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# Transport and local councils

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Better Transport

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# Campaign for Better Transport

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- Charitable trust promoting sustainable transport
- Support from wide range of interests
- Co-ordinates environmental and other NGOs concerned with transport
- Commissions and publishes research
- Conducts public campaigns
- Promotes pilot projects and good practice

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# Some transport issues for local councils

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- Road traffic: volume and speed
- New housing and transport services
- Poor/ expensive/ no public transport
- Local road and footpath maintenance

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# Roads and traffic

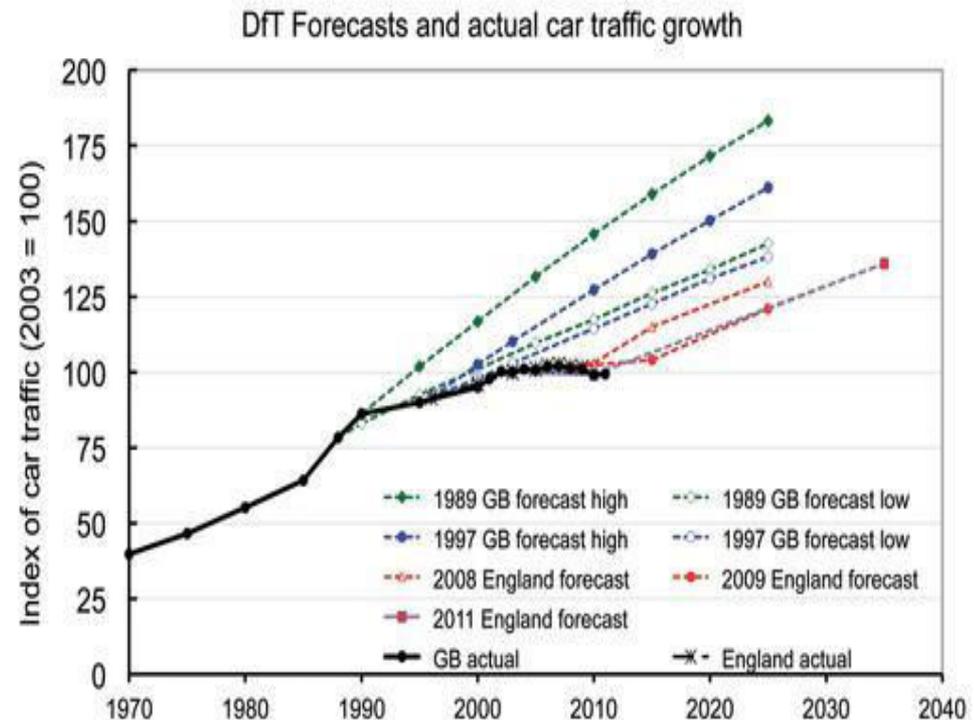
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- Government spending a lot of money on the strategic road network (motorways and main A roads) but there is a £12bn backlog in maintenance of local roads
- There is a good case for lower speed limits on many local roads
- New housing needs to have better transport links

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# Changes in trends

- Car use has peaked, or at least lessened its increase, and young people are driving less than their parents did
- Rail use has been growing, even through the recession
- But DfT forecasting hasn't reflected this



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# It is possible to change travel behaviour

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- Range of measures including:
  - Travel plans for schools, workplaces, housing developments, stations
  - Car clubs and lift-sharing
  - Personalised marketing
- Applied in a wide range of places and travel
- Shown that travel behaviour can be changed, sometimes radically
- Good evidence base, with before and after studies



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# Workplace travel plans

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- Combinations of measures to reduce single-occupancy car commuting including:
- Car sharing (guaranteed taxi ride home, priority car parking)
- Subsidised public transport
- Cycle parking/showers/ changing area
- Better pedestrian access
- Car park management (charges/ priorities)
- Paying people not to drive to work
- Teleworking/remote working

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# Transport is also getting smarter...

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- Information
- Payment
- Management
- Planning

So we can make better use of what we have

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# The underrated value of buses

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# Problems with current funding

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- Concessionary fares scheme is under-funded
- Weak statutory underpinning for local authority role in buses and no ring-fencing of revenue support
- Local authority income constraints

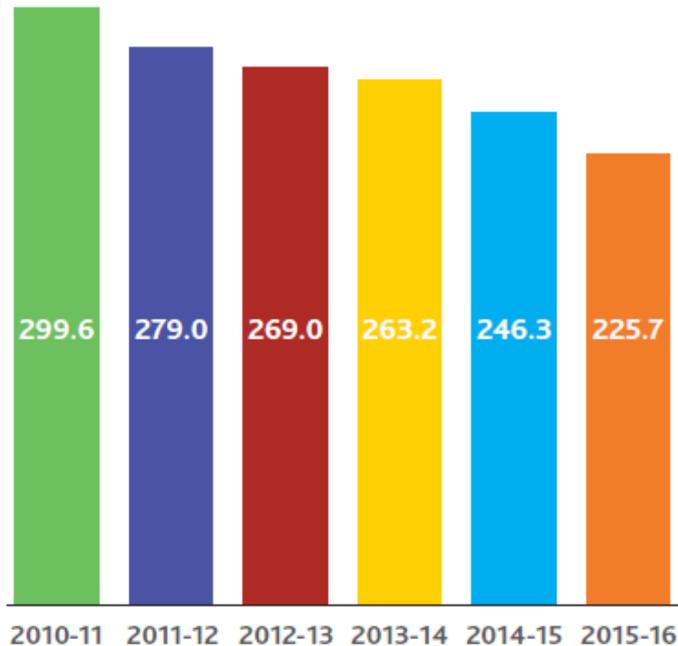
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# Impact of funding cuts

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Total English spend on supported buses since 2010 (£m)



- Since 2010 council cuts to bus budgets totalling £78m has resulted in more than 2,400 bus routes and services being cut, 1 in 5.
- £27m more cuts are proposed by Local Authorities

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# Save our buses!

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# Opportunity: Bus Services Bill

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- Does include:
  - Enabling powers for franchising bus services
  - Enabling powers for “enhanced partnerships”
  - Open data requirements
- Could include:
  - Local public transport assessments
  - Bus & coach investment strategy

Should include: involvement of local councils

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# Bus Services Bill in practice

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- More and better services
- Area-wide and smarter tickets and fares
- Better links between bus and rail
- Door-to-door real time information
- Better marketing of public transport

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# Local rail, the Beeching hangover

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Reshaping of British Railways report, 1963,  
recommended:

- Closure of 2,128 stations (more than half of the then total)
- Closure of 6,000 miles of railway line (a third of the total)
- Fare increases of 10%



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# But since then

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- Lines and stations have been reopened
- New development has sometimes been built around rail stations
- There has been some real investment in some local rail services, with more to come

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# Rail reopenings

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- Rail reopenings guide
- New stations fund
- Devolution and sub national transport bodies

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# Local transport: fix it first!

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- Local road and pavement maintenance
- Funding for packages of small projects not just big ones
- More support for new stations/ lines
- More support for bus services
- Support for cycling and walking

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# Conclusions

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- There are practical ways to address local transport problems
- Packages of small measures are often better value than big projects
- New legislation and devolution could improve transport, but local councils need to be involved

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# Questions

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