

## Bus Back Better

As part of the Government's Climate Emergency agenda Somerset County Council has received funding to improve public transport in the form of an initiative called Bus Back Better (BBB).

The money will be used to support a partnership between Somerset, which is our Local Transport Authority (LTA), bus operators and bus users with the intention of producing a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

There is a time limit on this funding. If councils don't participate then there is the possibility that they will lose other transport subsidies. Success will be measured by an increase in bus usage.

This is a win-win situation. It is a way in which we can work together to improve public transport for all citizens by providing regular timetabled services which will get people out of their cars, reduce traffic pollution and help make a reality of our declared Climate Emergency. For poorer members of society and those without individual transport it can provide social and employment opportunities.

I have met up with Peter Travis, the regional organiser for BBB, after his initial conversation with Cllr I'Anson. I am proposing that we invite Mr Travis to the 24 June City Council Meeting to give a short presentation and answer questions. Then we can draw up our own list of initiatives by the end of August.

I hope you will support this excellent scheme. It is a case of use it or lose it!

Jenny Rust