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SEWTA WELCOMES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN BUS FLEET

Transport alliance Sewta has applauded the decision of Stagecoach in South Wales to invest in a new bus fleet serving the important X4 Merthyr – Pontypridd – Cardiff route.

Stagecoach has invested more than £2m in 17 brand new low-floor ADUMAN Enviro 300 buses to operate on the X4 service. With easy passenger access and new and improved comfortable interiors, the vehicles also represent the very latest in clean engine technology, meeting Euro IV emissions standards, helping to cut carbon emissions and so reducing the environmental impact of the service.

Route X4 provides a 15 minute express bus service between Merthyr, Pontypridd and Cardiff with a half-hourly frequency between Merthyr and Brynmawr via Tredgar and Ebbw Vale. The service extends through to Abergavenny and Hereford, operating over a total journey distance of approximately 77 miles.

The buses are Stagecoach's first in Wales to be equipped with Wi-Fi technology, enabling passengers to access their e-mails or the internet whilst travelling on the route, perfect for commuters and teenagers alike.

The Chair of Sewta **Councillor Jeffrey James** of the Vale of Glamorgan said:

“The Express X4 service is a comfortable, reliable and low cost alternative to car travel connecting many communities in South-East Wales with Cardiff and Hereford and this kind of investment will significantly improve the travel experience of thousands of bus passengers.

“We applaud Stagecoach for improving the quality of sustainable transport in South East Wales - a priority at the heart of Sewta's Regional Transport Plan - and with reduced carbon emissions lessening the environmental impact of the bus fleet.”

Ends

Note to editors:

Sewta is the alliance of local authorities charged with developing transport policy and delivering public transport projects on behalf of the 10 local authorities in South East Wales and their partners, both in the operating industry and in organisations representing passengers' interests.

Sewta's membership includes the local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan. Partners are the Confederation of Passenger Transport, Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail, Bus Users UK, Passenger Focus and Sustrans. Sewta works closely with the Welsh Assembly Government.

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