



Bassetlaw



Centre



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Publication

Next Government Urged to Prioritize Community Transport to Cut Local NHS Waiting lists

Bassetlaw Action Centre is backing the Community Transport Association's call for the next UK government to utilise community solutions in a hard-hitting manifesto on the state of accessible transport across the UK.

The CTA manifesto, ***A Better Future for Transport: National Challenges, Community Solutions*** calls for a new and dynamic partnership between the next UK government, CTA and the Community Transport sector to continue to fill the gaps left by a shrinking bus network; respond to an ageing population, protect the future of the NHS and social care; tackle climate change, reduce poverty, inequality and the cost of living crisis, and level up the nations and regions of the UK.

CTA Director for Scotland, David Kelly said: "Investing in community solutions is essential to build a more accessible, affordable, and attractive transport system with far-reaching benefits.

"As we look towards the general election, it is vital the next UK Government fully values and invests in community transport. Working with communities is not only a pragmatic solution to alleviate pressures on our NHS and the social care system, but it is also the right thing to do to demonstrate our collective commitment to ensuring universal access and greater equality for generations to come."

Paula Graham, Bassetlaw Action Centre's Transport Manager said "We know just how important services like the Bassetlaw Community Car Scheme are, especially to rural or aging communities like Bassetlaw's. We simply can't run it without the support of local organisations and with their help more people are able to remain independently in their homes while still taking as active part in the community."

Produced in collaboration with UK wide Community Transport operators and CTA members, the CTA Manifesto focuses on five key priorities based on the national challenges facing the UK;

- Modernising for Growth
- Improving Access to Health and Social Care
- Investing in Community Solutions
- Accelerating Community-led Climate Action
- Delivering a Fair Deal for Volunteers

CTA research found that trips to access health services are amongst the popular purposes for CT, to support people to get to GP surgeries, hospitals, hospices, vaccination centers and care homes.

Accessible 'door-to-door' or 'door-through-door' services by Community Transport make thousands of health and social care appointments possible every year and save millions of pounds through preventing missed appointments, delayed discharges and longer waiting lists.

Over the past year over 9000 journeys were facilitated by Bassetlaw Action Centre. The service, which covers shopping and social visits as well as healthcare, is available for any Bassetlaw resident who is unable to access public transport. More details can be found at www.bassetlawactioncentre.org.uk or by calling 01777 709650.

The benefits of community transport schemes run far beyond a single health-related journey. Launched in August 2022, CTA supported 18 pilot schemes, including in Bassetlaw, through the [Tackling Loneliness through CT project](#) in a bid to research how transport policies can reduce the number of people feeling lonely in England.

93% of people participating in the project reported that accessing CT had a positive impact on feelings of isolation or loneliness.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Community Transport solutions and to join the campaign for Community Solutions can find out more at www.ctauk.org/manifesto2024/ or get involved on social media using #CommunitySolutions

ENDS

Additional Resources:

www.ctauk.org/manifesto2024/ Here you will find a range of digital assets, policy documents and discussion papers for general use.

About Bassetlaw Action Centre
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“Making a difference throughout Bassetlaw”

Bassetlaw Action Centre is a community resource agency offering help and support to individuals and organisations throughout Bassetlaw; promoting the independence of older and vulnerable people and supporting individuals with long term conditions.

About the CTA

The **Community Transport Association (CTA)** is the voice of the Community Transport sector. We are a UK charity leading the movement for affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport for all. We help over 170 communities across Scotland to deliver transport solutions, from community-owned buses and car clubs to non-emergency patient transport and active travel projects, which plug gaps in our transport system. We deliver advice, advocacy, events, information, leadership, research, support, and training.

More information: www.ctauk.org/about-cta