

**Sarah Dyke MP**

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**Somerton & Frome MP presents a bill in Parliament to ensure rural residents can access major hubs by public transport**

The Liberal Democrat MP for Somerton and Frome, Sarah Dyke, has presented a bill in Parliament which would set minimum service levels for public transport in rural areas and guarantee access to employment and education hubs. For her constituents, this would include Yeovil and Bath.

Sarah Dyke overturned a Conservative majority of 19,000 in July to win the Somerton and Frome seat and this is the first time she has had an opportunity to present her own bill to the House of Commons. It is scheduled for a second reading on the 26th of January.

**Sarah Dyke, Liberal Democrat MP for Somerton and Frome, said:**

“Last year, I spearheaded a successful campaign to save the D2 bus and since being elected to Parliament, I’ve repeatedly spoken up for public transport in rural areas.

“Many of my constituents rely on public transport to get to nearby towns and cities for education and employment and they need to know those vital links will always be there. I’m delighted to present this important bill to Parliament and I look forward to its second reading next month.”

**ENDS****Notes to editors:**

Sarah Dyke’s bill is the ‘Public Transport (Rural Areas) Bill’. Its long title is 'Bill to set minimum service levels for the provision of public transport in rural areas, including for access to sites of employment and education; and for connected purposes.'