



Bus Services Bill Summary

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed Changes</u>	<u>Passenger Benefits</u>
De-regulated market		
Bus operators decide the routes, fares and vehicles to provide.	No change.	No changes to the operating model needed in areas where the bus market is considered to be effective and there is good passenger satisfaction.
Voluntary partnerships		
Local authority and bus operators agree on a package of measures to improve bus services. Not legally enforceable.	Voluntary partnerships can still be formed in a de-regulated market. Existing voluntary partnerships can remain unchanged if both parties wish. Not legally enforceable	Any kind of improvements provided that they are agreed between the operators and the local authority.
Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme (QPS)		
Quality Partnership Schemes are statutory schemes made by local authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority provides new facilities (infrastructure) and can, in return, enforce certain service standards. Only compliant operators can use the new facilities. 	The new Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme allows local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create partnerships based on bus-improvement measures as well as facilities. Introduce new categories of service standards e.g. requirements on information provision and marketing of joint ticketing products. 	Better marketing and promotion of bus services. Joined up ticketing and smart card products make it easier for passengers to travel.
New Enhanced Partnerships (EP)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Partnership will allow local authorities and operators to agree a set of standards for bus services in the area. These standards must be agreed by a qualified majority of operators. Once agreed, all operators in an EP area must comply with them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable authorities and operators to work together to respond quickly to passenger demand. Setting types of payments that must be accepted and enabling common ticketing rules.
Franchising		
Quality Contract Scheme (QCS), is a route to franchising introduced by the Transport Act 2000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 'Quality Contract Board' has to agree that a five part public interest test was met before franchising could be introduced. Is considered to be overly bureaucratic never been implemented. 	<p>The Bill refreshes the franchising powers in England.</p> <p>The Government's intention is for Mayoral Combined Authorities to have automatic access to franchising powers, with other LTAs being able to access them via regulations and consent of the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The Bill sets out a rigorous process that authorities must follow before they can introduce franchising – i.e. develop a business case that will be subject to independent scrutiny and open and transparent consultation.</p>	<p>In the right areas, franchising could facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated network planning and increased service coverage. Uniform fares and offer simplified tickets that can be used across operators and transport modes. Branding and marketing. Vehicle specification and air quality management.

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