

Sustainability Committee

SC(3)-12-07 (p2): 06 December 2007

Cyn-Ffederasiwn Cludwyr Teithwyr Cymru Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales

National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee's Enquiry on Carbon Emissions November 2007

The Confederation of Passenger Transport Cymru is pleased to make this written submission as part of the National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee's enquiry into carbon emissions.

CPTCymru is the professional trade association representing the bus and coach industry in Wales, and its members include the major national and international transport providers, municipal operators, large independents and small family businesses. It is part of CPT UK, and its members provide some 70% of all public transport journeys by all modes across Wales.

The governance of CPTCymru includes a Bus & Coach Commission and a Committee for Wales to which all members can contribute and through which members are widely consulted.

Transport is one of the main contributors to carbon emissions, and greater use of public transport can bring about a major effect on those emissions. CPTCymru, and indeed CPTUK supports the overall objective of reducing carbon emissions. In terms of responding to target figures set for reduction, such as those set by the Assembly Government and included in the documents for this consultation, an overall reduction must be cross-sector and not held in isolation. CPTCymru comments, therefore, are brief and general in terms of carbon reductions.

The greatest challenge to reduce carbon emissions in transport terms is centred on ensuring a greater modal shift from private cars to public transport. Transport policy at all levels - Welsh Government, Local Government, Westminster Government and European Government - is at the heart of this. CPTCymru has consistently, and persistently, called for proper bus priority measures, effectively enforced, to be introduced to encourage the use of public transport. These include bus lanes and park and ride facilities and CPTCymru believes very strongly that the introduction and enforcement of basic measures such as these, would prove the greatest single contribution to reducing carbon emissions in transport.

Powers vested in the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government already exist to introduce and enforce these key measures. CPTCymru also believes that resources and political will are the only obstacles to their effective introduction.

CPTCymru recognises that the industry also has a prime role to play in reducing emissions. The age profile of bus and coach fleets in Wales has been gradually reducing, aided by some substantial investment by operators. This trend has been partly aided by partnerships with the Welsh Government and Local Government, most notably in the introduction of the concessionary fare schemes for older and disabled people.

CPTCymru is keen to continue working in partnership with the Welsh Government, Local Government and others to reduce carbon emissions. It is pleased to contribute to this by responding to this enquiry and by providing written and oral evidence.

CPTCymru has no objection to this submission being in the public domain.

Cyd-ffederasiwn Cludwyr Teithwyr Cymru
Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales

16 November 2007