

Somerset Bus Partnership

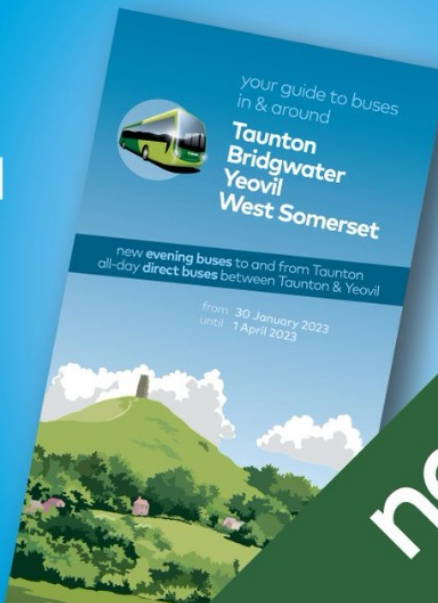
Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

timetable changes



download a
copy of our
bus times

from
30 January 2023



new

Pay less to travel by

bus this winter

Somerset County Council

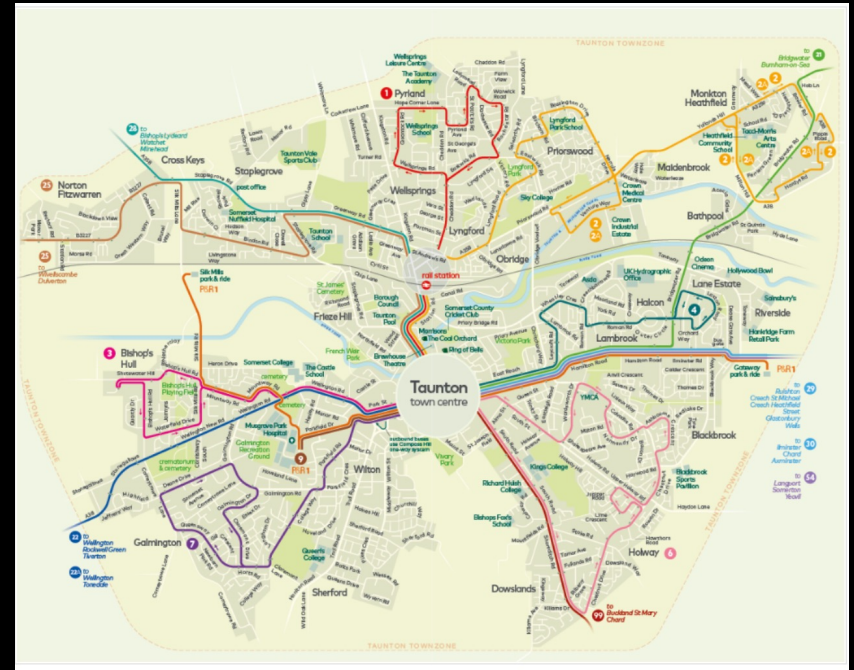
Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



October
2021

Improving Lives





Part of Somerset's
Bus Service Improvement Plan

Somerset Bus Partnership
Connecting communities and encouraging public transport



Evening bus services get underway

Evening bus services on some key routes in Somerset begin running from next week, (Monday, 30 January 2023).

Somerset County Council is subsidising evening services from Monday to Saturday connecting Taunton with the towns of Minehead, Bridgwater, Wellington and Chard after 8pm and running to at least 10.30pm. Currently most of the services stop between 8-8.30pm.

The evening bus proposals are part of Somerset's Government-funded Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which aims to increase bus patronage by introducing a number of important initiatives. From 5 December a £1 fare became effective for any single bus journey in Taunton, and further measures are planned under the BSIP in the coming months.



UK Government

Help for
Households

Pay less to travel by bus this winter

£2

single fare cap

from 1 January until

31 March



**BUS
RECOVERY
GRANT
ENDS
ON
MARCH 31ST**

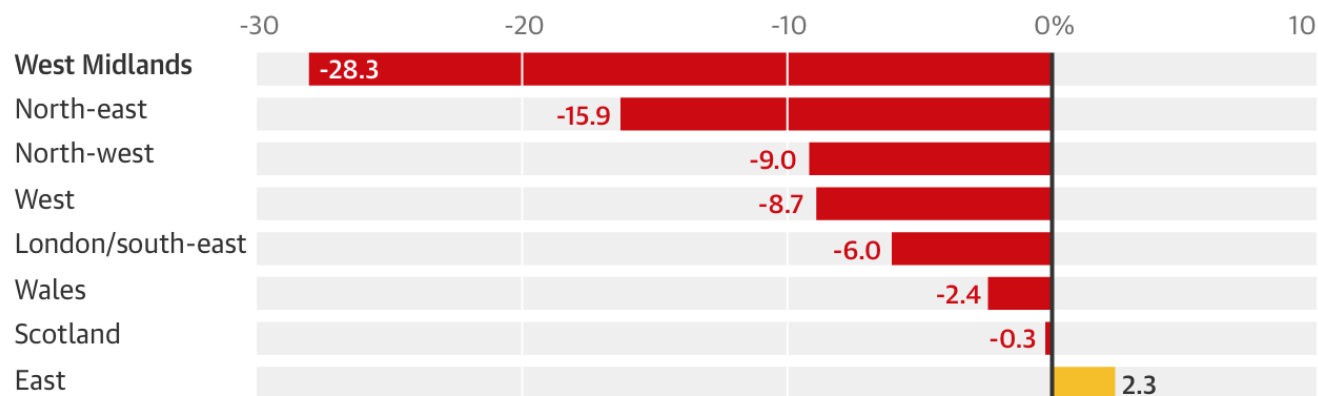


Almost one in 10 local bus services axed over last year in Great Britain

Exclusive: cuts come despite government's levelling up promise to improve transport connectivity

Almost every traffic area saw a decline in local buses in the last year

% change in live local bus registrations recorded between January 2022 and 2023, by traffic area



Guardian graphic. Source: Guardian analysis of Traffic Commissioners' local bus service registration data. Note: a decline in registrations does not necessarily mean a reduced service level and could indicate services merging or routes being altered

Somerset Bus Partnership

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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.

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SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO

OUR PLAN
FOR 2023/24

Somerset Bus Partnership

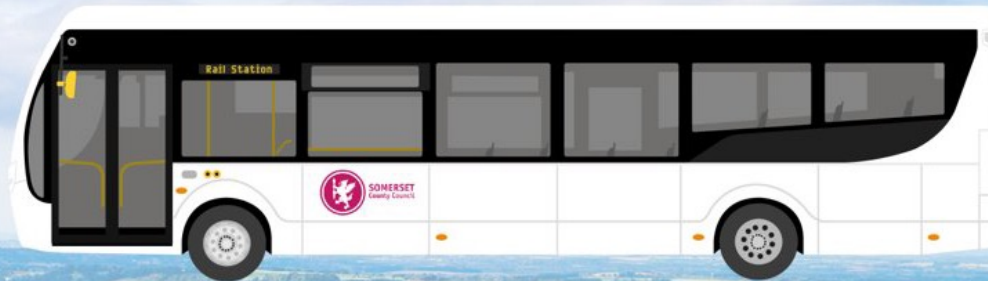
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Somerset Bus Partnership Seminar

Bus/Rail Connectivity

23rd January 2023

Luke Farley – GWR Transport Integration Manager
Andrew Ardley – SWR Regional Development Manager



South Western
Railway

GWR | Great
Western
Railway

Chaired By David Northey
Somerset Bus Partnership
& Taunton Bus User Group

