



**Bus Services Bill Summary**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed Changes in England</b>	<b>Passenger Benefits</b>
<b>Commercial provision of services – limited local authority input</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus operators decide the routes, fares and vehicles to provide.</li> <li>Local authority can specify additional services not provided by operators commercially</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulations can be made to require open data on fares, timetables and real-time information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes to the operating model in areas where the local authority considers the bus market is effective and there is good passenger satisfaction.</li> <li>Bus passengers across the country could get the same kind of information as those in London or rail passengers.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships – bus operators and local authorities work together to improve services</b>		
<p><b>Voluntary partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authority and bus operators agree on a package of measures to improve bus services.</li> <li>Not legally enforceable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary partnerships can remain unchanged if both parties wish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes to the operating model in areas where the local authority considers the bus market is effective and there is good passenger satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quality Partnership Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal agreements made by local authority and bus operators</li> <li>Local authority provides infrastructure and can enforce service standards</li> <li>Only compliant operators can use the new facilities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>New Advanced Quality Partnership Schemes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the requirement to always provide infrastructure</li> <li>Introduce new categories of service standards e.g. Requirements on information provision and marketing of joint products.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better marketing and promotion of bus services</li> <li>Joined up ticketing and smart card products make it easier for passengers to travel.</li> <li>Faster journeys from quicker boarding.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>New Enhanced Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced Partnership plan – sets out how services should be improved.</li> <li>Decisions on general standards must be agreed by a qualified majority of operators.</li> <li>All operators in an EP area must comply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver better frequency and timing of services.</li> <li>Impose maximum fares.</li> <li>Mandate joint participation in ticketing schemes making it easier for passengers to travel.</li> </ul>
<b>Local authority takes responsibility for bus services in its area</b>		
<p><b>Quality Contract Scheme (QCS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five part public interest test has to be met.</li> <li>Consultation and respond to the recommendations of an independent Board.</li> <li>Quality Contract Scheme can last maximum 10 yrs.</li> <li>Has never been implemented in practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QCS legislation no longer applies in England.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Franchising Powers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayoral Combined authorities - automatic access to powers.</li> <li>Develop a business case.</li> <li>Open and transparent consultation.</li> <li>There is no maximum time limit for a franchising model.</li> <li>Other local authorities could in future access franchising powers if regulations made and SoS gives consent.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authority can control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services provided – could increase coverage.</li> <li>Fares – could offer simplified tickets that can be used across operators and transport modes.</li> <li>Service quality</li> <li>Branding and marketing.</li> <li>Buses uses – could set air quality requirements</li> </ul>