

# Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**Somerset**  
County Council



**BUS JOURNEYS PER HEAD IN SOMERSET  
FELL BY 43% IN THE DECADE  
PRIOR TO THE START OF COVID.**

**JUST ABOUT THE STEEPEST DECLINE  
IN THE COUNTRY.**

**THE RESULT OF CUTS TO BUS FUNDING  
BY SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**Somerset**  
County Council



### Lowest 5 Local Authorities

passenger journeys per head



**Somerset**  
County Council



**SOMERSET'S BUS SERVICES  
HAVE  
THE LOWEST  
SATISFACTION RATING  
OF ANY LOCAL TRANSPORT  
AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY.**

**Somerset**  
County Council



**SOMERSET'S BUS SERVICES  
SLOWLY RECOVERING POST COVID.**

**PASSENGER NUMBERS  
ONLY SOME 66% OF PRE-COVID LEVELS.**

**PLUS ESCALATING FUEL COSTS**



**Somerset**  
County Council



**BUS CUTS MADE TODAY:**

**YEOVIL  
TAUNTON  
BRIDGWATER  
WELLS**

**MORE  
CUTS IN  
OCTOBER?**

  
Department  
for Transport

# Bus Back Better



**Nearly half  
of Carbon  
emissions in  
Somerset  
from  
TRANSPORT**

March 2021

## Somerset County Council

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



October  
2021

Improving Lives



SOMERSET  
County Council

## BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (BSIP)

This Somerset BSIP was finalised and submitted to the DfT at the end of October 2021

ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP  
Greater detail relating to specific policies and deliverables.

Many of these policies and deliverables will require further consultation, particularly regarding bus priority schemes.

**Somerset County Council**

**Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)**

**£163,000,000**

**Somerset County Council**  
**Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)**

~~£163,000,000~~

**£11.9M**

# Somerset Bus Partnership

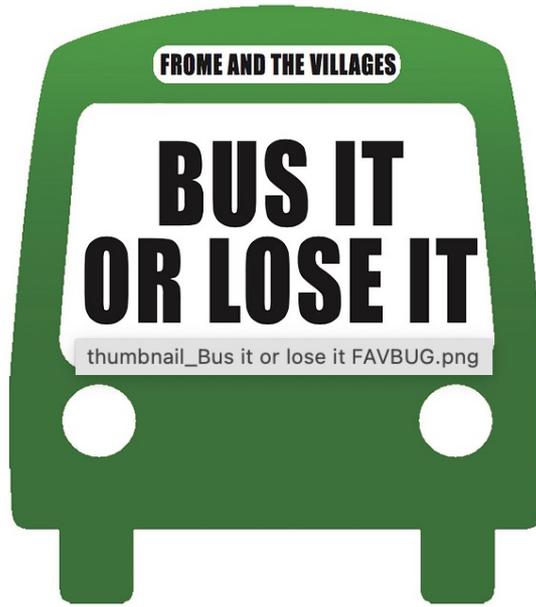
Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

Somerset Bus Partnership was established in April 2021 by bus passengers, councillors, transport campaigners, transport enthusiasts, bus user groups and individuals living in the Somerset County Council area.

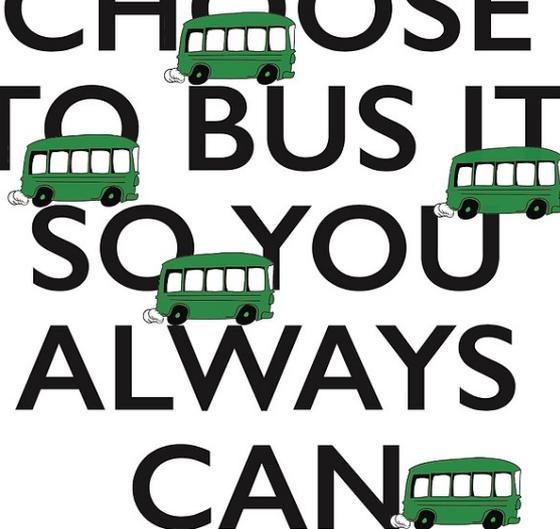
We work with parish and town councils across Somerset

Facebook and website

Media spokesperson for bus users across Somerset



**CHOOSE  
TO BUS IT  
SO YOU  
ALWAYS  
CAN**



**BUS IT  
BECAUSE...**

- 
- 1 You're helping save our planet
  - 2 You're ensuring a bus service for those dependent on it
  - 3 You're not getting stuck in rush hour gridlock



Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**MAKING SURE  
LOCAL VOICES  
ARE HEARD  
ON BUSES IN  
SOMERSET**

# Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**WE HAVE  
OVER 130  
LOCAL AREA  
REPRESENTATIVES ACROSS  
SOMERSET**

Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**BUS ADVISORY BOARD  
+  
BUS USER &  
STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
(BUS)**

**Somerset Bus Partnership**

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**TO ENCOURAGE THE USE  
OF YOUR LOCAL BUSES.**

**WHO SHOULD BE  
PROMOTING  
BUS USAGE?**

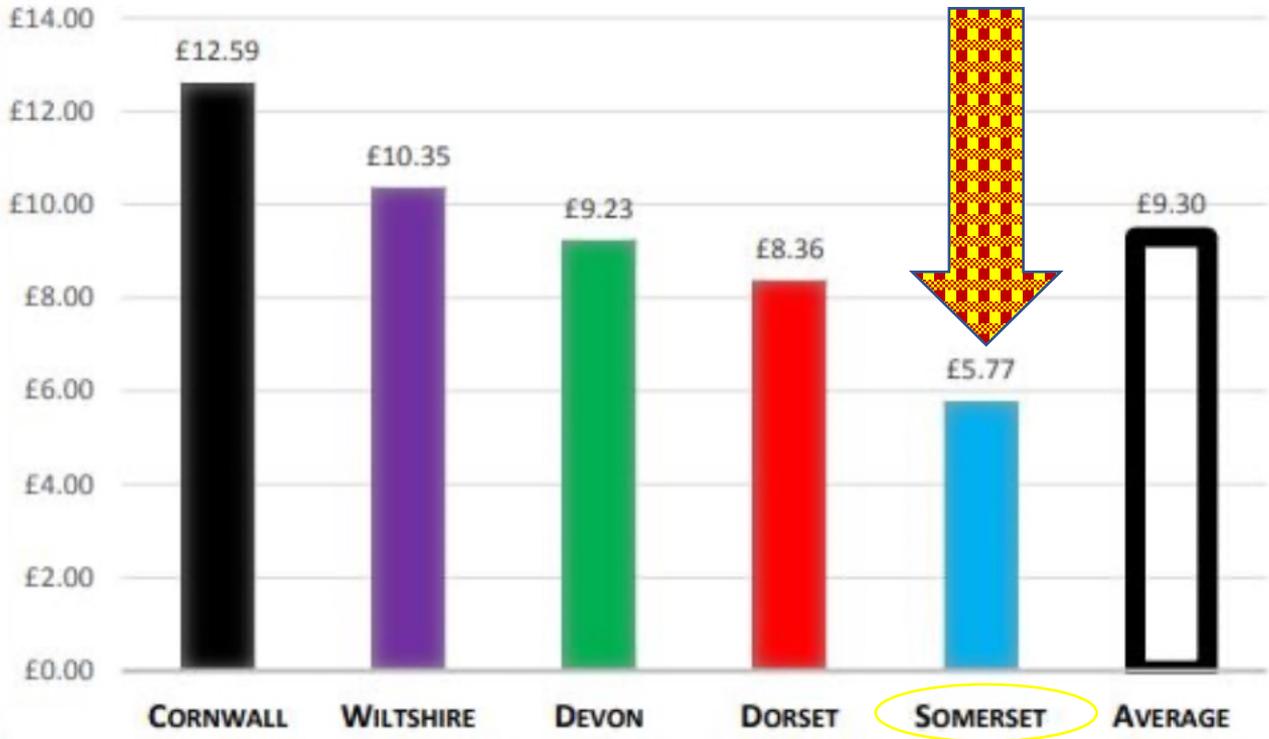
**Somerset Bus Partnership**

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**TO ENCOURAGE THE USE  
OF YOUR LOCAL BUSES.**

**TO CAMPAIGN FOR  
PROPER FUNDING OF  
BUSES IN SOMERSET.**

# EXPENDITURE ON BUSES IN THE SOUTH WEST PER CAPITA 2019-20



# SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO



## SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO

### 1. BETTER BUSES FOR ALL OUR COMMUNITIES

- ❖ A core network of frequent, high-quality services linking our towns and main villages.
- ❖ Enhanced weekend and evening services.
- ❖ An extension of the demand-responsive bus services, available to all and with longer operating hours.

### 2. AN AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR ALL

- ❖ Cheaper fares targeted at young people up to the age of 25.
- ❖ A new, all-operator, countywide value ticket.

### 3. PROMOTION OF EXISTING & NEW SERVICES

- ❖ A long-term publicity campaign to increase passenger numbers and improve financial viability.
- ❖ Easily accessible public transport guides, timetables and maps.
- ❖ Up-to-date information at all main bus stops, libraries and other information points.
- ❖ Roll out of Real Time Information in towns and along major bus routes.

### 4. AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT NETWORK

- ❖ Extend bus routes to link with local railway stations, and co-ordinate timetables to improve bus/rail connections.
- ❖ Maintain and enhance the County's bus stations and shelters.
- ❖ Introduce integrated ticketing across the county's different bus operators and with trains too.

### 5. INTRODUCE ZERO EMISSION BUSES

- ❖ Investment in electric buses to achieve a zero-emission fleet by 2030, in line with the county's climate change strategy.

### 6. MEANINGFUL FUNDING OF BUS SERVICES

*To meet the aspirations in this Bus Manifesto and to provide the level & quality of bus services that Somerset deserves, the new Unitary Authority needs to provide increased financial support for services, as well as investing to improve infrastructure & vehicles.*

- ❖ Bring Somerset's bus budget up to the average for similar rural local transport authorities across the South West by 2026.
- ❖ Invest in bus transport by making funds available from the new council's capital programme and from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

## SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO

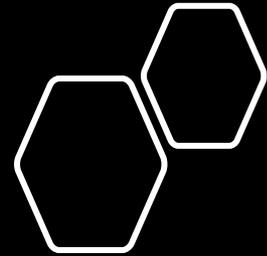
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**NEXT  
STAGE**

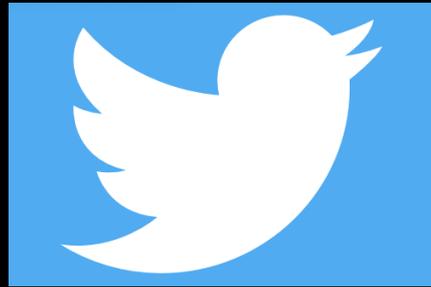


SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>  
TO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>



CAMPAIGNERS

# facebook



Bridgwater  
**Mercury**

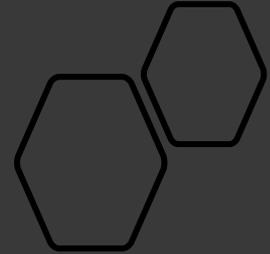




**projectleaders**



Admin  
Support



bususers  
group

The logo consists of the text "bususers" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "group" is written in a similar font but is contained within a dark green rounded rectangular shape that represents the side of a bus. The bus shape has two circular wheels at the bottom. On the side of the bus, there is a stylized white leaf or plant motif. The entire logo is set against a white background and is enclosed in a thin green border.

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