

Baseline standards

A “one size fits all” approach to community transport could stifle the differences that enable each operator to respond to the needs of its community. However, both users and funders need to be sure about the professionalism and probity of the organisation they are dealing with.

The Operators’ Forum has developed minimum standards in community transport operation in three key areas:

a) *Constitutional status*

Incorporation (as a company limited by guarantee or equivalent) and registration as a charity (or equivalent).

This gives individual management committee members of local CT organisations the protection of limited liability, as well as ensuring common minimum standards of financial and administrative accountability for members and funders.

b) *Professional competence*

One staff or committee member to hold or obtain the Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) in Passenger Transport.

The CPC is a nationally recognised qualification in transport management. It requires an in-depth knowledge of all aspects of operating a passenger-carrying transport organisation. Having a CPC-qualified member of staff is a pre-requisite to obtaining a Public Service Vehicle Operator’s Licence.

c) *Driver training*

Members should train all drivers to MiDAS standards

By becoming a member of the forum, an operator agrees to attain or exceed the above minimum standards. Membership of the forum provides a number of advantages to community transport operators:

- Opportunities to tender for GMPTE contracts
- Ability to apply to the CT Trust for funding
- Ability to apply for funding via the CT strategy
- Endorsement by GMPTE