



## Bus for a Just Recovery: Bus for Older People

### The Importance of Mobility

It has been demonstrated that access to transport is an important element for quality of life for older people. There is a growing body of evidence that mobility, especially on public transport, is good for older people as it can:

- Help maintain contact with friends and family.
- Reduce isolation and increase opportunities for interaction.
- Help reduce the impact of giving up driving.
- Reduce loneliness and mitigate consequent declines in well-being.
- Keep people more active, so contributing to an active, healthy older population, and reducing demand for domiciliary care and home visits.

### Free Concessionary Travel

Research by KPMG and Greener Journeys has suggested that the free concessionary travel schemes for elderly people provided **benefits to the wider community** that were worth **around 2.9 times the costs of provision**.

The **benefits** included: enabling volunteering; physical health improvement; and benefits to other road users through reduced congestion, accidents and environmental impacts. There were **benefits to other bus users** through increased service provision and other benefits were identified in the report but not quantified, including enhanced retail activity, savings in social and child care costs, savings in community transport provision and social inclusion. However, benefits are lost without bus services for pass holders to use.

### Supporting bus services to avoid decline is investing in a fairer future for everyone, including our older people.

Since 2008/09, Scotland has seen a reduction of 13.5% in service provision, and the number of concessionary travel journeys has fallen by 6.8%. Meanwhile, the country faces the huge challenges of an ageing population. Across the country as a whole, the number of people aged 60 and over is forecast to increase by 25% to 897,000 between 2016 and 2030.

**For the benefit and wellbeing of older people in our society, bus must be at the heart of a just, green recovery.**

Thanks to Chris Cheek for providing this evidence to #lovemybus

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