

## Simon McCombe statement

The X91 and X99 Chew Valley Explorer services are not simply bus routes — they are vital arteries for our communities. They connect villages across the Chew Valley directly to Bristol, ensuring residents can reach vital amenities.

For young people, these services provide access to opportunity. For older residents, they safeguard independence and reduce isolation. And for all of us, they support cleaner air, less congestion, and a more sustainable future.

Every journey on the X91 and X99 strengthens our local economy, keeps our communities connected, and helps protect the beautiful environment we call home. That is why these services are not a luxury — they are essential.

The risk of losing funding for these routes would be devastating. It would cut off lifelines for many residents, undermine our sustainability goals, and weaken the fabric of community life across the Chew Valley.

We must press WECA to keep the funding in place, to recognise the essential role these services play, and to ensure they remain at the heart of Chew Valley life.”