

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-380
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/07366/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
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Dr Bill

13th November 2012

Thank you for your letter dated 22 October 2012, regarding the Petition your Committee is considering on recent changes to local bus services in the Lampeter area.

As your Committee will be aware, the framework for the provision of local bus services in Wales is determined by the Transport Act 1985, which deregulated the bus network and gave prominence to the provision of commercially operated services.

Local authorities however, are empowered by the Transport Act 1985 to provide 'socially necessary' local bus services to communities which are not adequately served by commercial local bus services. Carmarthenshire County Council and Ceredigion County Council have chosen to use these powers to provide better bus service links to smaller rural communities in the Teifi Valley and Lampeter area, using the recently expanded Bwcabus Scheme (including settlements which were until recently served by the previous X40 service including Cribyn and Cwmann).

Bwcabus forms a key element of a package of measures being delivered as part of our Programme for Government, aimed at improving travel opportunities for residents living in rural communities, and enhancing access to key facilities. The Welsh Government and the local authorities are monitoring the Bwcabus scheme very closely to ensure it continues to meet the needs of local residents.

Following the expansion of the service to the Lampeter area in December last year, patronage has grown by 67% from 1,400 to 2,339 passengers per month. Customer feedback has been very positive, with 95% of users stating they were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the reliability punctuality of the service and customer service received. Additional 'fixed route' journeys were also introduced using Bwcabus between Ffostrasol, Llandysul and Pencader to replace the service 41 which was withdrawn by Arriva Buses Wales in July 2012.

Officials continue to meet regularly with the local authorities to review the operation of Bwcabus, and other conventional local bus services on the Aberystwyth – Lampeter – Carmarthen corridor, and explore opportunities to further enhance services.



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