
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	7 December 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	Report No:	LS/165/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Better Buses for Strathclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy		

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy, countersigned by Councillor McCluskey, relative to bus provision in the Strathclyde region.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor Cassidy.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

Notice of Motion: Better Buses for Strathclyde

"This Council notes:-

- The 'Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Delivery Plan: Case for Change' report presented to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Board on 29 September 2023.
- That the evidence-based report has found that bus use is in 'sustained, long-term decline' in Strathclyde, with bus patronage, the size of bus networks, bus service frequency and network coverage all falling.
- That despite decline in bus networks, bus fares continue to rise in Strathclyde at a higher rate than inflation and at a higher rate than the cost of travelling by other modes of transport.
- That the current model of bus service has failed to deliver integrated London-style ticketing or an integrated approach to public transport planning.
- That in 2021/22 public sector support represented 56 per cent of bus operator revenues in Scotland.
- The new powers available to transport authorities under the 2019 Transport Act.
- The calls from the 'Better Buses for Strathclyde' campaign for the SPT Board to ensure its Bus strategy sets out clear plans to use these new powers to improve bus services in Strathclyde.
- The recently published Centre for Cities report 'Miles Better: Improving public transport in the Glasgow City Region', which calls for the franchising of the bus network supported by a 10-year funding deal from the Scottish Government.

This Council believes: -

- The current deregulated model of bus provision is inadequate and that there is now a compelling case for changing the model of bus provision across Strathclyde.
- A new model of bus provision will enable bus services and public transport across Strathclyde to contribute more towards a healthier environment, inclusive economic growth and an improved quality of life for the people and communities of Strathclyde.

This Council agrees to write to SPT and the Scottish Government to communicate its view that: -

- A new model of bus provision for Strathclyde must be developed that is integrated and democratically accountable.
- A new model of bus provision must contribute towards Regional Transport Strategy objectives and policies set out by SPT.
- The Scottish Government must support local authorities and transport authorities seeking to replace deregulated bus models with models of regulation or common ownership, with fair funding and regulation that respects the autonomy and democratic wishes of Scotland's communities and regions."

Moved by: Councillor Paul Cassidy

Seconded by: Councillor Martin McCluskey