

Regional and Local Transport: Policy and Delivery

Joint Overview and Scrutiny 4th March 2025



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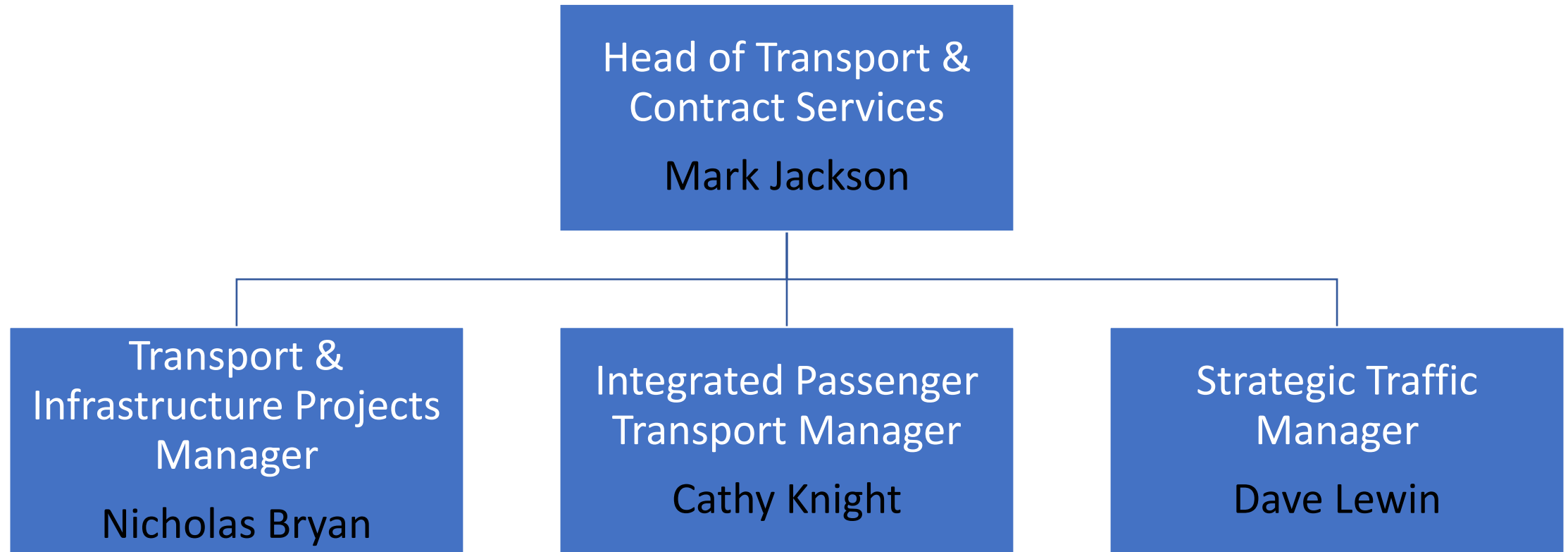
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DCC Transport, Policy and Devolution

Dave Lewin / Nicholas Bryan



Transport Team – Structure



Transport Policy

National

- NPPF (Dec 2024)
- Transport Decarbonisation Plan (2021)
- Bus Back Better
- Devolution White Paper

Sub- Regional

- TfN – Strategic Transport Plan (2024)

Regional

- Draft Mayor's Local Transport Plan (2025)
- North East Active Travel Strategy
- Bus Service Improvement Plan

Local

- County Durham Plan
- Climate Emergency Response Plan (2024)
- Inclusive Economic Strategy
- Parking SPD



North East Transport Plan 2021-2035

Moving to a green, healthy, dynamic and thriving North East



NECA - Transport

Key principles and powers:

- New Draft Mayoral Local Transport Plan
- City Regional Sustainable Transport Fund
- Bus Service Improvement Plan
- Access to Bus Franchising powers
- Key Route Network powers
- Road Investment Strategy 2 & 3
- Institute of Future Mobility
- Nexus to remain
- New Rail Partnership with Great British Railways Transition Team
- Integrated ticketing

Active Travel

Alex Puddick



Active Travel Drivers

Active Travel continues to grow as an area of focus for policy and decision makers, as well as for the general public. Focal points include:

- Delivering sustainable development – NPPF housebuilding targets
- Government's second Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2023
- National, Regional and Local net zero goals
- North East Combined Authority and devolved funding
- Active Travel England

Policy

National	Gear Change (2020)	Inclusive Mobility (2022)	Manual for Streets 2 (2010)
	NPPF (2024)	LTN 1/20 (2020)	Manual for Streets (2007)
Regional	Active Travel Strategy (2024)	Transport Plan (2021)	Making the Right Choice (2022)
Local	SWCDP (2019)	Local Plan (2020)	LCWIPs
	ROWIP4 (2024)		

Durham Strategic Walking & Cycling Delivery Plan - Vision & Aims

Vision:

To make cycling and walking part of Durham's culture and to make them safe, affordable, enjoyable, everyday modes of transport for everyone.

Aims:

1. Plan and provide high quality cycling and walking networks that are safe and usable for more people.
2. Manage and protect cycling and walking networks to ensure quality of experience for users.
3. Encourage and enable greater participation in cycling and walking across all demographic groups.

Latest Progress against SWCDP Building Blocks

audit, assess, record, plan, design,
build

- North Durham Active Travel Corridor (New College to Arnison Centre) £2.5M funding awarded
- Aykley Heads Innovation District £3.7M *Connectivity, Woodland, Parkland* programme
- 11 LCWIPS Priority Route Design
- NCN1 Improvements
- Towns and Villages
- NCN1 improvements
- Planning applications and spatial policy
- Counters & Monitoring

operate, maintain, improve, refine,
enforce

- Network Intelligence Mapping and Scheme Pipeline
- Training sessions for staff (e.g. LTN 1/20, inclusive design)

engage, educate, promote, inspire,
motivate, encourage

- Cycle Parking Schemes
- Town Cycling Maps published
- Borrow a Bike Schemes
- Training and Education – series of courses
- Love to Ride platform
- Bus shelter Ad Campaigns – Highway Code, Close Pass and Dutch Reach

Other Projects and Opportunities

- Active Travel Fund T4-E (£2.5m), T5 (£500k)
- Aykley Heads Innovation District (£3.7M)
- Transforming Cities Fund - Durham City W&C improvements (TBC)
- LTP (£500k)
- Capability Fund T3 (£270k)
- Spennymoor Towns Fund (£1.6m)
- Developer funding and using Section 106 and development of Active Travel Plans for major development sites
- Climate Emergency funding (Borrow a Bike £55k)
- AAP (i.e. contributions towards leaflets, wayfinding)
- Working in partnership with other services such as Road Safety, Public Health , Culture and Sport, Highways to add value
- Member funds can add value or cover small scheme costs.



Future Workstreams

Short Term

- LCWIP Priority Schemes detailed design
- Dutch Reach Campaign
- Love to Ride campaigns
- Recycle Y' Bike campaign
- Borrow a Bike
- CH Pool Bike Pilot
- Active Travel networking mapping
- Counters

Medium Term

- North Durham Active Travel Corridor scheme complete
- TCF schemes complete
- Aykley Heads schemes complete
- Cycle Parking and Storage
- Sustainable Travel to Schools

Long Term

- Spennymoor Towns Fund schemes complete
- Input into Local Plan refresh



Passenger Transport

Cathy Knight



IPTG Staffing Structure and Responsibilities

Contracts and Monitoring

Karen Staines

- Procurement and contract management of local bus, home to school and social care contracts
- Home to school routing and pupil allocation
- Contract monitoring regime
- Contracted operator staff suitability checking (including DBS) and authorisation
- Driver, passenger assistant and vehicle compliance through training, organised and ad hoc onsite checks
- Safeguarding allegation management

Network Planning and Services

Jonathan Mitchell

- Coordination of the passenger transport network
- Coordinate the contracted school bus services school and spare seat schemes
- Distributing bus passes to entitled / non entitled pupils
- Manage payment of invoices to contractors
- Management and delivery of the ENCTS scheme
- Liaison with and grant aid to community transport organisations.
- Rail policy

Operations and Information

Ian Jopling

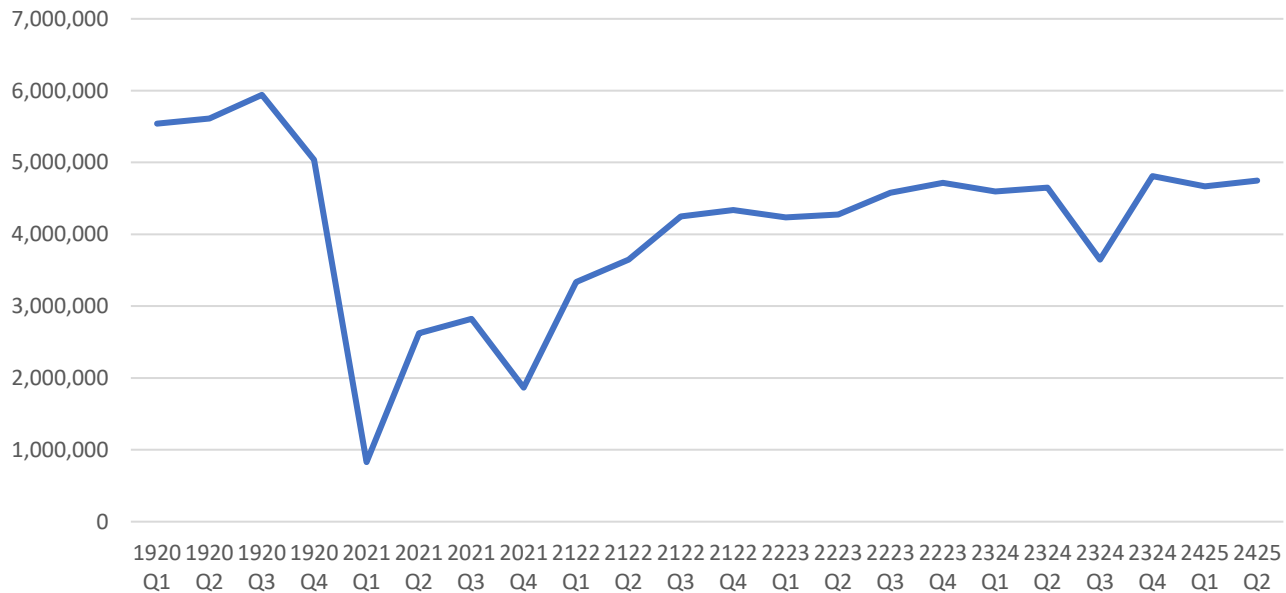
- Management of fleet passenger carrying vehicles and drivers (demand responsive transport, social care and home to school transport)
- Management of Travel Response Centre for booking DRT (Link2 & Access Bus) and Patient Transport Service journeys on behalf of NHS North East
- Passenger transport information (printed timetables, real time passenger information, interactive public transport website, regional journey planner and dataset for TNDS/Traveline)
- Assessment of travel plans as condition of planning applications. Coordination of travel plans for the council's strategic sites. Promoting sustainable and active travel for schools, workplaces and local communities

Home to School and Social Care

- 11,000 students and social care passengers
- 1,473 home to school and social care contracts
- 453 home to school and social care operators
- Circa 3,300 operator staff with IPTG clearance
- 20 multi-agency operations each year
- Circa 1,200 children using (season) contract tickets on LBS
- Circa 2,000 students using concessionary seats scheme

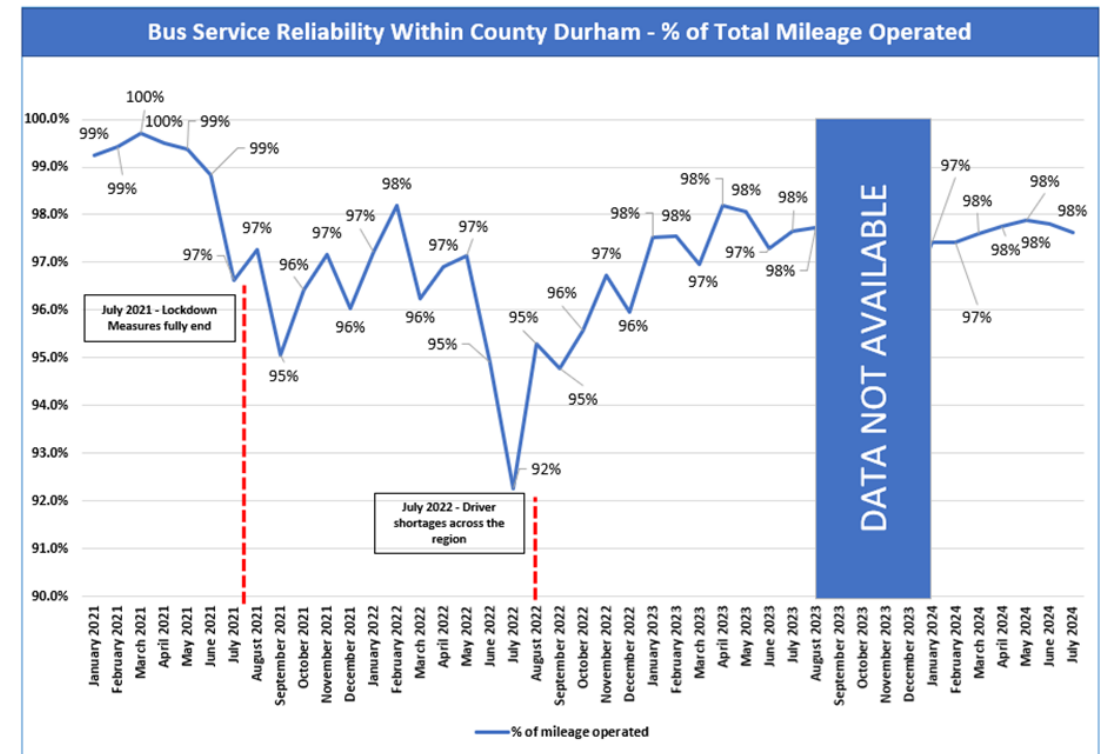
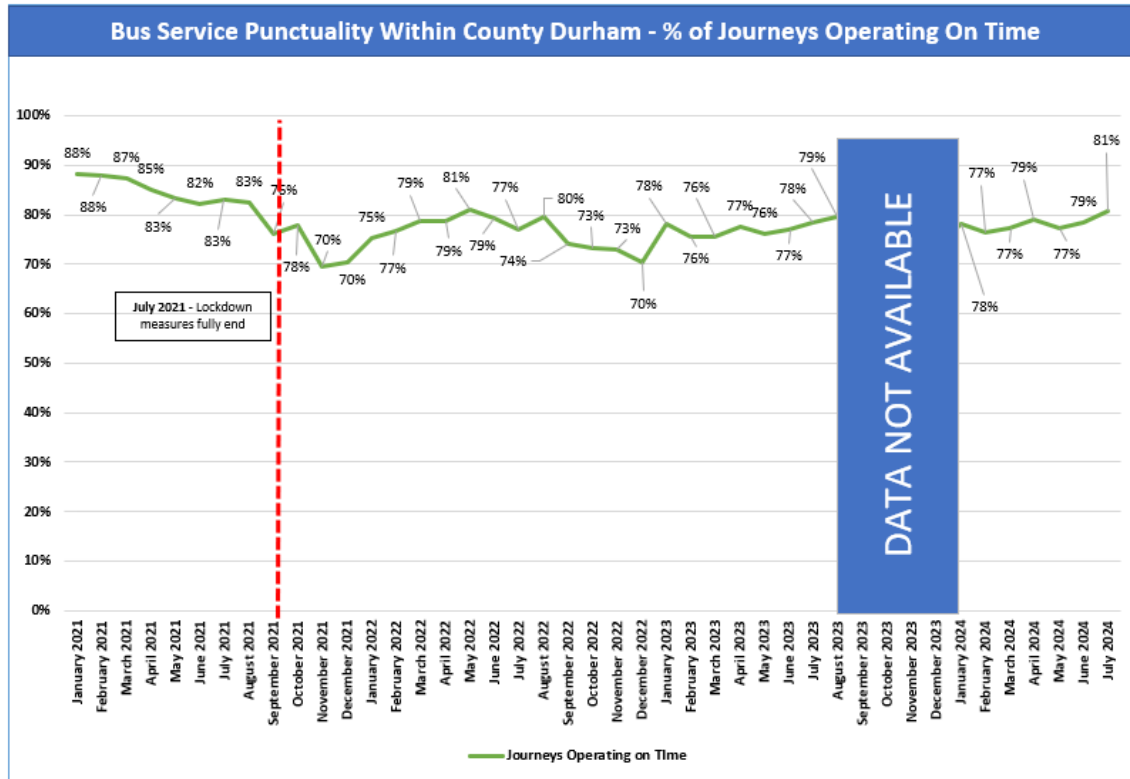
All Local Bus Services – Performance

Total Passenger Boardings in Co Durham



- 18.7m 2024/25 forecast patronage:
 - Commercial 15.5m.
 - Subsidised LBS 2.6m.
 - Park & Ride 0.6m.

All Local Bus Services – Performance



Overall satisfaction – Passenger Focus				
	Co Durham	Northumberland	Tyne & Wear	NECA Region
2023	76%	83%	82%	81%
2024	82%	79%	84%	83%



Bus Service Improvement Plan

- Fares and Ticketing

Ticket Type	Fare Cap
County Durham	£5
Northumberland	£6
Tyne & Wear	£6.80
All zone	£7.50
Singles Cap	£2.50

- U21 - £1 and £3
- Take the Kids for Free
- Care Experience Travel Pass

- Bus Services

49	Total number of services supported
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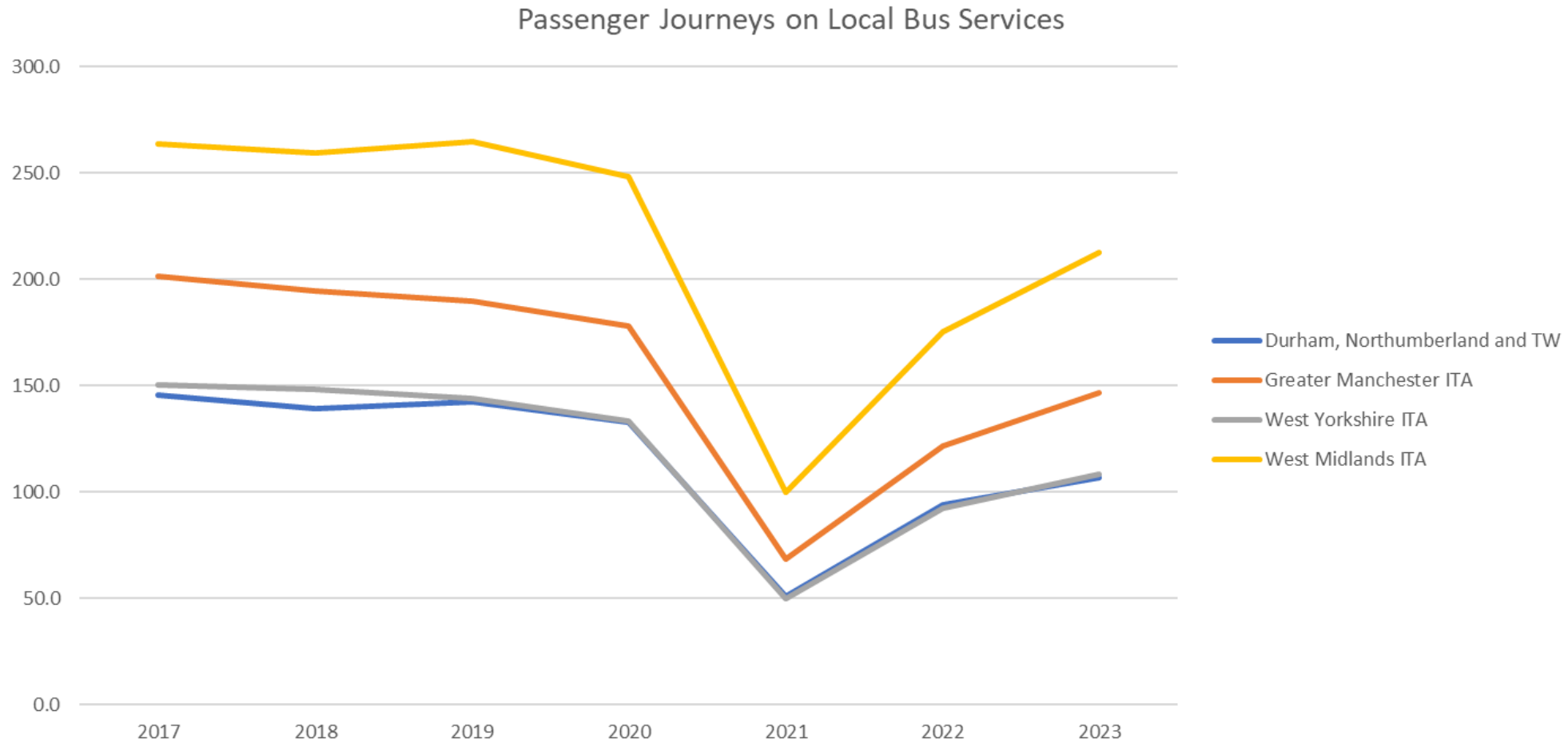
Bus Reform

- UK Bus network (outside London) deregulated in 1980s
- October 2014: Proposal for a Quality Contracts Scheme (QCS) in Tyne and Wear.
- March 2021: Bus Back Better published (inc. requirement to establish EP or process of franchising and publication of a BSIP).
- Pandemic (March 2020-December 2021): Traditional argument for QCS/Franchising has changed.
- Mayor's manifesto:

“As Mayor, I will commit to running the greenest public transport in the UK, with buses taken back under public control.”

	NEMCA	TfGM	TfWM	WYCA
Geographic size	~7800 km ²	1,300 km ²	900km ²	2,000km ²
Population size	1.97 million (2021)	2.9 million (2021)	2.9 million (2021)	2.3 million (2021)
Population density	253 per km ² (2021)	2.2k per km ² (2021)	3.2k per km ² (2021)	1.1k per km ² (2021)
Type of settlements	3 Cities, 41 towns	2 cities & 9 district centres, 15 towns & market towns	3 cities & 4 district centres, 4 towns	3 cities & 2 district cities, 20 towns
Urban vs Rural	Estimated 21% of the population is rural. Rural areas make up a large geographic space of the region. 5 of the 7 LA areas are urban with the other 2 being defined as largely rural.	Majority is urban, but there are also rural areas	84% live in towns or cities, 6% in 'Town and Fringe', 9% in 'Villages, Hamlets, Isolated Dwellings'	Majority is urban, but there are also rural areas
Leading sources of employment	Human Health and Social Work (16.7%), Wholesale and Retail (14.4%), Education (10%)	Professional Services, Finance & Insurance Social Work & Health	Manufacturing Public Health & Education	Health Services (14.6% of roles) Social Work & Education
Unemployment rate	4.4% (2022-23)	4.9% (2022)	4.5% (2022)	4.2% (2022)
Social Deprivation	26% of people living in poverty (inc Tees Valley) (2018-21)	22% of people live in poverty. 20% of jobs were paid less than RLW (2020)	27% living below the poverty line (2021/2022)	34% of population were living in the poorest areas (2022)

Comparator Combined Authority Areas



Community Transport

- Community Transport:
 - 11 Community Transport organisations available in Countywide areas.
 - No revenue support
 - Capital support through grant
- Wheels to Work:
 - £10k revenue funding 2024/25
 - £10k capital support 2024/25
 - 400 people supported to access work and training through the scheme to date

In-House Fleet, TRC and Passenger Information

- **In-House Fleet:**
 - 20 FTE fleet drivers
 - 22 fully accessible vehicles
- **TRC:**
 - 90k telephone calls handled
 - 42k Patient Transport bookings
- **Passenger Information:**
 - 4,500 bus stops
 - 2,700 printed timetable displays maintained across the county
 - Passenger information displays at 130 bus stops and 5 bus stations
 - Lead for regional dataset
 - Lead for regional Traveline North East journey planner

New Transport Infrastructure and Rail

Nicholas Bryan



Transport Infrastructure Delivered 23/24

- B1404/A1018 Seaton Lane signal-controlled junction
- A19 Dalton Park signal-controlled junction
- A167 Rushyford Roundabout capacity improvements
- A688 Princes Street junction capacity improvements
- Locomotion car park extension and improvements
- Sniperley P&R extension

Transport Infrastructure Projects: Under construction

Currently Delivering over £40million of transport projects including:

- A167 Central Avenue signal-controlled junction
- A167 Ricknall Lane signal-controlled junction
- A19/A182 (Jade) junction improvements
- Bishop Auckland bus station and surface level car park
- Northern Corridor active travel (County Hall roundabout to Sniperley roundabout)
- Stockton to Darlington 19km active travel route

Transport Infrastructure: In Development 24/25

- Toft Hill Bypass – public consultation complete Nov 24
- Bishops Gateway – in pre-planning stage
- Bishop Auckland A688 junction improvements (Coundongate and South Church roundabouts)
- Bishop Auckland public realm improvements (North Newgate, Fore Bondgate and Finkle Street)
- Durham City Centre Connectivity active travel
- Bishop Auckland heritage walking and cycling
- A690 Crook to Willington Safer Roads Fund
- Rotary Way active travel improvements
- Aykley Heads Innovation District active travel improvements
- Bus Service Improvement Plan: a series of bus lanes, bus stop, bus station and pinch point improvements across the County.

Rail Opportunities in County Durham

County Durham - Restoring Your Railways bids *(noted restoring your railways programmed cancelled by Chancellor in 2024)*

- **Ferryhill** business case submitted for funding a new unmanned station/car park and a passenger service on the Stillington Line.
- **Consett to Newcastle** – feasibility study (early stages) undertaken considering reintroducing passenger service either via the former Derwent Valley Line or Sunderland Line (preferred option).
- **Weardale railways** (Darlington to Easthope) – passenger service on private railways and connect the Bishop line to Weardale line.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Andrew Shiel



Durham County Council EV Charge Point Success to date

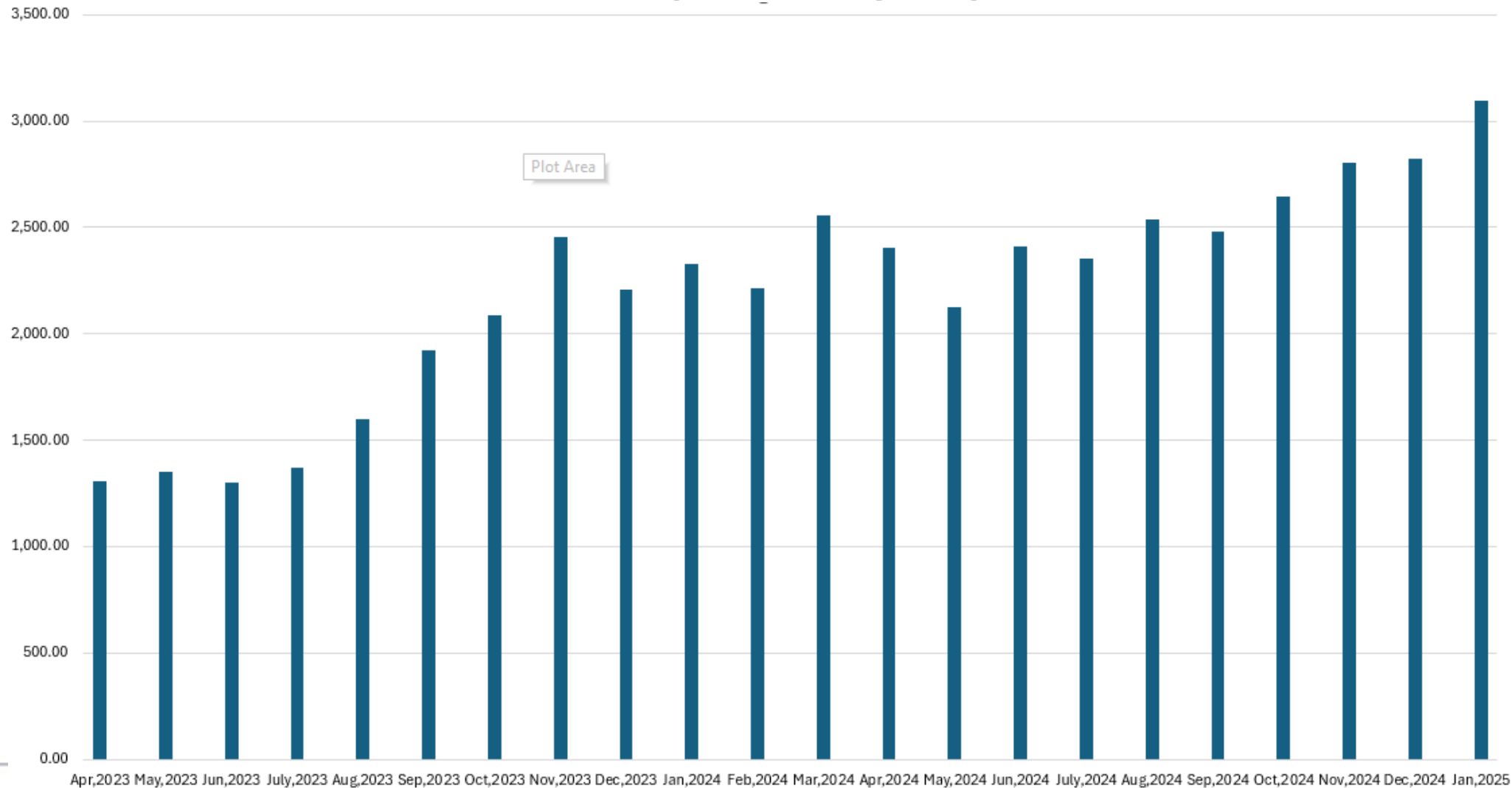
Public Charging:

- 28 rapid (50kwh)
- 2 semi rapids (25kwh)
- 132 Fast charge point unit (7-22kwh) – 264 sockets
- 291 Sockets total (291 vehicles can charge at any one time)

Private/Fleet charging:

- 28 x dual 7kw EVCP units installed to facilitate the charging of the DCC fleet network of electric vehicles (being slowly upgraded)
- 10 x dual 22kw EVCP units and a dual 100kw rapid charger installed at Meadowfield depot
- Older obsolete chargers being replaced across the estate
- Solar car parts/battery storage options being investigated

EVCP Usage for DCC installed infrastructure from Mer UK



EVCP Usage for DCC installed fleet infrastructure (Apr 22 – Jan 25)

- Over 8000 sessions
- More than 66 tons of CO2 saved
- Over 400,000 miles driven

- New infrastructure is being installed/replaced and previous back office support system is being replaced.

Durham County Council Plans for 2025 and beyond

- **Public Charging:**
- Over £4m LEVI grant funding secured, which along with private investment will be used to install at 250 locations countywide (190x 22kw units and 60x 50kw units). Installations commenced autumn 2024 and first installations to go live spring 2025.
- A further 16x EVCP recently installed utilising ORCS and Level Up Funding at rural locations across County Durham – a mix of slow, fast and rapid charging. First installations have commenced April 2024 and final installation at NetPark will complete summer 2025.
- Further successful submission made additional £3m to install 200 EVCP's on housing association land in the coming years. Details to be finalised with NECA in the coming weeks.
- **Private/Fleet Charging:**
- Additional slow and rapid chargers are planned at strategic fleet sites once surveys are complete, rural charging locations essential to fleet sustainability for longer journeys
- In addition to this we hope to install EV charging devices such as connections to existing 32 or 64 amp commando sockets to use as EV charging ports and potentially lamppost charging to allow slow overnight charging of fleet vehicles.

Summary

Transport Policy and Delivery – Summing Up

- New Mayoral Combined Authority will have implications for Policy and Funding.
- Active Travel is now embedded into the planning system and being considered as part of planning applications.
- Bus satisfaction increased since 2023
- Public consultation on the Toft Hill Bypass completed in November 2024 and the comments are currently being reviewed.
- Continued commitment to EV charging with 291 charge points across County for public usage.
- There has been a gradual increase in usage of Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCP), and this is expected to grow at an increased rate following the transition to EV and with the second-hand market becoming more affordable.
- Solar car parts/battery storage options being investigated for electric vehicles