

## Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting **13 October** 2022

Labour adts to LD bus motion 13 Oct 22 1736 Liz Hardman; R Moss

Yellow adts – LD morning

Lab in Green and italics – inc crossings out.

### Liberal Democrat Motion on Bus Service Cuts

To be proposed by Councillor Matt McCabe

Council:

1. Notes with dismay the **forthcoming** cuts to essential, local bus routes in B&NES, including First bus service numbers 11, 12, 20, **22**, 42, **82**, and 171 **and 178**, and the timetable and route changes affecting many other local bus services, **including the 178**.
2. Notes that some mitigations to **these** cuts have been **announced proposed**, including re-routing some services, **the new 379 route and a proposed new service operating between Bristol and Bath via Pensford, Clutton, Paulton, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Peasedown, and new operators stepping in on some routes**.
3. Notes that the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the regional transport authority responsible for planning bus services, in cooperation with local bus operators.
4. Notes B&NES Council's Transport Levy contribution to WECA is £5,194,000 in 2022-23, of which £780,000 is a contribution to supported bus services. **and notes that this makes up a total £20.49 per passenger of transport levy compared to £67.58 in Greater Manchester**.
5. Notes that bus operating companies have been affected by falling passenger **journeys numbers**, rising costs and driver shortages, and notes government financial support to bus companies was recently extended to March 2023.
6. **Welcomes the recently announced investment in bus stop facilities and reduced fares on many services. Notes however that reduced fares do not apply to all privately-run routes and have led to some popular ticketing options being discontinued and others increasing in price.**
7. **DELETE ALL 7; Notes that the Metro Mayor engaged in a series of public meetings on buses across the whole region.** Notes with disappointment that communication and consultation **by the West of England Combined Authority around the future of local bus services with local authorities (who know their local area best)** has been inadequate and would welcome clarity in terms to

~~the profitability or loss making of certain routes and the sharing of data to improve the general provision.~~

8. Believes that a reliable, comprehensive and affordable bus service is essential to all B&NES residents to access shops, services, leisure, employment and education, and to help tackle air pollution, congestion and the Climate Emergency.
9. Believes that bus service cuts will have an enormously negative impact on B&NES communities, particularly affecting rural and disadvantaged communities, residents who have no access to private transport, and anyone trying to reach key sites such as schools and the RUH.
10. Believes that any gap in service provision **will could** drive residents away from public transport permanently.
11. Believes that the ***whole bus system is fundamentally crucial to ending rural isolation should be made*** fit for the future.

Council therefore:

12. Opposes cuts to essential bus services in B&NES.
13. ***Recognises that it is the role of the*** WECA Mayor to:
  - a. Continue negotiations with bus providers to **retain and reinstate save** as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in service provision.
  - b. Urgently bring forward new and innovative solutions, such as demand-responsive services, to supplement core routes.
  - c. Develop a co-ordinated, imaginative, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent across the West of England area.
14. ***Calls on the Leader of this Council to positively engage in constructive leadership to support the Combined Authority to deliver the above.***
15. Calls on the government to:
  - a. Overhaul public transport funding models and provide a sustainable, long-term funding deal to provide certainty and stability.
  - b. Take action to address the driver shortage with a national effort to recruit and train more drivers and measures to improve retention.
  - c. Restore transport authorities' ability to directly intervene in the public transport market and bring bus services back under public control.
16. Asks the Leader to communicate Council's views to the WECA Mayor, government and local MPs.