

# Greater Manchester Community Transport Forum

Help with running your minibus



# Does your group run a minibus?

Help is at hand for community groups who operate a minibus or van to provide transport services to their members.

## Owning a minibus can be a mixed blessing

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Experience shows that this can sometimes be problematic for the group or the person with responsibility for managing, maintaining and making sure the vehicle is operated safely, legally and only driven by those permitted.

For many groups, the hidden costs of running a vehicle are not apparent when involved in the hard work of fundraising to buy it. Little do they realise, proudly displaying the new vehicle in the local press, with the sponsor's names emblazoned on the side, the real hard work is yet to start!

When the costs of fuel, insurance, repairs and maintenance start to be balanced against to the miles it travels and the trips it provides, questions might be asked about the overall benefit this valuable community resource provides.

## Help is at hand

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Community transport projects – (often known as *CTs* for short - go to [www.gmctof.org.uk](http://www.gmctof.org.uk) for a list of Greater Manchester projects) are not for profit, professional vehicle operators who specialise in providing a wide range of transport services to the voluntary & community sectors.

As well as managing and maintaining all sorts of vehicles, they also provide driver training and can advise on a wide range of transport related areas.



## Your local community transport operator could:

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- **Manage your vehicle** – taking the responsibility for making sure it's legal, it's checked regularly, well maintained, correctly licensed and insured – even down to it being full of fuel, clean & tidy and parked in a secure place overnight
- **Train your drivers** – to nationally recognised vocational standards (they can also keep your driver records and do the licence checks)
- **Generate income** for your group - to help offset the running costs of your vehicle by hiring to their other community groups when you're not using it
- **Save you money** – some local groups donate their vehicle to their local CT, and then book from their wide range of vehicles – cost effective & headache free. CTs can give you a comparison between operating costs & hiring their buses (and drivers if needed)



# What's in it for us?

In two words – community benefit. We are the Greater Manchester Community Transport Forum. The Forum is a charity working to support CTs and Voluntary Sector vehicle operators across Greater Manchester.

## What we can do

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As Voluntary Sector vehicle operators, we know about the difficulties that can arise in owning a minibuss. We're also aware of the valuable transport resources that may be under used out there.

The Forum wants to identify groups operating their own vehicles, in order to offer help and support to make sure they are operating safely & legally.

We can also put groups in touch with CTs that can offer advice, vehicles for hire or a range of vehicle management services.

## What you can do

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If you, or a group you know of, might be:

- Needing transport for their members
- Having problems running or managing their own vehicle
- Needing to replace an old vehicle
- Having problems finding the money to meet their vehicle running costs
- Needing help with training, registering or finding drivers
- Unsure of licensing legalities and operational requirements
- Having insurance or maintenance queries or problems
- Thinking about a professional service to look after their bus

Help is at hand. Email [minibushelp@gmctof.org.uk](mailto:minibushelp@gmctof.org.uk), or call David Campbell on 0161 277 1014

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