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CUMBRIA RURAL BUS CUTS – WORST IN NORTH WEST

TravelWatch NorthWest, the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, has labelled Cumbria as the worst County in the region for the imposition of rural bus cuts.

Chris Dale, Chairman of TWNW said, “These savage cuts to public transport lifelines to many people living in rural areas are deplorable. Whilst we recognise the difficulty that Councils are facing by continual cuts to their funding from government we are most concerned that many vulnerable people have been effectively cut off from the basic services that communities need to survive. It also appears that little has been done by the Council to alleviate the problems this has caused to affected communities other than play a ‘political blame-game’ with government. Surely the elected members should be banging on doors in Whitehall to alert government to the plight of these communities and be finding solutions rather than bemoaning the financial cuts. Maybe the Cumbria CC’s newly and expensively appointed ‘image guru’ will be able to explain these decisions to the tax payers in rural communities.”

The recent withdrawal of the 106 service, without notice, that served the villages between Penrith and Kendal leaves those living along the route without any public transport whatsoever and similar cuts to the 101 town circular bus in Cockermouth are just 2 examples of what is becoming a crisis in the County that is being allowed to happen.

Mr Dale added, “Rural communities are being failed by their elected representatives and officials at both local and national level and we understand that more cuts will likely be on their way next year. Why Cumbria appears to be worse off than other areas is mystifying and we call upon all those responsible to get together and work out solutions. Otherwise this could be the death knell of the rural communities as we know them.”

ENDS

1. For further information contact Chris Dale on 07948 551809, John Owen on 01539 563595 or 07974 713482, John Moorhouse on 07807 768124.