

ROBBIE BENTLEY STATEMENT – PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

We are very concerned about the bus service cuts in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region with poor air quality and the journey to net zero in Bath city centre and in Bristol city centre. Both cities having Clean Air Zones, the cut of public transport and especially bus services in cut off communities are forcing people back into their private cars or into taxis they cannot afford with the cost-of-living crisis.

The choice is between paying a £20 taxi fare to go to the supermarket or turning on the heating is unacceptable especially in communities in South Bath and village communities or estates in Greater Bristol.

Although the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset Council have saved a lot of local bus services there are still major gaps in the Bath city bus network.

There are still major gaps in the Bath city bus Network on services 11, 12 , 20 and early morning journeys on D2.

From 9th October 2022 we will see some of the deepest bus service cuts in South West England and in the country. In Bath and North Somerset council area and south Bristol major bus links are to be lost.

These services have now been saved:

178 Radstock, Westfield, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Timbury, Marksbury, Keynsham, Brislington, Arnos Vale, Bristol Temple Meads station, Bristol bus and coach station.

This is major loss to the Somer Valley, left with no connection to from Somerset to Keynsham and Bristol city centre for education needs, get to work, food shopping and leisure facilities.

Timsbury and Marksbury will be left without bus services to Keynsham, Brislington and Bristol city centre. This service has now been replaced by a service by Abus and citistar between Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Timbury, Marksbury, Keynsham, Brislington Park and Ride. Monday to Saturday. Limited Saturday service.

Connections from Keynsham by 349 to Bristol Temple Meads station Bristol bus and coach station and train from Keynsham to Bristol Temple meads station.

This service has now been saved.

Services 82 Radstock Westfield Midsomer Norton, Paulton Town services.

Replacement Libra Travel

Services 20 in South Bath circle via Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Via Lansdown and Twerton.

No replacement services.

Services now saved

Services 22 Twerton to Bath university Campus

Operated by Abus

Services 11 Bath spa bus station to Bathampton service.

Service 12 Bath spa to Haycombe Cemetery.

Part replacement by services 5 Bath bus and coach station to Twerton and Southdown.

Service 11.

Bath bus and coach station to Bathampton service.

Not replacement services

Does have a limited replacement

But steep hill making it difficult for villagers to get to A36 bus stops services with services D1 Bath spa bus and coach station to Bathampton main road Limpley Stoke, Winsley, Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster for Salisbury.

Service 42 is withdrawn - Odd Down park and ride, Twerton, and the RUH Hospital.

Service 4 Odd Down park and ride to city centre Bath spa bus and coach station to Royal University Hospital.

Royal United Hospital Trust will not fund this bus service. £65 000 a year.

Services are funded in Bristol by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston Trust

Gloucester and Cheltenham hospital link is funded by the Gloucestershire Hospital Trust

Service 3 Bath bus and coach station to Batheaston and Bathford Is not serving the Elmhurst estate

Now served by service 13

Service 516 Whitchurch estate to Hengrove Hospital and Knowle has been withdrawn with the failure of HCT group.

515 Stockwood, Whitchurch, Hengrove Hospital, Imperial Park. Now replacement by big lemon bus company of Brighton Sussex.

Service 55 Whitchurch, Hengrove, Dundry, Bristol Airport.

Services 54 Bristol Airport to Yatton station and Clevedon

53 Clevedon town service.

We also have the loss of the important transport link.

These services have not been replaced.

Wells bus and coach station to Cheddar, Axbridge , Winscombe, Banwell. Locking, Weston bus and coach station.

No through replacement services

Apart from Wells bus and coach station to Westbury sub-Mendip, Draycott, Cheddar, Axbridge. No connections to Weston Super Mare, Somerset.

Services 36 Bristol city centre to St Anne's Park, Brislington, Knowle Hengrove Hospital are used by Banes residents accessing South Bristol hospital.

Bristol city centre to St Anne's Park service now connects with service 96 Abus services from St Anne's Park Brislington, Knowle, Hengrove Hospital, Whitchurch, Hartcliffe. Now has replacement service.

Services D2 Bath spa bus and coach station, Midford Norton St Phillips, Rode and Beckington. Evening service is withdrawn, leaving the village without an evening bus service.

This is Somerset County Council and West of England mayoral combined transport Authority service.

Services now funded by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and Somerset County Council. Early morning service from Frome to Bath spa bus and coach station is withdrawn.

Via Beckington, Rode Norton St Phillip, Midford. Sunday service is continuing with bus operators' recovery grant. Passengers will have to use the train from Frome station to Bath spa bus and coach station, so through tickets need to be promoted. Plus bus for bus rail ticketing need promotion.

As is the Avon rider, Bath rider Weston super mare rider and Bristol rider, family, disabled families, young people, 2 people and disabled rail cards and coach cards

On Bus and coach stations:

Bristol bus and coach station has all it realtime information systems not working

Bath spa bus and coach station need to realtime information systems for bus coach and rail services repaired. The pigeons are attacking the system. We need to have the pigeon nets repaired and the travel centre reopened as a Tourist Information Office. Bath bus company Rapt group may look at reopening the Bath Travel centre.

The loss of bus services across the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvements plan area will leave many communities without public transport. We would ask for a special meeting of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee and West of England joint committee and scrutiny commission.

We have lost major services in South Gloucestershire council and Great Bristol area. 505 long Ashton Park and ride, Clifton, Cotham, Southmead Hospital, bus station.

506 Bristol city centre, Lawrence Hill, Easton, Eastville, Horfield.

Bristol Southmead hospital. Big lemon bus company replacement services.

52 South Bristol to Bristol city centre.

Replacement service Transpora

Y3, y4 Bristol bus and coach station to yate via Eastville Park.

Stapleton, Frenchay, Hambroke, Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath and Yate bus station. Bus services without replacement bus services.

We need make sure all these first group plc bus route and former HCT group buses services should be tendered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset council.

This is why a special west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset joint committee should be called urgently and discussion with smaller bus operators to gap fill the services.

Faresaver buses Abus, Berkeley coaches CTC coaches, Applegate coaches centurion coaches, coachstyle coaches.

These smaller companies with A Peter may be able to replace some bus services.

Look at a Ferry services between Bathampton and Bath city centre as an option for transport to the village.

Improvement to the Chippenham Corsham, Box, Batheaston bus service with small interchange park and ride service on the Route to Bath bus and coach station. Use the Chippenham Corsham new station to Bath spa railway line.

Improvements to train services from Warminster Dilton Marsh/ Frome, Westbury, Trowbridge, Bradford on Avon , Avoncliff, Freshford, Bath Spa, Oldfield Park, Saltford new station, Keynsham, St Anne's Park new station Bristol Temple Meads station.

Metro west railway Network.

If we cannot get Network coverage in Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset council area, we may need to ask the mayor Dan Norris of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council, which with the LEP needs to be a full member of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

David Redgewell – South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

Peter Travis – Somerset Catch the Bus Service Campaign

Ian Beckey – Gloucestershire Catch the Bus Service Campaign