

Protecting Bus Services for South Lanarkshire Communities

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 6 February 2022, proposed by Councillor Mark McGeever, seconded by Councillor Robert Brown, as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council holds that it is vital every community has meaningful access to reliable, frequent, and efficient bus services, which connect residential areas to urban centres and integrate with the wider regional public transport system.

This council affirms that connectivity across the whole Glasgow City Region is key to improving the lives of residents and helping local businesses succeed. Council notes that a lack of such bus services – as in the west end of Lindsayfield – causes many of our residents to face significant constraints on their life chances and their quality of life, and holds back our local economy.

The Council welcomes the recent extension of free bus travel to young people under 22 years of age but holds that such entitlement will have little benefit to those unable to access bus services where they live.

This council remains extremely concerned by the suspension and withdrawal of bus services on which our communities depend – including the X1 Express between Earnock in Hamilton and Glasgow City Centre, and the 31 serving Stewartfield in East Kilbride.

Therefore, this council calls on:-

- ◆ First Bus to urgently reinstate the X1, the 31 and other routes within South Lanarkshire that they have withdrawn or suspended since the beginning of the pandemic;
- ◆ the Scottish and UK governments to work with bus providers to address the challenges faced by bus service operators; and
- ◆ the leaders of all eight councils of the Glasgow City Region to explore the creation of a London-style model of bus provision across our metropolitan area, including the ability for councils to identify routes that must be provided by operators.