

Public and Community Transport Working Group

Initial recommendations to Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN for passing to Buses of Somerset and to Somerset Council's Executive Lead Member and Lead Officer

25 bus route – Restore the 9:30 from Wiveliscombe and stops to Taunton and a mid-afternoon service (around 16:00) from Taunton and stops to Wiveliscombe, and add an early evening service from Taunton (around 18:45) for stops to Wiveliscombe. These could also serve stops to and from Dulverton.

Slinky service – Offer a service for parishes around Wellington and Wiveliscombe that feeds into both towns (with return), including to encourage and allow connections to the 22 and 25 bus routes. For Wiveliscombe, this could include covering Croford, Halse, Fitzhead, Brompton Ralph, Clatworthy, Huish Champflower, Langley Marsh and locations nearby. For Wellington, this could include Langford Budville, Spring Grove, Bathealton, Stawley, Ashbrittle, Appley, Greenham, Holywell Lake and locations nearby, as well as Sampford Arundel, Wrangway, Ford Street, West Buckland, Nynhead and locations nearby. To ensure connections to the main bus routes, it may help if this could be scheduled, maybe in part. This could be offered and promoted initially as a trial to test demand.

Slinky promotion – Provide resources to promote the Slinky service through community posters, newsletters, social media and websites, with assistance from the working group.

Reasons for these recommendations

Feedback and surveys have shown bus users are using the 25 bus less with the removal of services at key times and big gaps in the timetable from April 2024. There is also demand for an early evening service from Taunton, so the 25 operates within core network hours.

Slinky (on demand) mini-bus services could be better utilised to provide transport into Wellington and Wiveliscombe for rural parishes around both towns. This would allow travel to these town centres as destinations for some and also allow connections to the 22 and 25 bus routes for those who wish to travel further, including on to Taunton.

There is low awareness of the Slinky services in areas served. With suitable resources provided, the working group could advise on promotion through local community information sources, including noticeboards, newsletters, social media and websites.