

# Rural Services APPG

## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services

19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 12:00pm

Room P, Portcullis House, Bridge Street, London, SW1A 2LW

### Agenda

**1. Notes of previous Meeting**

17.11.2015

**2. The value of bus services in rural areas**

***Summary***

“People who live in isolated communities use passenger transport to access employment, education, training and healthcare” (*Transport Select Committee report, 2014*). However, the direct link between these service areas and the provision of bus services is frequently ignored.

A wealth of recent research proves the overwhelming case for the provision of rural bus services to meet the needs of older people, young people, the unemployed, those on low incomes, disabled people and businesses and to deliver economic growth. However, bus services are often threatened by a lack of cross service and cross sector thinking.

The meeting will focus on:

- How bus services are provided
- Why bus services are provided
- The case for clear policy guidance to be issued to local authorities and others on the need for rural bus services.

***Format***

- Short introduction detailing the integral role of bus services in delivering effective health, social care and other services in rural areas and how such bus services are provided.
  - *John Birtwistle, First Buses*

- Discussion with the following:
  - *John Pope, LGA Public Transport Consortium*
  - *Clinton Jones, Association of Transport Coordinating Officers*
  - *Gary Nolan, Stagecoach*
  - *Charles Loft, LGA*
  - *Councillor Sandra Gage, Suffolk County Council*
  - *Councillor Chris Brewis, Lincolnshire County Council*
  - *Martin Abrams and Stephen Joseph, Campaign for Better Transport*
  - *Andy Dean – Rural Services Network*

### **3. Next Meeting**

19.04.2016 (Venue and Topic to be confirmed)

**For further details concerning this meeting please contact:**

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