

James Alexander

Prospective Labour MP for York Outer



a: 59 Holgate Road, YORK YO24 4AA
t: +44 (0)1904 652 875 (phone or fax)
m: +44 (0)7711 238 741 (phone or text)
e: alexander@time-4-change.org.uk
w: www.time-4-change.org.uk
www.labourcanwinYorkOuter.org.uk

Dear Executive,

Please find enclosed the details of 529 people who have so far signed up to my "York Fares Fair" campaign via a paper petition, online petition, joining a facebook group, sending a reply slip and sending a text message. This is the first installment of this petition.

The campaign is calling for:

1. A freeze in First York bus fares until June 2011
2. An end to First York bus cuts
3. A review of all bus services to ensure that villages in outer York have sufficient access to bus routes

First York has increased bus fares 8 times over the past 6 years. Increases have been between 25% and 100%. In January 2009, a First Day ticket increased in cost from £3.50 to £3.70. In 2003 this was just £2.20. These rises have occurred at the same time as First York withdrawing set timetables from certain routes and reducing services on others. In response to rising bus fares, the number of paying passengers reduced by just under 14% during the period 2005/06 –2007/08. This is a decrease from approximately 11m to 9.5m passengers. In 2003/04, 29% of people were not satisfied with local bus services. This number has risen to 32% in 2007/08. Performance indicators show that under 32% of buses leaving the city in the morning leave on time. Only 25% of buses are on time at timing points along service routes. First have continued to cut services.

The campaign has some success with a recent announcement that First York will be freezing fares this year. However the campaign continues.

I understand you disagree with me regarding bus quality control contracts. I think this is a missed opportunity. However I am now asking you to back this campaign.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor James Alexander
Prospective Labour MP for York Outer