

[News story: New minibuses to improve rural mobility](#)

Community groups across the country have today (7 April 2017) been awarded funding to buy new minibuses to help keep people on the move.

Forty disability, patient, children and school groups will get a new vehicle after winning part of £2 million in the second round of the £25 million [Community Minibus Fund](#).

The minibuses, which will have up to 16 seats, will improve the lives of people in rural areas by providing crucial links to shops, social events and medical services.

Transport Minister Andrew Jones said:

Community transport is vital for people in rural areas, helping them reach shops, hospital appointments, loved ones, friends, jobs and education.

We have so far provided 300 minibuses in the first round of the £25 million Community Minibus Fund and they are already improving lives of people up and down the country.

These extra minibuses will give a further boost and make sure the public can access the places and services they want.

The competition was run with the Community Transport Association (CTA), the membership organisation for community bus operators across the UK.

Bill Freeman, CTA chief executive, said:

The Community Transport Association was thrilled to facilitate this second round. These vehicles will make a massive difference to the people and communities they will serve, opening up access to educational and social activities, employment and vital public services.

We are really pleased that this government has been prepared to invest in community transport in such a visible way and we're already seeing the benefits of this from the first round of the Community Minibus Fund.

The winning groups can be found below:

Name of Organisation	Local authority (upper tier)	Region
Disability Direct	Derby	East Midlands
Hadhari Project	Derby	East Midlands
ASR Community	Bedfordshire	East of England
Bishops Stortford Mencap	Hertfordshire	East of England
Boxing Futures Limited	Peterborough	East of England
CHEXS	Hertfordshire	East of England
Families United Network	Bedfordshire	East of England
Southend Mencap	Essex	East of England
Centre 404	Islington	Greater London
Katherine Low Settlement Limited	Wandsworth	Greater London
Edenham High School	Croydon	Greater London
Age UK Gateshead Ltd	Gateshead	North East
DERIC (Durham Education Resource In The Community) Youth Bus Project	Durham	North East
St. Michael's Youth Project	Hull	North East
Appleby Heritage Centre Limited	Cumbria	North West
Bendrigg Trust	Cumbria	North West
Manchester Community Transport	Greater Manchester	North West
Ykids	Sefton	North West
14th Canterbury Scout Group	Kent	South East
Action4Youth	Buckinghamshire	South East
BACT Community Transport Limited	East Sussex	South East
Cancer United	West Sussex	South East
Commonwork Trust	Kent	South East
Ramsgate and Broadstairs Unit 441 of The Sea Cadets	Kent	South East
Sheppey Matters	Kent	South East
Test Valley Community Services	Hampshire	South East
Tonbridge Baptist Church	Kent	South East
Woodpecker Wood CIC	Kent	South East
Bideford and District Unit 35 of the Sea Cadet Corps	Devon	South West
Community Equality Disability Action	Devon	South West
Concern Wadebridge	Cornwall	South West
Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association	Devon	South West
SEDCAT	Dorset	South West
Weymouth Sea Cadets	Dorset	South West
38th Walsall (1st Walsall Wood) Scout Group	Walsall	West Midlands
Dore Community Transport	Herefordshire	West Midlands

Name of Organisation	Local authority (upper tier)	Region
Boys and Girls club South Yorkshire	Sheffield	Yorkshire and Humber
Goole & District Community Transport Group	East Riding Of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humber
Lady Lumley's School	North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humber
St George's Lupset Ltd	Wakefield	Yorkshire and Humber