

Motion - Bus cuts across Weston-super-Mare

First Bus has announced a range of changes to its bus timetables across Weston-super-Mare including a reduced X5 service, and the withdrawal of the 126. These changes will be introduced from Sunday 9th October 2022.

Notes that Weston-super-Mare town council:

- Is extremely disappointed with the withdrawal and reduction of buses across Weston-super-Mare and with the lack of public engagement from First Bus.
- Share the concerns of residents that these cuts will make getting to work, school/college, running errands and attending medical appointments harder, and for some communities, impossible. As well as taking a step backwards in tackling the climate emergency.
- Welcomes the work of North Somerset Council to secure a reduced X5 but has concerns these changes will still see the communities in Locking Castle without access to any buses.
- Believes Weston-super-Mare needs a sustainable bus network and this requires the Government to provide local authorities with more powers and to receive sufficient funding.
- Acknowledges the Department for Transport's fare cap but due to the cost of living and need to increase bus patronage believe this should be introduced earlier and permanently.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council resolves to:

- Write to the Managing Director of First Bus outlining our concerns about the proposed cuts and calling on them to retain the 126 service
- Write to North Somerset Council calling for a solution to be put in place, such as rerouting an existing service, to ensure the communities in Locking Castle have access to a bus and to explore working in partnership with Somerset County Council to find alternatives should the 126 be cut.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Transport calling for local authorities to be given greater powers to run, manage and support bus networks and to provide additional funding.
- Should the cuts go ahead then undertake a review, within 6 months of all existing Town Council bus shelters to identify if these remain in appropriate locations. The review will be reported to the Community Services Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Helen Thornton

Seconded by Cllr Catherine Gibbons