Community Provision for Rural Connectivity

Rachel Milne; Dial-a-Community Bus
Community Transport - a definition

Community Transport (CT) may be defined as;

“Local passenger transport provision which is not provided through scheduled bus or rail services and which is organised on a not for profit basis by voluntary organisations, community transport groups and other non-statutory bodies.
Buchan Dial-a-Community Bus

- Charity number SC031183
- Approx 50,000 passenger journeys (2009/10)
- S19 services; shopping, patient transport, youth transport, library services, community group use etc.
- Social Enterprise; DAB Plus
Do we add value?

- Independence
- SROI; £3.03 per £
- Community Ownership
- Value of life; our value to society and to communities.
The cost of providing mobility is much lower than the cost of treating the symptoms of immobility.
Stats

20% of Scotland have a mobility impairment
12% rise of older people in Scotland by 2015
18% rise of over 85’s
16% of Britain aged 70 or over have difficulty travelling to medical appts.
9% of people in Aberdeenshire have difficulty accessing medical appts
6% of people in Aberdeenshire have no access to a car.
Challenges

Funding

Aberdeenshire Council CT budget 2011/12
approximately £400,000

Aberdeenshire Council Local Bus Support budget 2011/12
approximately £3,000,000

Buchan Dial A Community Bus & DAB Plus c.i.c.
More Challenges

- Significance; CT is the poor relation
- Concessionary Fares
- Legislative sensitivity; S19 v PSV
- Over subscription
- Client demographics
- Perceptions of “cheap transport”
Transport

...it’s not just “A Bum on a Seat”...

...it’s the start of the whole journey!

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What would help us?

- Access to full concessionary fares
- Political support and acknowledgment
- Technology ...possibly...
  - Databases/ IT systems
  - Integrated software
  - Social Networking
  - Mobile phone apps

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Conclusion

There are challenges ahead...

and there are opportunities ahead...

CT is ready...

Are you?