
BSWB 04 - Evidence from: Neil Thomas, Elected Member, Vale of Glamorgan Council/Penarth Town Council

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Bil Gwasanaethau Bysiau (Cymru) | Bus Services (Wales) Bill

1. What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and is there a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?

The general principles should emphasise the priority to address the needs of the most vulnerable

2. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- Part 1 - Key concepts and general objectives (sections 1 to 4)**

Bus service ticketing should enable integrated public transport ticketing

3. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- Part 2 - Functions of the Welsh Ministers relating to local bus services (sections 5 to 20)**

There seems to be no mention under 8.4 to consult Town and community councils though there is some mention later to community councils (26.1)

4. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- **Part 3 - Restriction on providing local bus services (sections 21 to 24)**

There is a balance to be struck between community need and revenue. I believe that change is generally unpopular and sparks opposition but that over time new ways of operating will 'bed in'. Again community need must be a priority particularly in more rural areas where there is an over dependence on cars

5. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- **Part 4 - Information and data (sections 25 to 31)**

no comment at this time

6. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- **Part 5 - Local authority powers and duties (sections 32 to 34)**

I welcome Part 5 but the financial implications for Local Authorities at a time of statutory pressures would require negotiation between Welsh Gov and LAs

7. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- **Part 6 - Miscellaneous and general (sections 35 to 44)**

There needs to be specified transport provision 24/7 for key destinations such as hospitals

8. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions and how does the Bill take account of them?

Cost

9. How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum)

no comment

10. Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

The potential loss of valued but uneconomically robust services. Possibility of leaving isolated communities with no accessible public transport

11. What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

It is probably going to be expensive but a needed public provision

12. Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

Specifically, in Penarth, the need for a circular shuttle bus route that can connect the train stations, Cogan Leisure, Llandough Hospital, Penarth Town Centre and the Esplanade running at regular intervals (20 Minutes) and starting early enough and ending late enough to facilitate people working there getting to the hospital and home depending on shift patterns and also allowing patients and visitors to attend and travel from home to the hospital other than by car