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This issue: Taxi!, Brexit latest, Profile: Healthy Streets, Analysis: Review of the year; Report: rail devolution works; Spotlight: Scandinavian way to better transport

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## UK Urban Transport Voice



### News

#### Report: Taxi!



Since 2005, the number of private hire vehicles (PHVs) in England has increased by 70% and there's now one PHV for every 70 people in London. With taxis and PHV numbers continuing to surge our latest report [Taxi! Issues and Options for City Region Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Policy](#) takes a look at why this matters for cities and makes the case for a more strategic approach to the sector. It also sets out examples of the different approaches cities in England and the wider world have taken to balance benefits to

### February 2018

**News from the Urban Transport Group - the UK's network of city and city region transport authorities.**

**Representing Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, London, Tyne and Wear, Sheffield City Region, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.**

**Bristol and the West of England, Nottingham City Council and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport are associate members.**

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and air pollution whilst supporting inclusive growth. The report took centre stage at a UITP global conference on taxis in London earlier in December 2017 which UTG hosted.

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## News: Brexit latest



You can find out the latest on what Brexit means for urban transport in the UK in a new version of our new format rolling Brexit briefing which can be downloaded [here](#). The briefing provides an update on where the Brexit process has reached and a 'risk register' of the potential impacts for UK urban transport authorities.

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## Profile: Healthy Streets



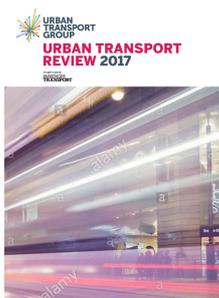
Inactive lifestyles are one of the biggest threats to public health, increasing the risk of developing a range of chronic diseases including diabetes, dementia, depression, heart disease and cancer. Urban transport authorities have a crucial role to play in addressing that threat. After all, walking, cycling and using public transport to get around are the easiest ways to stay active in urban areas. In response Transport for London is now adopting a new Healthy Streets Approach and putting it at the heart of everything they do. The Healthy Streets Approach uses 10 evidence-based indicators of what makes streets attractive

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which all people are included and can live well, and where inequalities are reduced. The Healthy Streets Approach is not an idealised vision for a model street. It is a long-term plan for improving Londoners' and visitors' experiences of our streets, helping everyone to be more active and enjoy the health benefits of being on our streets. You can find out more [here](#).

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## Analysis: Review of the year



*"A lot has changed in urban transport over the past year,"* says Lilian Greenwood MP, Chair of the House of Commons Transport Select Committee, in her foreword to our Urban Transport Review published in association with Passenger Transport magazine. The special supplement not only looks back at 2017 but also sees Jonathan Bray outline his eight key issues facing the sector in 2018. There is also an interview with UTG Chair, Toby Hughes, on the changes UTG has undergone in the last 12 months. You can read the supplement [here](#).

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## Report: Rail devolution works



UTG is strongly in favour of increased authority for our members to decide transport policies locally, and our new report – [Rail Devolution Works](#) – provides the evidence base to back up the rail argument. The comprehensive study of devolved rail services in the UK has

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performance, reliability and satisfaction levels among passengers since responsibilities for local rail services were devolved from Whitehall. It argues that further rail devolution will enable other regions and areas to also radically transform rail services in a way that supports economic growth at the same time as improving the journey experience for passengers. The [report](#) takes a detailed look at how devolution changed rail services for the better in Merseyside, on London Overground, in Scotland and in Tyne and Wear. Jonathan Bray, Director of UTG, puts the report in context in his [blog](#).

## Spotlight: The Scandinavian way to better transport



Our recent report [The Scandinavian Way to Better Public Transport](#) shows how transport authorities in three Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Denmark and Norway) are using devolved powers to transform public transport for the better - and sets out the lessons that the UK could learn. The report found that 'innovation, devolution and franchising is getting results for passengers and cities' as well as that in Scandinavian countries there is a political and public consensus that public transport is a public service. A public service that has a key role to play in tackling road congestion, reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution. A public service that also spreads the benefits of economic growth and promotes social

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communities – including linking peripheral areas with the main towns and cities that are driving the wider economy.

The report was authored by Edinburgh Napier University Professor Tom Rye and a team of researchers in the Scandinavian nations. His [blog](#) explains how he conducted his research and the lessons that can be learnt from the results.

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## Contact us



If you would like any further information about any of the items above, or have a query please contact the Brussels Team:

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