

Daniel Farr

I would firstly like to thank the council for allowing me to make this statement today, and I would especially like to thank Leader of the Council and Liberal Democrat Group Leader Cllr Paul Crossley for his help in enabling me speak to you all.

For years, I complained about Bristol buses lack of reliability and ever increasing fares to my family but I never did anything about it. Then, in November last year, I decided to finally do something about it, and I started an e-petition that has attracted nearly 4,000 signatures so far!

I'm proud my petition has been endorsed by Bristol's Mayor George Ferguson, and was unanimously supported by Bristol city council at a recent meeting. This cross-party support has led to First Bus announcing a review of their fare prices and I hope we can work together to achieve the same here.

Bath is a beautiful and historic city - let down by its bus services that scored well below the national average in a nationwide survey of passengers by the watchdog body Passenger First.

Several people have told me it's cheaper and more convenient for them to drive then pay £2.60 for a two-mile journey by bus into town. Where is the sense in that?

I also read that the cost of using park and ride services in Bath are set to up from this month, with some tickets increasing by more than twice the rate of inflation.

This unfortunately means more people drive into town adding to the city Centre's congestion problems, encourages In-active lifestyles and I don't need to tell you the health issues air pollution causes & the damage it does to the environment.

I feel strongly that bus tickets across the West are too high, and that we need to work with bus operators to get them to cut so we get more people out of their cars & using public transport.

I'm here tonight to launch a petition to deliver what the residents of this wonderful city want, and that's to Make Fares Fair! I call on all the members of the cabinet to support my e-petition.

Many thanks