Innovative Rural Transport Solutions

Community Transport
vs
Rural Bus Services

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West Yorkshire ITA "Metro"

- Things That Work For Us
  - Market town "hub" networks –Meltham, Otley
  - Integrating schools and off peak services – MetroLocal North Kirklees
- Challenges For Us
  - Communities cling to unsustainable hourly bus services
  - Taxibus/ DRT services
  - Demand for evening services

Calderdale CT

- Things That Work For Us
  - Community Contact – steering groups, volunteers
  - Stretching value -
- Challenges For Us
  - Sustainability – not for profit services
  - Investment – capital

CT versus PT?

- In West Yorkshire CT has developed independently – CT funding mostly from social care sector, PTE traditionally "grant averse"
- Coming together slowly
  - West Yorkshire On The Move
  - RDF funded capacity building through Metro
  - Calderdale section 22 services – Todmorden, Brighouse

The Challenges Of Living In Rural Communities

- Closure of village Post Offices, shops and pubs
- Limited supply of affordable housing – dispersal of communities
- Difficulties finding work/ end of “traditional” working patterns– especially for young people
- Rising costs of motoring – fuel , insurance for young people

The Challenges Of Providing Transport In Rural Communities

- Reduced public funding
- Increasing operating costs
- Increasingly diverse travel demands and customer expectations
- Free concessionary travel constrains the economics

Taking Stock

- Are we seeing the end of the hourly village bus?
- Information/ communications technology - part of the problem or the solution?
- Does Community Transport need to change its image?
- Can the Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire industry play a role?
- Is the problem affordability or availability?

Innovative Rural Transport Solutions - your ideas and experiences

Innovative Delivery

- Journey planning
- Scheduling
- Vehicles
- Pricing/ fares/ smartcards
- Customer relationships

Innovative Management

- Funding
- Integration with other provision
- Procurement
- Cost and risk sharing
- Local involvement and engagement