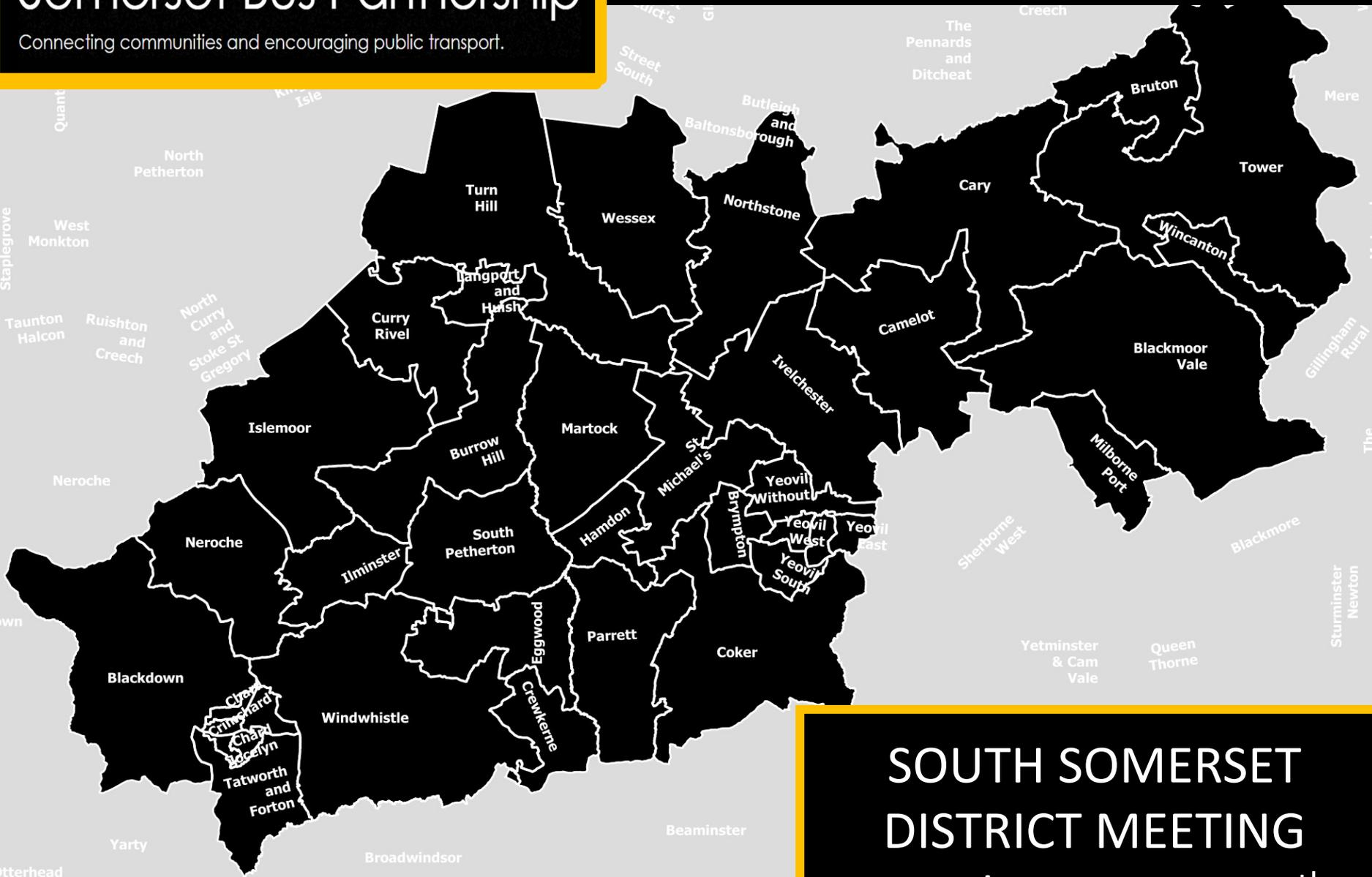


Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.



**SOUTH SOMERSET
DISTRICT MEETING
Monday January 24th**

Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.



- 10 Year history of SCC making cuts to bus subsidies
- SCC has reiterated time and time again they won't increase the level of their bus funding.
- The rural nature of the county does make it very much more challenging to operate commercially viable Bus Services

After 10 Years Of Declining Bus Usage

SOMERSET NOW HAS
THE SECOND LOWEST
BUS JOURNEYS
PER HEAD OF
POPULATION
IN ENGLAND.

Lowest 5 Local Authorities passenger journeys per head



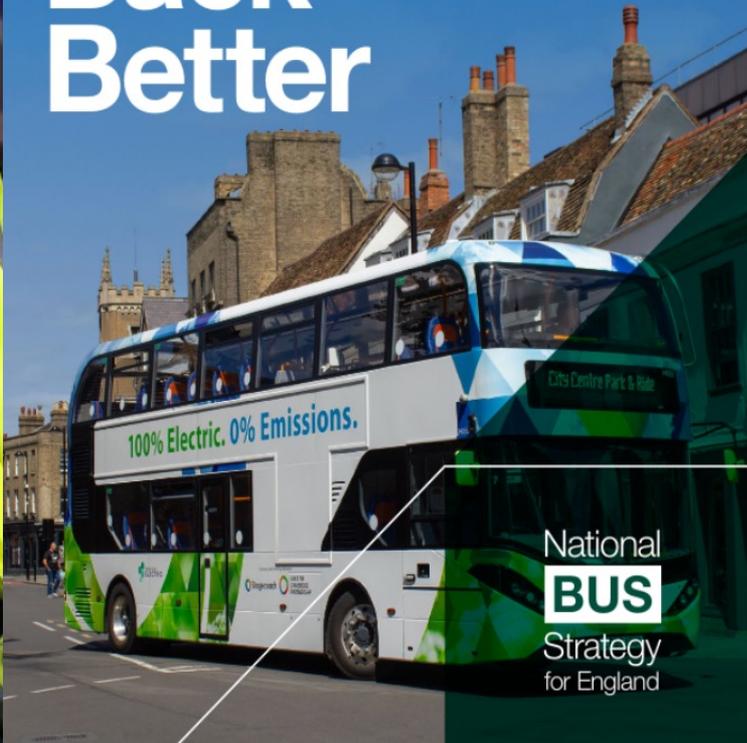
Somerset's bus services have
THE LOWEST SATISFACTION SCORE
of any LTA in the country.

MARCH 2021




Department
for Transport

Bus Back Better



National
BUS
Strategy
for England

Somerset County Council

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



October
2021

Improving Lives



SOMERSET
County Council

£165,000,000

SCC SPENDS LESS THAN MOST NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS PER HEAD ON ITS BUSES

South West Region: County Local Transport Authority	Expenditure on Buses 2018-19 (1)	Population (2)	Expenditure on Buses per capita
Cornwall	£6,200,000	573,299	£10.81
Devon	£5,231,112	810,716	£6.45
Dorset	£1,237,182	379,791	£3.26
Somerset	£2,898,654	563,851	£5.14
Wiltshire	£4,756,488	504,070	£9.44
Aggregate	£20,323,436	2,831,727	£7.18
(1) Data from Campaign for Better Transport			
(2) 2020 mid-year estimate			

Somerset County Council

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



October
2021

Improving Lives



SOMERSET
County Council

Government is being asked
to spend £304 per head

Whilst SCC spends just £5.14 p.a. per head



Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

- ❖ On the Somerset Bus Advisory Panel
- ❖ On the Somerset Bus User & Stakeholder (BUS) Group
- ❖ Working on cross border routes in partnership with bus user groups in WECA and Wiltshire





Department
for Transport

Bus Back Better

DEFERRED

**FUNDING CUT
FROM 3BN TO £1.4BN**



Boris Johnson's 'bus back better' plan in tatters as Treasury cuts funding by half

The budget for the “transformation” of buses – a pot from which local regions can bid for funds – has now shrunk to just £1.4bn for the next three years.

DfT says this will mean hard choices for areas that had expected more, adding that “prioritisation is inevitable, given the scale of ambition across the country greatly exceeds the amount”.



“The amount of funding bids submitted by 53 out of 79 local transport authorities from the extra funding pot is already more than £7bn.

This suggests the total is likely to exceed £9bn, against a total available of £1.4bn.”

The Observer

23 January 2022

Somerset County Council

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



October
2021

Improving Lives



SOMERSET
County Council

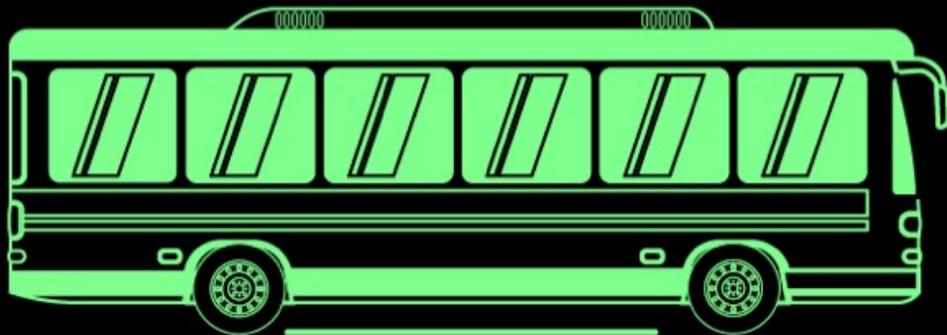
£165,000,000

BUS RECOVERY GRANT.



Support for Bus Services

New funding will keep bus routes running for passengers who still rely on the bus for essential journeys



“Bus services across England face axe as end to emergency Covid funding looms.”

- Bus services in England used by hundreds of thousands of passengers are poised to be slashed when emergency Covid funding expires at the end of March, transport authorities have warned.
- Bus firms, which have to give six weeks’ notice to withdraw a route, are compiling lists of services to be scrapped after 31 March.

The
Guardian

January 11th 2022

THREAT TO 17% OF BUS ROUTES

Public transport needs more funds

BY JEREMY ARMSTRONG

VITAL bus services face the axe as emergency Covid funding is cut off in April, transport chiefs warn.

Up to 17% of routes are at risk in some areas after huge financial losses during lockdown, when passenger numbers fell 95% in some areas.

The loss of bus routes will hit pensioners and students hard.

Campaigners say services will suffer in Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Oxfordshire.

Leeds city councillors called for more government help for services across the country.

Nexus, which oversees Tyneside public transport including the Metro rail network, forecasts a shortfall of £20.8million for the next financial year. Huw Lewis, of Nexus, said: "In the North East of England we're facing the prospect of bus companies cutting services by between 10 and 17%.

"The local authorities are just not in the financial position to step in and fill the gap that the loss of government

funding will create. This is the worst possible time for cutting local public transport. We need to be persuading people to use greener means of travel as we come out of the pandemic."

Nexus passenger numbers fell from 100,000 a day to 5,000 a day during lockdown. They returned to around 70% of pre-Covid levels but were hit again by the return to working from home.

Mr Lewis said: "We need more government support over a longer period to allow services to recover. We face hard choices about the services we can support when the money from fares is much lower and additional government support is about to dry up."

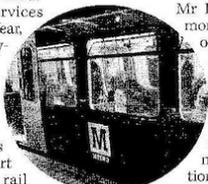
Cllr Martin Gannon, of the North East joint Transport Committee, called for "longer-term support so public transport is there to support a greener economic recovery".

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[@eremyatmirror](https://twitter.com/eremyatmirror)

VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE

DAILY
Mirror

14th January 2022



VITAL Tyneside's Metro



NEWS / TRANSPORT

WARNING OF FURTHER BUS CUTS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

By STEPHEN SUMNER Thursday Jan 20, 2022

Concerns over cuts to evening and weekend bus services in St Helens

Protest to be held in attempt to stop Oxford bus route being axed

Warnings bus services in West Yorkshire could be cancelled without further Government help

The mayor of West Yorkshire has warned some of the region's bus services will have to be scrapped if Government doesn't continue to subsidise services.

Bus services facing a 'cliff edge' amid more cuts to vital routes

These Leeds buses will be cancelled if the Government refuses to support them

Protest to be held in attempt to stop Oxford bus route being axed

Somerset County Council

Agreed to our request that SCC also should write to the Minister calling for an extension of bus funding after March 2022

Somerset Bus Partnership

We received a letter from the DfT saying the Bus Recovery Team at the DfT would write to us with news on the Bus Recovery Grant just as soon as they could ...

SO, STILL NO DECISION!

Only 6 weeks away!



APRIL

2022

**OPERATIONAL
START DATE
FOR THE
SOMERSET ENHANCED
PARTNERSHIP???**



APRIL

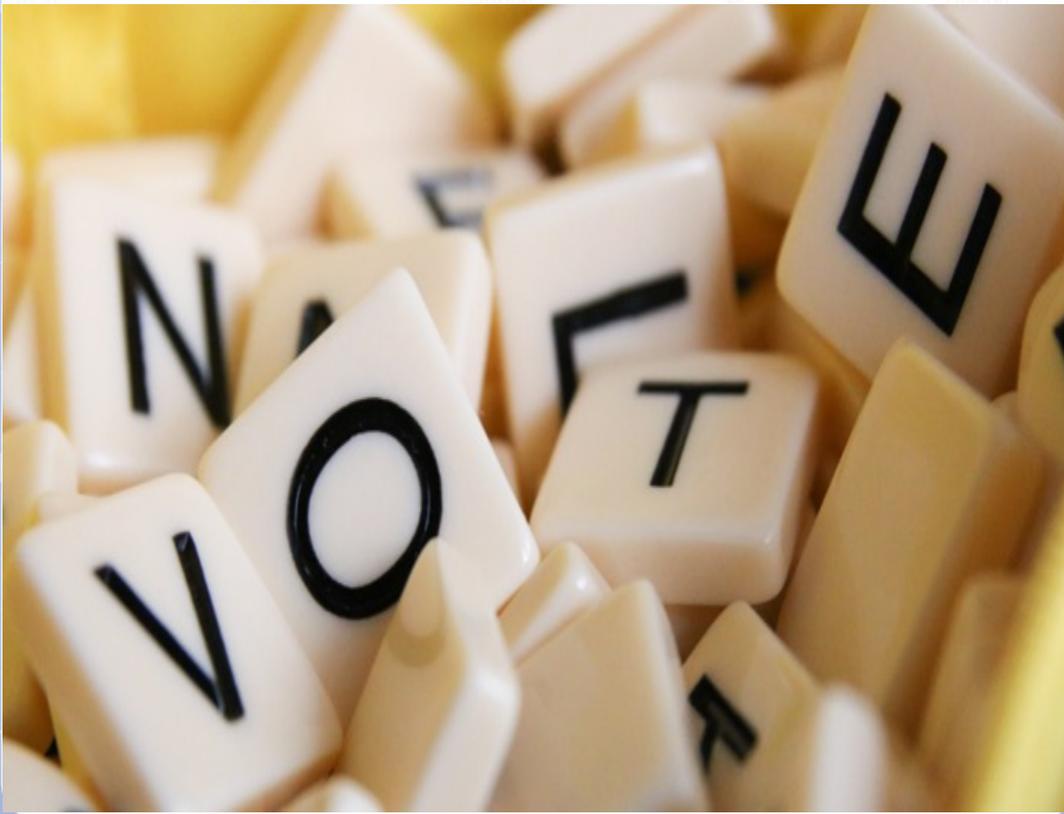
2022

**BUS SUPPORT
GRANT ENDS.**

**MAJOR CUTS
TO BUS SERVICES
ACROSS SOMERSET?**

MAY

2022



Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**WE'RE ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER
AND THERE'S A WEBSITE TOO.**

STAY IN TOUCH