

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	John Perrett
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Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date:	David Carter, Interim ECI Deputy Director. 1 August 2022
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Date:	1 August 2022
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To:	All County Councillors
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Changes to First West of England Bus Services in Somerset – 9 October 2022

With the end of the Local Transport Fund (LTF) funding from Central Government in early October 2022, bus operators have been reviewing their networks in the light of current lower levels of patronage on their bus services in Somerset, which continue to be around 65% to 70% of pre-covid levels. The Department for Transport have acknowledged this and tasked bus operators and Local Authorities to work together to adjust timetables to take account of the new travel patterns emerging from the pandemic.

First West of England who operate services in the Mendip and Sedgemoor areas of the County are now planning to make changes to their commercial services in the light of the removal of Central Government funding. We have now received their registrations, the details of which are set out in a summary table below.

These changes are due to come into effect on either Sunday 9th or Monday 10th October and reflect the levels of ongoing patronage they anticipate and the commercial viability of these services without LTF funding.

The notice period before these registrations can be implemented is seventy days (the first twenty-eight days of which are for consultation with Local Authorities) and we will be discussing these changes with both the operator and neighbouring authorities in the coming days.

Should there be any changes to the details below as a result of these discussions we will provide a further update in due course.

We are anticipating further changes from other Commercial Bus Operators in the County in the light of the withdrawal of LTF funding in October 2022 and we will provide further information as we receive registrations from local bus operators.

Summary of Changes to First West of England Bus Services in Somerset from Sunday 9th October/Monday 10 October 2022

Service No	Route	Details
D2	Bath to Frome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised timetable on Mondays to Fridays on an hourly frequency with Evening service removed. Last buses from Frome at 1755 and from Bath at 1910.• Revised timetable on Saturdays on an hourly frequency which retains an evening bus service. Last buses from Frome at 2210 and from Bath at 2310.• Sunday and Public Holiday service - WITHDRAWN
20	Weston-super-Mare to Burnham-on-Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter hourly timetable introduced Mondays to Saturdays.• Summer Sunday and Public Holiday service WITHDRAWN for the winter after operation on Sunday 30 October 2022.• Route extended in Burnham-on-Sea to start and finish at the Swimming Pool in Berrow Road.
126	Wells to Weston-super-Mare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SERVICE WITHDRAWN
172	Bath - Paulton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some new journeys introduced from Wells to Bath early in the morning and Bath to Wells in the evening seven days a week. These are positioning journeys for buses based at Wells to operate the service. Daytime service only operates between Bath and

		Paulton
173	Wells to Bath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor timetable changes Monday to Saturday
174	Wells to Bath via Shepton Mallet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised timetable with short workings between Wells and Shepton Mallet withdrawn due to end of funding period for Department for Transport funded enhanced service, which has been poorly used. Monday to Saturday through service between Wells, Shepton Mallet and Bath hourly at slightly revised times. Sunday and Public Holiday service re-routed via Chilcompton on an hourly frequency with slightly revised times.
376	Bristol to Street via Wells and Glastonbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised timetable maintaining half hourly daytime frequency Monday to Saturday, Hourly on Sundays, and Public Holidays. Evening services operating seven days per week. No change to route of service.

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