

## ***Climate Change, Buses and Funding .....***

It is a matter of fact that **combatting Climate Change will require a fundamental change to how people travel**, particularly in urban areas.



The government's future emissions targets will only be achieved with **major modal shift from private car use to walking, cycling or public transport** over the next two decades.

Currently, the **bus is the most used form of public transport in the UK** and not only must the volume of bus

use grow but so, too, must its share of the public transport market if Climate Change is to be curbed.



Successfully delivering that degree of modal shift will require urban bus services to become **desirable, attractive consumer products which people will willingly choose to use** as an effective way of getting around towns and cities.

That **dramatic change requirement has been recognised by government with 'Bus Back Better' in England** and 79

local transport authorities submitting '*Bus Improvement Plans*' to the Department for Transport.

Those Plans are estimated to cost £7bn to deliver.

In parallel with the need to make buses much more attractive is the **need to replace diesel fleets with electric or hydrogen powered vehicles**.

Delivering on both challenges across the whole of the UK will create **incremental costs of at least £15bn over the next ten years**.

Initially, in 2020, the UK Government **earmarked £5bn to transform bus services** but then committed £2bn of that funding to promoting active travel through walking and cycling. Subsequently, **a significant proportion of that funding has been used to maintain essential bus services through the pandemic**.

**We now need a reality check !**

**Delivering on Climate Change requires major mode shift to buses in cities and that will not happen by magic.** It needs substantial dedicated targeted

funding either **direct from government or through government creating market conditions which would allow the private sector to justify parallel investment.**

**Time to think on !**



**The Climate Clock is ticking and, right now, we really do not have a plan.**