Health of the Bus Market

Thank you for coming to give evidence on 13 February 2019.

There were a few points on which you said that you would write to the Committee, and there are also some additional questions we did not have time to ask on the day, which it would be helpful to have a response to. These are outlined below.

Points on which you said that you would provide further information:

- The percentage of operators who are involved in a bus partnership. (Q475)
- The percentage of local authorities involved in a bus partnership. (Q475)
- The number of voluntary partnerships and the number of statutory partnerships. (Q475)
- The percentage of bus operators who are (a) sent and (b) respond to the survey of bus operators. (Q481, Q483)
- An update of when the Total Transport report will be published. (Q536)

Additional Questions:

1. Many operators already offer discounted bus fares for apprentices. Could you update us on the apprentice discount you mentioned in your written evidence and describe how this is going to be funded?
2. Can you update us on the Bus Services Act: accessible information consultation, and the Bus Services Act: open data consultation, which ran from 5 July to 16 September 2018?

3. When the Bus Services Bill was going through Parliament the previous Transport Committee recommended that “more must be done to ensure that innovation in ticketing technologies is encouraged and not hampered”. They also said that within six months of Royal Assent, the Department for Transport should produce, in consultation with industry, guidance to support LTAs in developing ticketing schemes. What have you done about this?

4. In your evidence you talk about the package of measures to ensure that those who rely on a wheelchair space are able to access it. You state that these were to be announced in 2018. In your inclusive transport strategy it says ‘we will announce how we will seek to prioritise access to the on-board wheelchair space’. We are currently unable to find them; when will this package be announced?

5. You mention inclusive mobility guidance and ensuring the accessibility of the built environment and research that you are undertaking. The research has been published. Could you update us on any actions you are taking?

6. We have heard that buses are a lifeline for those in rural areas. You told us in your written evidence that you had a cross-departmental meeting in autumn 2018 about buses in rural areas. What actions came out of this meeting?

The additional information from Paul Woods, which has been endorsed by the LGA, is available on our website at the links are below. The Committee would welcome the Department’s thoughts on the information he has submitted to us.

It is available here in PDF:  

and here in html:  
http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/transport-committee/health-of-the-bus-market/written/96045.html
I look forward to receiving your reply. You should be aware that I intend to ask the Committee to publish our correspondence.

Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair of the Transport Committee