

ATTACHED ARE THE STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS (WITH RESPONSES) RECEIVED FROM
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

STATEMENTS RECEIVED – WECA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2020

1. Dave Redgewell – RIF Fund

We are very concerned about the risk on the Authority of not spending all of the revolving infrastructure fund by 31 th March 2021 .The Authority is of risk of money being returned to the treasury at a time when the city region is struggling through covid 19 .

Of the list of R I F projects which projects are now at risk of being cancelled due to contractors not being able to start work is their any risk

to projects such as Weston super mare bus and coach interchange for which no work has started or Portway parkway railway station at portway park and ride Bristol Network rail western routes still has not started CONSTRUCTION.

South Gloucestershire sustainable transport fund .

Sustainable Weston super mare Travel fund .

We are very concerned about the lack of progress on these and other schemes.

Does the weca mayoral combined authority have a team in place to emergency manage contract to make sure that delayed start date are met.

On covid 19 bus operators grant what checks are in place to make sure that the Department for transport regulations are met especially as 2 bus routes are cancelled over Christmas and new year's period service 18 Bath spa bus and coach station to Salford, Keynsham, North common, Warmley, Kingswood Hillfields, Staple Hill, Downend, Uwe Bristol bus station. Cut back from Bristol Parkway station and Cribbs Causeway bus station.

Route 37 Bristol bus station, Lawrence Hill station St George, Hanham, Longwell Green, Bitton, Kelson Weston, RuH Bath spa bus and coach station.

This route is supposed to be hourly Monday to Saturday s is running at 4 journeys a day and no service over Christmas and new year's

These bus routes are agreed with weca mayoral transport authority but passengers are getting poor services or no service at all.

What audit is going on of money spent on public bus contracts

We also still need to address the issue of public consultation and to work with equalities groups and not to carry out all public consultation on line as per the present weca planning consultation.

The public equalities duty applies to weca mayoral combined authority.

We also note that both Ashton Gate

station Bristol and Charfield stations in south Gloucestershire Gloucestershire border were included in the Government reopening the railway fund from the department for transport but did not receive funding. In fact only St Anne's Park station received study money.

There appear to be a lot of studies happening in west of England mayoral combined authority but very little delivery on the ground in the city region.

When the government guidance allowed CONSTRUCTION to work with social distancing. on a build back better projects

There appears to be cost over run on the Bath Quay North and South project

River bridge which we welcome as a product but with no reference to the reasons for cost over runs .

We also note that the Henbury line has not start dates for station construction at Ashley Down, Filton Abbey Wood route .Filton North and Henbury line.

There is concern under value for money and audit of public money the more direction needs to be put in place into getting projects started like the west Midlands combined authority and Greater Manchester combined authority. We would like to see better Audit of public projects delivery in

weca mayoral combined authority and the LEP supporting North Somerset council and weca mayoral combined authority.

In order to get better value for money

taxpayer money can be saved by North Somerset council joining weca mayoral combined authority.

David Redgewell south west transport network and Railfuture Severnside.

This page is intentionally left blank

WECA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS & REPLIES

The following questions were submitted by the deadline (full details of questions and the replies are set out in the following pages):

Q1. Question from: Dave Redgewell

Subject: RIF Fund

Q2. Question from: Dave Redgewell

Subject: RIF Fund

QUESTION 1 – 10 December 2020

Question from: Dave Redgewell

Subject: RIF Fund

Question:

In view of need to spend RIF money by the 31st march 2021 how much project money will be returned to central government and to the treasury?

REPLY

Currently there is no spending deadline in relation to Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF). However, there is a 31 March 2021 deadline for spending Local Growth Fund (LGF). We have, for some time, been over-programming projects against LGF in order to avoid the need to return any funding to central government.

QUESTION 2 – 10 December 2020

Question from: Dave Redgewell

Subject: RIF Fund

Question:

Which projects may have been delayed or cancelled in this case? If work can not start on site due to Covid 19 and social distancing.

Can WECA mayoral combined authority and the LEP provide a list of projects at risk.

It is known that WECA mayoral combined Authority has returned money to government before.

REPLY

No projects funded through the Local Growth Fund have been cancelled owing to the need to spend funds by the deadline. A full list of LGF projects, detailing both budget and spend to date, are detailed within the 'One Front Door' report which is presented to every Joint Committee meeting (most recent report to committee on 4 December 2020). WECA has minimised the risk of having to return any funding to central government through a 'single pot' approach to all regional funding streams in compliance with our (Local Growth) Assurance Framework. This has included swapping higher delivery risk projects out of LGF into Economic Development Fund and integrating £12m of new 'Getting Building Funding' with the LGF programme.

<https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s2274/13a%20-%20Summary%20sheet%20-%20One%20Front%20Door.pdf>