**Consultation response form**

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| **Name:** |  |
| **Organisation (if applicable):** |  |
| **e-mail** |  |

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report.

If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: [ ]

Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

**Improving public transport**

A Welsh Government White Paper on proposals to legislate for reforming the planning and delivery of local bus services and licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles

**Part 1 – Bus services**

**Joint Transport Authorities (JTAs)**

**Q1.** Do you agree that it is important for local authorities to work together with regard to local bus services?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q2.** Please provide comments on the proposed organisational structures. Which is your preferred option and why?

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**Q3.** Is there another organisational structure for JTAs that we should consider? Please explain your answer.

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**Q4.** Do you have any comments on the proposal that the Welsh Ministers should be represented on a JTA or any committees of a JTA?

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**Q5.** Do you have any comments on the proposals that the Welsh Ministers should have powers to issue guidance and directions, and to intervene where a JTA is failing to exercise its functions effectively?

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**Proposed JTA Functions in relation to buses**

**Q6.** Is the proposed division of national and regional functions appropriate?

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**Q7.** Should any other transport functions be transferred to a JTA? Please describe.

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**Enhanced Quality Partnerships (EQP)**

**Q8.** Do you think that legislation is required to secure the benefits of enhanced partnership working?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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 **Q9.** Do you agree with our proposals for EQPs, in particular the proposed process for developing and making EQPs?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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 **Franchising**

**Q10.** Do you think that the proposed scheme provides a more workable option for the franchising of local bus services?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q11.** Do you think there should be a requirement for the assessment to be subject of to an independent audit?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q12.** Do you have any other comments on the proposed process for franchising?

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**Franchising in practice and Permits**

**Q13.** Do you have any comments in relation to the proposals for the issuing of permits in circumstances where franchising arrangements are in place?

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**Impacts of franchising on small and medium sized bus operators (SMEs)**

**Q14.** Do you agree that as part of any arrangements to let franchise contracts, specific consideration should be given to how SMEs can be enabled to be involved in the procurement process?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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 **Franchising Transition Arrangements**

**Q15.**What transitional arrangements should be considered in order to ensure that bus services are not compromised during the process of preparing to franchise?

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**Local authority bus services**

**Q16.** Do you think that local authorities should be able to run bus services directly (i.e. in-house services)?

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**Q16a.** In what circumstances do you think this would be appropriate?

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**Q16b.** What, if any, safeguards do you feel ought to be put in place with in-house services to ensure that no operator local authority has an unfair advantage in a deregulated market, and why?

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**Q17.** Do you think that local authorities should be able to set up arms length companies to operate local bus services?

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 **Q17a.** In what circumstances do you think this would be appropriate?

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**Q17b.** What, if any, safeguards to you think should be put in place with arms length bus companies to ensure that no operator local authority has an unfair advantage in a deregulated market, and why?

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**Eligibility age for the mandatory concessionary fares**

**Q18.** Do you agree with the Welsh Minister’s proposal to align entitlement to a mandatory concessionary fares pass with a woman’s pensionable age?

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 **Q19.** Do you agree that an incremental change is the most appropriate method?

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**Public transport information and monitoring

Q20.** Do you agree with our proposal to require the release of open data on routes, timetables, fares and tickets?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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 **Q21.** Do you agree with our proposal to enable local authorities to have the power to obtain information on services which are to be cancelled or varied, and where appropriate, disclose this information as part of tendering process?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Part 2 – Taxis and private hire vehicles (PHV)**

### National standards

**Q22.** Do you agree with our proposal to introduce national standards which will apply to all taxis and PHVs in Wales?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q23.** Are there any matters which you would like to see contained in any national standards?

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**Q24.** Are there any matters which you think should be excluded from any national standards?

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**Q25.** What practical obstacles might there be to setting common national standards for both taxis and PHVs?

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 **Q26.** What would be the best approach for determining the content of national standards?

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 **Q27.** Please provide any other comments or proposals around national standards that were not covered in the above questions.

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**Enforcement**

**Q28.** Should a local authority be able to revoke or suspend a licence relating to any vehicle operating in its area, even if it did not issue the original licence?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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 **Q29.** Should a local authority be able to issue a lesser sanction in relation to any vehicle operating in its area, even if it did not issue the original licence?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q30.** Please provide any other comments or proposals around enforcement that were not covered in the above questions.

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**Information-sharing**

**Q31.** Do you agree with our proposal to create a database or make other arrangements for relevant safeguarding information to be shared?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q32.** Please provide any other comments or proposals around information-sharing that were not covered in the above questions.

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**Q33.** Do you agree with our proposal to redirect all of the existing taxi and PHV licensing functions away from local authorities and into a national licensing authority (Option A)?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q34.** Do you think that local authorities should continue to have responsibility for taxi and PHV licensing (Option B)?

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please explain your answer.

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**Q35.** Please provide any other comments or proposals around responsibility for taxi/PHV licensing that were not covered in the above questions.

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**Q36.** We would like to know your views on the effects that the legislative proposals set out in this paper would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

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**Q36a.** What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

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**Q37.** Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

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 **Q38.** We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

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