non-statutory (i.e. not required by law), democratic, locally-based, not-for-profit, and involve users in decision-making. This describes the way the transport is organised, rather than the transport itself. It excludes groups that only operate transport to meet their own needs.

CT can be designed to meet needs that

conventional transport operators leave unmet. Thus CT is complementary to the passenger transport provided by commercial, statutory and private transport operators.

CT can be unconventional transport. This is not about the process or the objectives, but concentrates on how the transport service is delivered. In this way, registered local bus services using buses are conventional; taxibuses, taxi-sharing, car schemes, minibuses driven by volunteers, dial-a-rides are unconventional.

CT can be non-commercial collective transport. This definition suggests services run by transport professionals, on a not-for-profit basis, and includes subsidised bus services, statutory services and voluntary organisations' transport.

**To get involved in developing community transport in North Yorkshire PTO →**

# Developing the Community Transport Strategy

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THE CONSULTANTS have already commenced the task of assessing current provision and unmet demand. Discussions are taking place with Rural Transport Partnerships, Local Development Agencies, Primary Care Trusts, existing CT and public transport operators, and other key stakeholders.

A key objective is to understand to what extent and by what means existing community transport provision can be coordinated, to improve resource utilisation. The aim is for a Community Transport Strategy for the county that can be endorsed by the County, District, Town and Parish Councils, voluntary sector and NHS organisations, and other partners.

The Strategy needs to consider the way in which CT in North Yorkshire is:

- procured, including the balance between grant, service level agreements and contracts, and the potential for longer term public-private (including voluntary sector) partnerships

- financed, including the anticipated levels of self-finance / user contributions
- administered and supported, both by the County Council and other participants
- consulted upon, including long term approaches to consumer involvement
- skilled up, including the needs for, provision of and take-up of training
- complementary to existing statutory and private passenger transport provision
- monitored and reported upon.

The consultants are reporting to a Steering Group. For further information, contact:

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## Survey

A SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE of current needs and provision is now being sent out to voluntary organisations, community groups, and schools. Please make sure your organisation completes a questionnaire. All organisations who participate in the survey will be sent a summary of the consultant's findings and report for comment.

In the event of you not receiving a copy of the questionnaire, simply get in touch and we will send one out to you straightaway.

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## CT Conference - Feb 9th

FOR THOSE WHO wish to get more closely involved in the discussion and debate about the CT Strategy, there is an important date. On **Monday 9th February 2004**, there will be a one-day Community Transport Conference. This will be held at the Hambleton Forum, Northallerton. At the Conference, the consultants will present their findings and recommendations.

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## Want to be kept informed?

IT MAY BE that you cannot attend the Conference and the Survey may not be relevant to your organisation. You can still register your interest in the development of CT in North Yorkshire and be kept informed of developments. Simply get in touch, and we will put you on the mailing or e-mail list.