

Greens to call for ‘a boost for buses’ to breathe life into struggling communities and ease the affordability crisis.

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Green Party leader Zack Polanski on a campaign visit to Newcastle today, will say that the experiment on bus privatisation has been an unmitigated disaster, and Green councillors will fight to bring back buses into public control.

The Greens will make bus fares free for all people under 22 years, and Zack Polanski will say that reliable and accessible public transport is one of the best tools we have at our disposal to help tackle both the cost-of-living crisis and climate crisis.

Buses are the most used form of public transport in England, but usage has taken a huge and sustained drop recently, down from 4.6 billion journeys in 2009 to 3.6 billion in 2024.

Zack Polanski will say that,

“Years of deregulation have led to soaring fares, unreliable services and cut routes. Bus privatisation has been an unmitigated disaster. We need to bring buses back into public control so that local councils, who know what their communities need best, can put a ceiling on how much can be charged and make sure their communities are well served. Spiralling transport costs is one of the greatest causes of the affordability crisis and lack of services and the expense of fares affects rural communities in particular.

“Electing Green councillors will help end this and herald in a new age of the bus, to help rebuild our struggling high streets and boost our communities.”

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