

NEW FRONTIERS

INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT



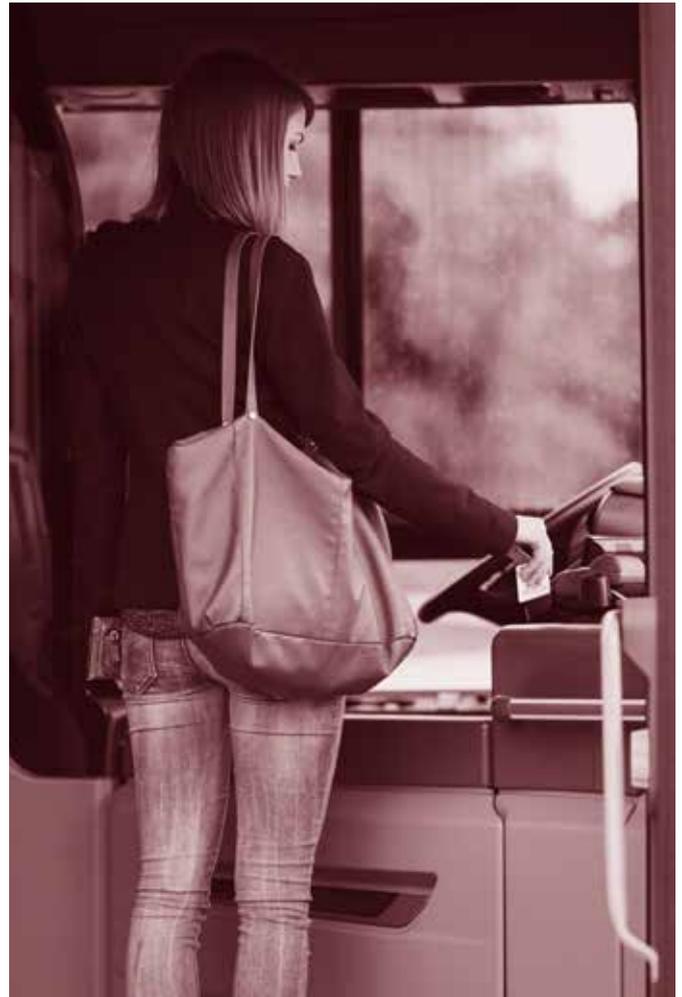
INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Context

Following the agreement in the Devolution Deal (July 2015) to grant Cornwall powers to franchise bus services, significant progress is being made to transform the public transport network into one fully integrated and customer focused system.

The key challenge now is how we implement the clockface rail timetable serving all stations between Penzance and Plymouth through the GWR franchise extension, to allow for integration with the newly developed bus timetables. GWR has developed a timetable that offers 2 trains per hour through Cornwall but the lack of standardisation in timing will not allow the desired integration with bus services and onward connectivity. The current timetable review period presents a very clear opportunity to work with the rail industry and Government to deliver a clockface timetable for Cornwall by January 2019.

An efficient transport network results in better accessibility to economic markets, employment and investments. To enable Cornwall to continue to grow we need a modern, efficient transport network which enables people to access work, retail and other local services; and which gives the wider connectivity we need by providing good links between our towns and to the rest of the country. The delivery and efficient use of this integrated public transport network in a rural county such as Cornwall is crucial to the wellbeing of its residents and the economic standing of its public services. A clockface rail timetable through Cornwall's 'central spine' will underpin the wider transport network improving connectivity and supporting the planned economic regeneration and future growth.



Unlocking Barriers

The Rationale for Change

The Devolution Deal required Cornwall Council to “introduce a high quality, sustainable and affordable bus system that will increase patronage”. One that delivers “integrated smart ticketing, fares and timetables that will enable combined travel between bus, rail and ferry services, and cashless transactions”. Cornwall Council, in partnership with transport operators and the rail industry, has made significant progress in the delivery of the key rail infrastructure and development of a new bus network that will integrate with rail services on the mainline and branchlines. The uncertainty over the standardised half hourly clockface element of the future timetable, however, raises concerns about the full extent of integration that can be achieved.

Cornwall’s local plan includes ambitious targets for growth in terms of new housing, jobs and employment space.⁴² This growth needs to be supported by transport provision that allows the population to travel sustainably. Most of Cornwall’s main towns are served by a railway station. However, there is currently an inconsistent level of service from station to station and it is not feasible for all communities currently linked to a rail service to use it for daily needs due to gaps in the timetable and access to stations. Building on a standardised rail timetable, the new public transport network aims to provide vital bus links to rail stations to improve these transport opportunities, access to employment and education, and to reduce social exclusion. Sustainable public transport can also help address the car dependency, congestion and air quality issues which are being experienced in certain areas of Cornwall.

Our ask

In line with our growth forecasts and historical and planned future transport investment, Cornwall Council seeks Government support to deliver the benefits of a fully integrated public transport system to be experienced by the residents of, and visitors to, Cornwall.

This is a very timely opportunity to ensure that the half hourly clockface rail timetable that serves all stops on the Cornish mainline between Penzance and Plymouth and is the centrepiece to the operational delivery of the new public transport network is secured, enabling the full benefits of such a transformative system to be realised.

Our offer

Due to high levels of secured investment and commitment from local transport partners, Cornwall is making significant progress in the delivery of an integrated public transport network, thus demonstrating our commitment to achieving the aims of the Devolution Deal, supporting economic growth and ensuring that the benefits of wider investment in Cornwall are facilitated and intensified through this new and improved transport system.

In addition, we are utilising the new legislation from the Bus Services Act 2017 to develop an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators to oversee and secure the improvements that are being made to the network. The stabilisation of the public transport network is key to ensuring its financial viability and also the stability of its operations, to be experienced by its users.

Through the provision of this stable operating base for public transport, the creation of an attractive, high quality network that encourages new users and results in an upturn in revenue will create a sustainable network for future generations, contributing to a reduction in congestion and improvements in air quality, sense of place and wellbeing.

⁴² <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/localplancornwall>

Benefits

The benefits of a fully integrated public transport system include:

- A solution that meets the needs of Cornwall today and in the future
- Improved connectivity within Cornwall and access to the rest of the country
- Maximising the benefits of bus network improvements and rail improvements and ensuring that the benefits to users of a half hourly clockface service on the mainline in Cornwall are fully realised through onward connectivity opportunities
- Delivery of an affordable, sustainable solution to the provision of public transport services in a rural area; putting the customer at the heart of the solution and providing stability for transport operators and users
- Improved quality standards across the network in terms of vehicle provision, infrastructure, information and marketing
- A public transport network that is an attractive and viable option over the private car

Particular outcomes for Cornwall of the proposal are the economic and social cohesion benefits that an improved public transport network will deliver. These will be:

- Improved access to employment and training
- Increased access for businesses to support growth and access
- Improved access to service delivery and healthcare
- Opportunities for young people to access education
- Reduced isolation by providing access to services, family and friends
- Modal switch to address congestion and improve air quality

Transforming the public transport network into one fully integrated and customer focused system