



## **Bus for a Just Recovery**

### **Bus for those with a Disability and Chronic Illness**

It is estimated that two million people in Scotland have at least one long-term condition that brings with it significant human, social and economic costs.

The consequences vary widely, but even prior to the pandemic some 210,000 people were economically inactive because of long-term sickness.

Where health conditions permit, providing people with long-term disabilities with the ability to travel and to access facilities has been shown to be of immense benefit, aside from the importance of compliance with domestic legislation and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Bus can enable travel, access to services and opportunities.**

The benefits of being able to travel and access facilities may be categorised as:

- Helping to maintain contact with friends and family
- Reducing isolation and increase opportunities for interaction
- Helping reduce the impact of being unable or unwilling to drive
- Reducing loneliness, therefore mitigating consequent declines in well-being
- Keep people more active, so contributing to improved health outcomes, and reducing demand for domiciliary care and home visits.

The bus industry has made huge strides over the last two decades in providing more accessible vehicles, training staff and improving awareness

There is more to do – particularly with roadside infrastructure – but in the end, there must be bus services in place for people to take advantage of these advances and the opportunities they present.

### **Bus Services can provide access for all across Scotland.**

Bus operators, along with other parties, are fully signed up to Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework, developed in 2016 by Transport Scotland, and particularly its four key objectives, so that:

- disabled people are more involved in the design, development and improvement of transport policies, services and infrastructure

- everyone involved in delivering transport information, services and infrastructure will help to enable disabled people to travel.
- disabled people feel comfortable and safe using public transport – including being free from hate crime, bullying and harassment when travelling.

**Bus must be at heart of a just, green recovery to benefit all.**

