



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25**

**SCRUTINY RESEARCH REPORT – FARE INCREASES**

**1. Research Request**

- 1.1 To research whether the fare increase on the 106 routes from Ynysybwl to Pontypridd makes it one of the most expensive bus routes in Wales, or even the UK.
- 1.2 This report has looked at comparison data, comparing the 106 route's new fare of £4 for approximately 4 miles against other routes across the region and the country.

**2. Methodology**

- 2.1 The methodology for this review, supported by the Head of Democratic Services, is summarised below.
- 2.2 The approach encompassed several key activities:
- Extensive outreach via email to external businesses in pursuit of pertinent information. Correspondence details and responses are detailed in Table 1.
  - Compilation of bus fare data for comparable distances within the Local Authority and neighbouring authorities to establish an estimated average. This data was compiled internally and is briefly presented in Table 2.
  - Collaboration with internal teams within the Council and officers to gather additional insights and information relevant to the request.

### 3. External Research Findings

#### 3.1 Table 1 – Email Responses

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Response</b>
TrawsCymru	TrawsCymru service fares are as follows,  £1.25 up to 3kn £1.50 up to 5km +25p per 5km thereafter
Helo	No information provided at this time
Welsh Government	No response
Traveline Cymru	Regrettably, the information you require is beyond what we deal with
Transport Research team leader – Senedd Cymru	No information of that type held no central list of individual fares searchable.
Confederation of Passenger Transport Cymru of the Wales Office of Bus Users UK.	No response.
Stagecoach	Stagecoach was not able to provide any information regarding this matter.  Table 2 shows some independent research using information available to the general public online.
Adventure Travel	No price information was available

**Table 2 – Bus routes and average costs**

<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Distance</u></b>	<b><u>Price</u></b>
Stagecoach	Ynysybyl, Robertstown hotel	Pontypridd Bus station	3.9 Miles	£4.00 £1.02 P/M
Stagecoach	Tonypandy Bus station	Porth Police Station	3.8 Miles	£3.70 £0.97p Per mile
Stagecoach	Pontypridd Bus station	Coleg Y cymoedd Nantgarw	4.3 Miles	£3.70 £0.86p Per Mile
Stagecoach	Caerphilly Interchange	Cardiff City centre	8.6 Miles	£5.50 £0.63p Per Mile
Stagecoach	Cilfynydd, Albion Flats	Hopkinstown, Hollybush	3.0 Miles	£4.10 £0.73 per Mile

Adventure Travel offer day tickets within zones for prices between £5.50 - £8.40 therefore an accurate milage can not be calculated from information found

- 3.2 Based on the analysis presented in the table above, it is evident that the 106 route carries a higher fare when compared to routes serving similar areas. The selection of routes showcased in this table has been curated to ensure comparability, considering various factors such as distance, service frequency, and operational costs. Should further routes or specific details be required for comparison, they can be readily provided upon request. Additionally, it's important to note that Adventure Travel does not disclose individual single route prices on their website, further underscoring the significance of the data presented here. Furthermore, Traws Cymru emerges as the only other operator with available fare information provided upon request, which has been included above for comprehensive analysis and comparison. the absence of individual single route prices from other providers underscores the thoroughness and reliability of the data presented here.
- 3.3 This comprehensive analysis not only highlights the higher fares of the bus route in question but also emphasises the value of the information available for making informed comparisons and decisions regarding public transportation in the borough.

#### **4. Internal research findings**

- 4.1 The RCT Transport team conducted thorough research and provided invaluable insights into the current transportation landscape. Their findings shed light on various aspects pertinent to the research request.
- 4.2 Appendix A offers a comprehensive overview of each stop along the 106 route, detailing pricing structures under Adventure Travel's jurisdiction. This appendix serves as a resource for understanding the nuances of fare variations across different segments of the route.
- 4.3 Additionally, Appendix B presents detailed data regarding the route's performance under Stagecoach's management, specifically following their price adjustment on April 1st. This data offers valuable comparisons and insights into pricing dynamics under different operational regimes.
- 4.4 Notably, under Adventure Travel's management, the route fare from Ynysybwl to Pontypridd stood at £3.60, with a slightly lower fare of £3.40 from Dan-y-Cribyn, the last stop on New Road, considered the first stop of Ynysybwl. However, with Stagecoach's April fare increase, the price rose to £4, reflecting market adjustments and operational changes.

- 4.5 During this research project the Council have been advised that following consideration of the fare increase by Stagecoach, the company have advised of a realignment of their fare structure in line with Adventure Travel's pricing model.
- 4.6 Effective from Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the revised fare structure will come into effect, with the fare from Ynysybwl reverting to £3.60. We have been advised that this adjustment underscores Stagecoaches commitment to providing affordable and accessible transportation solutions to its clientele while ensuring the sustainability of its operations.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 In conclusion, the analysis conducted highlights the 106-bus route's recent fare increase from Ynysybwl to Pontypridd had positioned it amongst the higher-priced routes serving similar distances. Through comparison with other routes and collaboration with stakeholders, we were able to compile the research evidenced in this request.
- 5.2 The revision to the fares, as advised in 4.5 and 4.6 of the research report was implemented on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. This change sees the bus route return to it's original price point to balance affordability with convenience for users.

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## **Background Documents**

[Appendix A – 106 Route Adventure Travel fares \(See Separate Document\)](#)

[Appendix B – Stagecoach route 106 All fares from April Increase \(See separate document\)](#)

\*\*information and any stats included were accurate at the time of populating this document\*\*.