

## **Council – 8 November 2022**

### **Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)**

#### **First Bus (Cllr Charles)**

#### **First Bus**

#### **Council Notes**

1. That bus services were directly affected by the pandemic with a huge drop in passenger numbers.
2. That unlike many other industries bus providers received financial support through the crisis
3. The effect of Brexit on the workforce and driver led industries has created a shortfall in the number of bus drivers and that fuel costs have damaged public transport providers profit margins.
4. Despite these adverse circumstances First Group have recorded profits in their most recent financial reports.
5. That the deterioration of public transport has been a continuing issue long before recent events.

#### **Council further notes**

1. That even though facing severe financial constraints North Somerset have managed to maintain some services out of its own finances.
2. That despite assurances from First we are seeing an increasing deterioration in services with young people frequently missing school and college and others missing work and medical appointments.
3. Communication has been poor between First and the public with ongoing wider public engagement on difficulties non-existent.
4. Public transport is part of the lifeblood of thriving communities. Poor public transport can lead to increased unemployment, pollution, and social and economic isolation.
5. When rail companies have been proven to be riddled with systematic failure governments have intervened. This has not been the case for bus services.

#### **Council Resolves**

1. That it has no confidence in the public transport provision operated by first bus.
2. To mandate to leader of the council to write to the government stating our concerns and urge immediate action to ensure a public transport system that is fit for purpose in North Somerset
3. That the leader of the council in their letter to government urges them to legislate for greater local authority control over public transport provision akin

to powers already provided to combined authorities such as Greater Manchester.