

# GET ON BOARD

Soaring prices at the petrol pump are a powerful economic reason to go by bus.

The Climate Emergency provides an even more powerful environmental reason.

There's also a social reason. Those who have no alternative to going by bus are entirely dependent on our bus services. By using buses, you help sustain buses for those who rely on them.

In 2022, going by bus in Somerset is undoubtedly the right thing to do.

## Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

If you would like to join us and campaign for better bus services in your town or parish, then email us at [somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com).

You can also follow Somerset Bus Partnership on Facebook and at [www.somersetbuspartnership.com](http://www.somersetbuspartnership.com)

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# SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO



SOMERSET'S BUS SERVICES HAVE THE LOWEST SATISFACTION RATING OF ANY BUS SERVICES IN ENGLAND.

SOMERSET ALSO HAS THE SECOND LOWEST NUMBER OF JOURNEYS PER HEAD IN ENGLAND.

NEARLY HALF OF SOMERSET'S CARBON EMISSIONS ARE CAUSED BY TRANSPORT.

**WE CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER BUS SERVICES AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GO BY BUS.**

## Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

# 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.