The Future of Rural Mobility

Renee van Baar, Rural Mobility Lead





"Midlands Connect is the strategic transport partnership of our region. We research, develop and progress transport projects that will benefit the region, its people and its businesses. In an everchanging world, our priorities remain the same - to create a fairer, greener and stronger Midlands."

emonstrators

FoRMS 1

What has Midlands Connect done to date?

- Discover the needs of rural areas
- Explore potential future mobility solutions
- Developed a rural mobility toolkit

FoRMS 2a Planning

- Rural hubs guidance for Local Authorities
- Identify potential hubs & services
- Deliver 4 desk-based case studies following guidance

FoRMS 2b Pilots

Provided funding to two partners to test the guidance and provide feedback

FoRMS 3a Rural Mobility Competition

- Invited "ideas on a page"
- Teamed 3 shortlisted ideas with MC Partners

FoRMS 3b Rural Mobility Competition - winner

Developing winning solution

Future of Rural Mobility Study (2019)



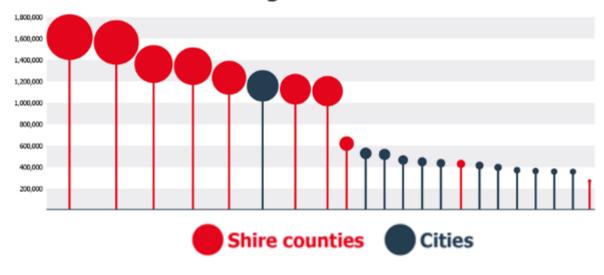
- Assessed new and future mobility tools
- Toolkit/menu of options including:
 - New ways to move people
 - Reducing the need to travel
 - Taking services/goods to people

Future of Rural Mobility Study (2019)

What we learned about the rural population:

- older
- further from services and education
- higher transport costs
- dependent on cars/vans

Where emissions are generated



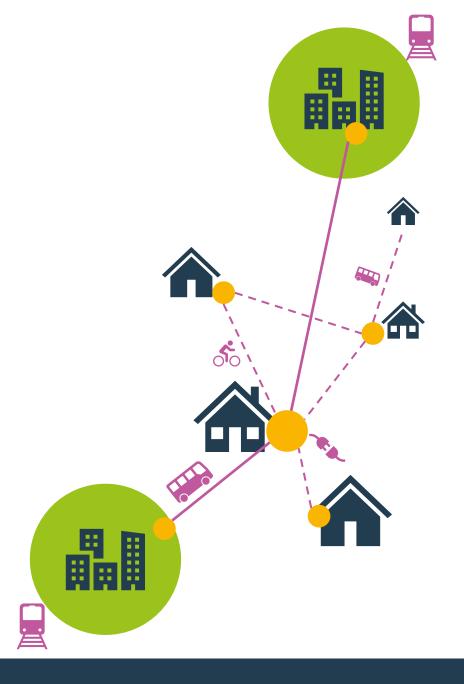
2019, Midlands Connect Carbon Baseline Tool

Rural Hubs (2020)

"A local hub is a public space which is designed to accommodate multiple local level activities, and to provide transport services, supporting access to nearby communities"

Guidance

- Where, what, why and how
- Desktop case studies
- Funded feasibility studies



Developing Rural Hub guidance (2021)

Testing the Guidance

- Provided Derbyshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council with a grant to test the guidance
- Request feedback on guidance to generate second iteration of the guidance

Key Outputs

- Nottinghamshire identified a specific location for a rural hub
- Derbyshire established the potential of rural hubs and completed a follow-up study investigating the potential of a network of hubs across the county



Rural Mobility Competition (2021-22)

1. Shortlisting Stage

Open Invitation



2. Proposal Stage

Shortlist Ideas

3. Project Stage

Select Winner

Support for Runners Up



Rural Mobility Competition (2021-22)

Lessons learned

A different approach brings different challenges...

- Finding innovators
- Path to procurement

...but also brings a different perspective



Rural Mobility Competition Winner

Derbyshire – Buxton and Hope Valley





Rural Mobility Competition Winner

Electric Vehicle charging and car sharing platform

Put forward by Cenex; developed in partnership with Derbyshire County Council

- Integrates sharing of
 - Vehicles (peer to peer and car club),
 - Lifts / cars
 - Charge points
- Aimed at residents and local businesses in Buxton and Hope Valley



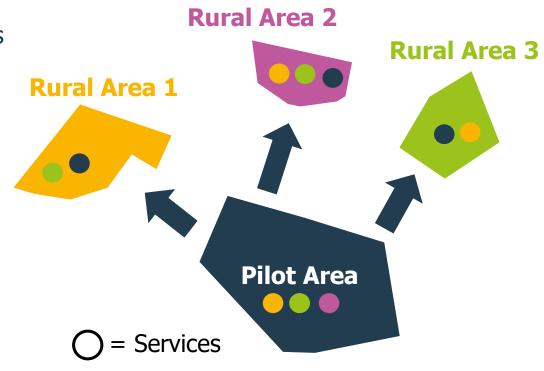
Potential for Scaling

Replicable to other communities

- Low cost to produce new front-end
- Demonstrating it works in a market town and small villages will prove replicability to wide range of communities
- Midlands Connect could licence to other local authorities

Scalable to include more services in future

- Link with DCC £3.5m bus service integration
- Promote to visitors from Manchester / Sheffield
- E-bikes, e-scooters, other light mobility
- Commercial vehicles
- DRT



Buxton/Hope Valley Moving Together

Electric Vehicle charging and car sharing platform

- Went live in July 2023
- Developed by Cenex, working with Midlands Connect and Derbyshire County Council
- Aimed at residents and local businesses in Buxton and Hope Valley
- Community resource provided by Hope Valley Climate Action's Travelling Light project
 - Promotion via local channels
 - Face to face and online engagement
 - Taking potential users through platforms
 - Relaying feedback and queries to design team



How it works

