

Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport (2013)

promoting quality public transport.....

NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 15th March 2021

General welcome to government's new bus strategy.

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, generally welcomes today's announcement of £3 billion of investment in bus services. It will be vital that rural areas benefit following the many bus routes which have vanished in recent years due to cuts in Local Council funding.

These routes include vital links in rural areas so people can get to jobs, education, healthcare and shops as well as early morning, evening and weekend services in all areas which are essential for all those people in low paid jobs whose working hours are 9 till 5.

We are not convinced that demand responsive transport (DRT) is the answer in many rural areas which need to encourage visitors by environment friendly modes. It is vital that rural areas have a pattern of fixed-route, non-bookable bus services providing sufficient flexibility for most local needs – this solution can often be at a lower cost than DRT. Achieving this will require the funding to be paid as revenue grants to Local Authorities and it must be ring fenced so it can only be spent on providing bus services.

*Attachment – TWNW response to Future of Transport Rural Strategy Feb 2021

ENDS

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