

Member Motion – Submission Form

To be tabled at which Committee?	Full Council
Date of meeting at which to be tabled ¹ :	on Wednesday 7 th June 2023
Title of Motion:	A call for better bus services for Dawlish
Proposed by:	Cllr Alison Foden
Seconded by (if applicable):	Cllr Martin Wrigley
Proposed Resolution:	<p>We call on our local MPs: Anne Marie Morris, MP for Newton Abbot constituency (including Dawlish), and Mel Stride, MP for Central Devon (including Exminster) to call for funding of better, fast, regular and efficient bus services for Dawlish, and for fair funding for levelling up of bus services in rural and parish bus services in Dawlish and Teignbridge, on this side of the Exe estuary.</p> <p>We call on Stagecoach South West and Devon County Council to pay just as much attention and funding to improving bus services on this side of the Exe Estuary – in Dawlish, in Teignbridge, on this side of the Exe estuary.</p>
Background: (provided by the Proposer)	<p>Stagecoach South West recently announced bus timetable changes, commencing from 2nd April 2023. While it is very good that almost no cuts from April 2023 have been proposed to bus services in Teignbridge, it is very disappointing that the frequency of the number 2 bus is still just every 30 minutes, and with no extra buses during peak travelling times before 09:00 nor after 15:30.</p>

¹ Standing Order 9b – no motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its working to the Proper Officer at least 8 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.

Also that the B bus service from Exeter Science Park to Exminster with a few services to Teignmouth has been reduced, meaning it will travel between the Science Park and Exminster only. The 2B bus service no longer exists.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/south-west-timetables>

On the other side of the estuary, the Exmouth bus service 57 from April 2023 has increased frequency by 100% - meaning buses will now be every 15 minutes, compared to the current 2 an hour.

I am happy for those in Exmouth and along the route that will now have a far more regular bus service. Plus I understand that the Exmouth population is much larger than Dawlish or Teignmouth.

However, when you consider the towns and villages along the route of the number 2 bus service – Dawlish, Exminster, Kenton, Starcross and Teignmouth, to name just some – it is unfair that this side of the Exe estuary, the Teignbridge district, gets a poor deal when it comes to public bus services.

What happened to levelling up? Even on a larger national scale the Conservatives agenda of levelling up isn't working. Why was the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding so unfairly awarded, meaning that towns and cities in the South East were much more likely to get funding grants rather than counties and cities in the South West?

That cities in the South-East of England gain millions more in funding for improving their bus services, than counties in the South-West do? In the recent funding from the Government's Bus Back Better fund of £1.4 billion, (slashed from the £3 billion fund promised by former PM Boris Johnson), Reading received £26.3 million funding for the town's bus services from the

Department of Transport, and their population is less than 200,000. (2021 census = 174,200 population). In comparison Devon county, with a population of 1.2 million in the 2021 Census, received just £14 million funding for the whole county's bus services.

We need to change the record of bus services on rural routes in Devon being less frequent, reliable and efficient – and seen as inferior - when compared to bus services within cities and large towns (e.g. Exeter, Exmouth); and change it to bus services on urban and rural routes being just as equally reliable, frequent, efficient and fair-priced. The best way of increasing bus passenger number is to increase the number of fast, regular and efficient bus services.

It is good news that the £2 single fare cap on bus travel in Devon has been extended by three months 30th June 2022, but I worry about future bus services in Dawlish, and in Teignbridge after that date.

With all the planned housing developments in Dawlish, Exminster and Teignbridge, together with those likely in the future as set out in the Teignbridge Local Plan, it is essential that funding for extra bus services to these new communities is campaigned for and set aside now.

We call on our local MPs to call on the Secretary of State and Minister of State for public bus services to ensure that equal funding is provided for and apportioned to rural and smaller town bus services – in Dawlish, in Teignbridge, and on this site of the Exe estuary.

We call on Stagecoach South West and Devon County Council to pay just as much attention and funding to improving bus services on this side of the Exe Estuary – in Dawlish, in Teignbridge, on this side of the Exe estuary.

	Dawlish deserves a regular, fast, and efficient bus service too. The provision of better bus services will enable more people to use them.
Financial Implication(s): (provided by the Proposer)	None for Dawlish Town Council.
Proposer's signature:	A. Foden
Seconder's signature: (if applicable)	M. Wrigley
Date of submission:	22 March 2023

Background: (provided by the Proper Officer)	Not applicable.
Financial Implications: (anticipated by the Responsible Financial Officer)	Not applicable.