

APPENDIX 3

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	22 September 2016
TITLE	Transportation Measure THS/007
AUTHOR	Dafydd Wyn Williams, (Acting) Head of Regulatory Department
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
PURPOSE	The Regulatory Department's response to the Communities Scrutiny Committee's enquiry regarding a particular performance measurement

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Following the Scrutiny Committee's preparatory meeting, one specific matter in the Regulatory Department raised by the committee needs a response, namely, Performance Measure THS/007.
- 1.2. The scrutineers have noted that in 2015/16 the percentage of adults who are 60 years old or over who have concessionary rate bus passes is 70%. Members wished to receive information on the situation regarding disabled people who were younger than 60 years old who have concessionary rate bus passes. What is the situation in Gwynedd and how do we compare with other counties?

2. EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURE:

- 2.1. Performance Measure THS/007 is a measure that is prepared by the Department for the purpose of national data. Every Authority in Wales implements the scheme and issues passes in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines, which comply with the requirements of the Transport Act 2000. It is important to note that the Department does not report on this measure as part of the Department's regular performance reports.

Members wished to receive information on the situation regarding disabled people who were younger than 60 years old who had concessionary bus passes. What is the situation in Gwynedd and how does it compare with other counties?

- 2.2. In Gwynedd, there are 29,861 residents who have concessionary travel passes and 93% of them are people over 60 years old. Of the 7% under 60 years old, they are either disabled, people with impaired vision or war veterans and some of them have a companion.

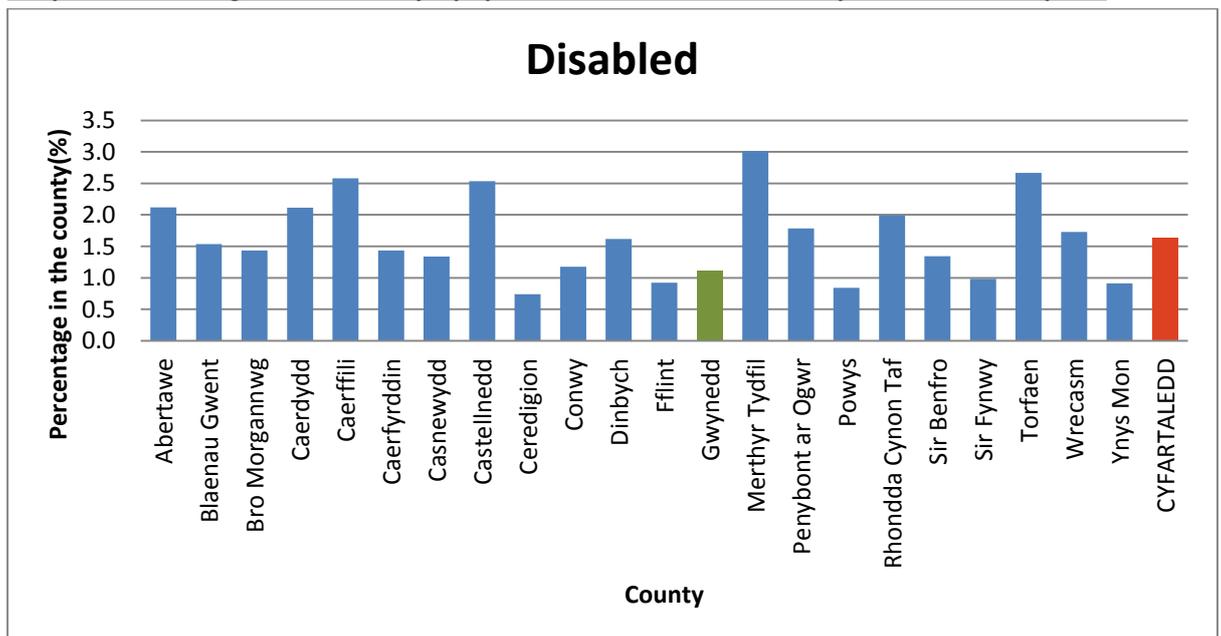
Disabled people with a concessionary travel pass:

- 2.3. There are 1377 disabled people with concessionary travel passes and 616 have a concessionary travel pass with a companion in Gwynedd. This equates to 1.1% of the county's population (122,864). Considering Graph 1, it can be seen that this is lower than the national average (1.6%), but it is much the same as similar counties to Gwynedd, namely Anglesey (0.9%), Conwy (1.2%), Powys (0.8%) and Pembrokeshire (1.3%).

2.4 It can be seen from Graph 1 that the urban counties of Swansea, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Neath, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen have a percentage of over 2% of disabled people with concessionary travel passes. This is likely because there are far more regular and dependable public transport opportunities in urban areas compared with rural areas.

2.5 It is very interesting to note that Merthyr Tydfil has amongst the highest percentage in the UK of working-age people who are either on sickness or disability benefits. See enclosed link [<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b19a852c-e459-11e5-bc31-138df2ae9ee6.html#axzz4IHDckj1U>].

Graph 1: Percentage of the county's population with a concessionary disabled travel pass:



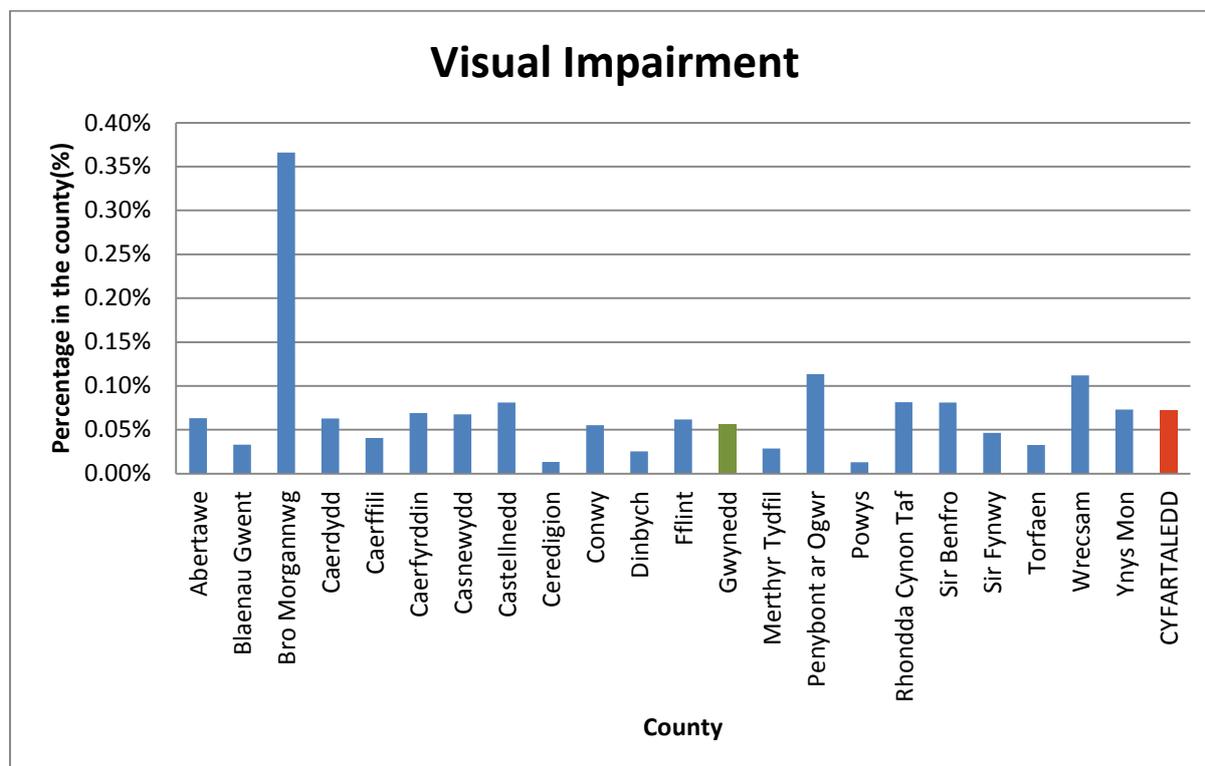
Disabled people with a visual impairment concessionary travel pass:

2.6 69 residents of Gwynedd have a concessionary travel pass because they have a visual impairment. Of these, 12 have a companion. This equates to a very low percentage of the population in Gwynedd (0.055%), which is not very far from the national average (0.07%). A more detailed comparison is seen in Graph 2, which compares the percentage of people with a visual impairment who have a concessionary travel pass in every county.

2.7 Again, it can be seen that Gwynedd compares favourably with similar counties, namely Anglesey (0.07%), Conwy (0.055%), Powys (0.015%) and Pembrokeshire (0.08%).

2.8 There is one county, namely the Vale of Glamorgan (0.36%), which stands out in that the average is extremely high, but except for Bridgend (0.11%) and Wrexham (0.11%), the percentages are fairly similar over the remainder of Wales.

Graph 2: Percentage of the county's population with a visual impairment concessionary travel pass:



3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 It is likely that we could read much more into the figures but it is quite clear that Gwynedd compares closely with the percentages of similar counties in terms of disabled people with concessionary travel passes. It is clear that urban counties have a higher percentage of their disabled people with concessionary travel passes but this is likely because there are several public transport services available to them compared with rural areas.
- 3.2 In terms of people with a visual impairment having concessionary travel passes, there is quite a consistent comparison between Gwynedd and other counties in Wales except for the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Wrexham.