

**West of England Combined Authority
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

23 June 2021

**Statements received from the public
(agenda item 8)**

This page is intentionally left blank

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2021

Statements received for this meeting (full details set out in following pages):

1. David Redgewell - Transport and regional issues
2. Steven Hunt - Transport issues
3. Lucy Travis - Transport issues

STATEMENT 1 – David Redgewell

Transport and regional issues

The councils with B&NES council, North Somerset council, city and county of Bristol and West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority will need to draw up a draft plan under Bus Back Better, the government White paper on buses to improve the Bus network in the West of England combined authority area and North Somerset council cross Boundary Services into Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset plus Monmouthshire in Wales.

The government through the Department for Transport is asking West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council to look at an enhanced quality partnership or franchising scheme.

A full plan needs to be in place by October 2021 detailing will bus operators, service levels, routes and fares and the department for transport wants to see improvements in especially orbital and rural bus route key bus Corridor, Evening and Sunday services. Smart ticketing and integration with railway services and station ferries, Express Coaches and interchanges.

The final detailed plan needs to be in place by April 2022 and agreed with the department for transport and the buses minister Baroness Vere of Noriton. On course the mayor can choose, with the combined authority to bring in bus franchising with North Somerset council and get secretary of state approval. But with only 30 public transport staff in West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council not a member of West of England Combined Authority mayoral combined authority and needs to join.

There is also the question of buying the bus depot assets of First group, HCT and Stagecoach west .

Depots at Lawrence Hill, Hengrove are leased with Bristol city council but also First group owned Depots at Weston super mare, Wells and Bath Weston island, Depot from Stagecoach west at Patchway HCT group at Parson Street and RAPT at Keynsham and Abus at St Phillips marsh.

Whilst the mayor can investigate franchising partnership, the quickest way forward is enhanced quality partnership for West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council. Routes that need improvement in south Gloucestershire council, Banes, city and county of Bristol area are as follows:

19 Bath spa bus and coach station to Weston RuH back entrance, Kelston, Bitton, Cadbury Heath, Warmley, Kingswood, Hillfields, Staple Hill, Downend, UWE, Bristol Parkway station and Cribbs Causeway.

Needs an Evening and Sunday services
First group west of England.

18 Bath spa bus station, Saltford, Keynsham Willsbridge, Oldland Common, North Common, Warmley, Kingswood, Hillfields, Staple Hill, Downend, UWE, Bristol Parkway and Cribbs Causeway.

Evening and Sundays.

First group west of England

17 Keynsham, Longwell Green, Hanham, Kingswood, Hillfields, Staple Hill, Fishponds, Eastville, Horfield and Southmead hospital bus station

Bristol city centre via the Gloucester Road, Filton, Patchway, Cribbs Causeway Hand Thornbury T2.

Important to restore the evening service.

First group west of England

Y2 Bristol city centre, Fishponds, Downend, Yate Bus station and Chipping Sodbury.

Evening and Sundays.

First group bus service.

Service 60 Thornbury, Falfield, Wootton under Edge, Stincombe, Cam and Dursley.

Dursley bus station, Cam and Dursley station and Gloucester bus station.

This needs later Evening service and Sunday service from Thornbury not just Dursley.

Stagecoach west service.

Service 62 Need to Operate from Bristol bus and coach station and Bond street via Falfield Or Filton and Thornbury to Sharpness and Berkeley, Cam and Dursley Railway station, Cam and Dursley.

Dursley May Lane bus station, Hunts Grove, Gloucester quays and Gloucester bus and coach station.

Some journeys could operate to Filton, Thornbury, Falfield, Sharpness, Berkeley, Cam and Dursley station. Dursley May Lane bus station to Stroud bus station.

Bristol to Stroud needs a good bus link as Stroud and Stonehouse have no Direct Railway service to Bristol.

37 Bath spa bus and coach station to Weston RuH back entrance, Kelston, Bitton, Longwell Green, Hanham, St George, Lawrence Hill station and Bristol bus and coach station.

This service needs an hourly service and Evening and Sunday services.

With modern buses.

First group west of England bus service.

The 84,85,86 group of routes

Between Wootton under Edge, Chipping Sodbury, Yate bus station, Railway station and Emerson Green and Kingswood need to be hourly and operate via the new park and ride site.

Bus priority measures are required along the A432 from Yate bus station to Bristol city council via the Ring road and M32.

On bus service from Cadbury Heath to Bristol city centre 42 43 via Kingswood town centre and 44 45 via Hanham to Bristol city centre.

Whilst these services provide a good service from East Bristol to Bristol city centre, there is a lack of a service from Cadbury Heath, Warmley, Kingswood, Hanham.

To Bristol Temple Meads station area and the city centre.

Other routes need higher frequency is service 35 Bristol city centre to Marshfield. Evening and Sunday services.

The loss of service 37 between Bristol and Bath via Lawrence Hill, St George Park, Hanham, Bitton, Kelston, Weston, RuH and Bath spa bus and coach station is not good for passengers without public consultation.

The change again to 17 and the provision of service 16 Keynsham to Kingswood again without stakeholders engagement.

Does not appear to follow guidance on bus back better the Government White paper on buses.

A new link from Cribbs Causeway bus station to Portishead, Clevedon and Weston super Mare. To replace the x5

6 Bristol city centre to Kingswood town centre.

Service 7 Bristol city centre to Staple Hill

5 Bristol city centre to Downend

Keynsham to Whitchurch Asda and Hengrove hospital need improvement.

A south Bristol bus service review is required.

The Bath spa bus and coach station to Peasedown St John, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Farrington Gurney need some improvements 171 172 173 174

Bath spa bus station to Shepton Mallet and Wells

Peasedown St John, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Shepton Mallet and Wells corridor needs improvement in Evening and Sunday services.

On the Bath spa bus and coach to Midford, Rode, Beckington and Frome Sainsbury's there is a need for improvement in Evening services and Sunday services.

And Express service from Bath spa bus station to Bathampton and Frome via the A36.

Service to Bath spa bus and coach station, Corsham, Chippenham x31

The Wiltshire wippets.

272 273 Bath spa bus and coach station, Melksham and Devizes service, these services need to be improved joint with Wiltshire county council.

Important on Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple Meads station

Knowle Hengrove Whitchurch

One of our biggest concern is the construction of 5 roundabout on the Bristol ring road at Lyde Green

Siston hill roundabout

Rosary Roundabout.

Deanery Road Roundabout.

Kingsfield roundabout.

Whilst there is some improvements very limited in walking and cycling the proposed provides no Bus lanes or bus priority measures this is adding additional capacity to the ring road and will simply add to poor air In Staple Hill, Downend, Warmley and Kingswood.

But also push traffic into Keynsham, Bath and south Bristol.

As the only capacity problem are in the junction of the Ring road at peak time the best way forward is improvements Bus service on Ring road.

From south Bristol, Keynsham to Employment site in East and North Bristol This issue need addressing by The west of England combined authority and North Somerset council.

Bath city bus service need improvement and better evening and Sunday services

We need bus priority measures and bus lanes in Bath .

The frequency of the Brislington, local service needs addressing 513 514 Review of 36 Bristol city centre Broadmead to Barton Hill St Anne's park and Brislington.

And 96 Brislington to Hengrove via Knowle.

Improvements to Bus service between Bristol bus and coach station and North Somerset at Nailsea and Backwell x8x9

Clevedon x5 x6, Portishead x4 x5 and Weston super mare x1

Important upgrading of 126 Weston railway station to cheddar and wells bus station needs evening and Sunday services. Vis Backwell and winscombe.

Weston super mare need improved Evening and Sunday services.

Service 20 Weston super mare to Burnham on sea need an all year round service.

We need to invest in bus interchange in Kingswood, Staple Hill, Hanham, longwell green, Cadbury heath , Yate bus station, chipping sodbury, Thornbury and Emerson's Green.

The south Bristol metro bus route needs completing From whitchurch Hartcliffe, withywood, south Bristol link Road to Bristol city centre and Temple meads.

Needs completing.

But also via the Portway and portway parkway park and ride to Avonmouth and Severnside cabot park.

We need a transport study for Severnside as park of bus back better.

The Henbury loop needs completing to Avonmouth and shuttle train from Avonmouth, st Andrew's Road and Severn beach.

Pilning station needs regeneration, lighting, accessible footbridge and bus rail interchange.

Under Buses Back better we also have to provide better connections at Railway stations interchange and with Coaches and Ferry services.

The guidance to local authorities from the secretary of state for Transport and buses minster is asking local Highway and Transport authority to provide more bus priority measures and bus lanes

As stagecoach west and First group have said the bus priority are required on the Bristol Ring road and the M32.

Regards passengers facilities there is a need to review public toilets at public transport in changes and key location across south Gloucestershire county council area, The city and county of Bristol, Bath and North east Somerset council and North Somerset council.

For passengers and bus and Taxi drivers.

This is supported by Unite the union and RMT bus drivers union Aslef and Tssa.

Bus Back is a top priority for the west of England mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset council.

We ask South Gloucestershire council to also give Top priority to Bus Back Better, the Bristol to Thornbury and Bristol to Yate metro bus scheme should be progressed.

Look at equalities and passengers safety issues around public transport.

The Bristol city council West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and Avon and Somerset police British transport police public community safety partnership meet this week.

We also need to set up a mayor bus advisory board.

And have a meeting of west of England

Combined authority public transport Forum.

The government has also published a new white paper of the Railway Great Britain railway replacing Network rail western routes will a new body with a transport railway Authority including the train operating companies such as First group Great western railway or south western railway and cross country trains.

Page 41 allows the west of England combined authority to look at further devolution of railway services like metro west and to operate and plan Train service like Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester, Andy Street in the west Midlands combined authority and Steve Rotherham in the Liverpool city region.

We believe West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council should set up a railway executive

To improve work on reopening the Bristol Temple meads to Portishead line via Pill and Ashton gate.

Bristol Temple meads to Ashley down, Horfield, Filton and Henbury line.

On the Bristol Temple meads to Bath spa and Westbury line new stations at st Anne's park and saltford.

On the Bristol Temple meads to Gloucester and Cheltenham line

Stations at Charfield and stonehouse Bristol road.

We feel it is very important that West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council carry out full public consultation on Bus back better and produce a bus improvements plan and a railway plan for Devolution in Great Britain railways

The lack of Information centre at Bath spa bus and coach station and lack of a tourist information centre in Bath and the need for public toilets in Bath spa bus and coach station including disabled toilets.

Also the need for public toilets at the coach station in Avon street in Bath Somerset.

Thornbury high street.

I wish to be clear the support for part pedestrianisation of Thornbury High street by south Gloucestershire county council

And the west of England combined authority.

We still have work to do on Rock street public transport interchange bus stops shelters Drop kerbs and realtime information, Disabled parking facilities and drop off points for blue badge holders improvements to soper lane .

Improvements in Disabled toilets, changing places and I welcome the work with south Gloucestershire council disabled access group on the High street and bus interchange

Marketing campaign for public transport network to Thornbury with the west of England combined authority stagecoach west and First group west of England and Great western railway via Bristol parkway and car parking.

The restoration of the no 62 bus from Bristol bus station via Thornbury Berkeley sharpness cam Dursley and Gloucester bus station.

And joint working with The Town council south Gloucestershire county council west of England combined authority and luke hall mp on this project.

The bus back better bus improvement plan by the weca mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council

and need to improve sunday Evening and rural services and cross border service into Somerset and Wiltshire.

On Railway there is a need to set up a railway executive at the west of England combined authority to look at Railway devolution in the Government White paper Great Britain railways.

It's very important that bus and rail services network are into western Wiltshire from Bath spa to Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge Westbury warminster and Frome.

Corsham and chippenham melksham.

And new station at st Anne's park station and saltford.

It's very important that we put together for central Government and the Department for transport is very good sub regional bus improvements plan .

With west of England combined authority and North Somerset council.

But also work closely with Somerset county council mendip district council Sedgmoor district council, Gloucestershire county council.

Stroud district council, Gloucestershire county council Gloucester city council Cheltenham Borough council.

Monmouthshire council and Transport for wales

Western gateway Transport board and south west Transport board.

The equalities and disability equalities groups in the west of England combined authority area and North Somerset council area .

And to work with the Bristol public transport safety partnership with Bristol city council Avon and Somerset police British transport police, bus and rail

operators equalities group police and crime commissioner and weca mayoral transport authority.

David Redgewell south west transport network and Railfuture Severnside.

STATEMENT 2 – Steven Hunt

Transport issues

Can the Mayor as part of the bus improvements plan look at London Transport style tickets system like they Transport allows for retired residents in London. Can you arrange for oaps pensioners in Bristol and Bath city region to have 24 hour free bus travel or let us use our bus pass, from before 5am Monday to Friday as at the moment the cut off period is 4am so in other words it would be extended by one hour. If the Department for transport extend the funding for concessionary passes.

Also should it be possible to introduce flexible ticketing on all buses so if we work three days a week we could have a fare card for three days similarly to great Britain railways have issue from this week.

Can West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport also carry out promotions of all combined bus and rail tickets in West of England Combined Authority mayoral transport authority area and North Somerset council area including North and west Wiltshire.

Bath Rider, Avon Rider. Bristol rider Weston super mare Rider Wiltshire Rambler and the bus rail freedom pass.

Which needs a child OAP and disabled person rate similar to Greater Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne.

To get passengers back on public transport like the North East Transport authority have with bus rail and Ferry operators. Including media promotions.

Steven Hunt public transport user.

STATEMENT 3 – Lucy Travis

Transport issues

The Somerset catch the bus campaign and Somerset bus partnership are working to improve bus services across the county of Somerset and into North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and into the city and county of Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

With the Government Bus Back better scheme to improve bus services, we are very keen to see advance quality partnership across Somerset county council and weca and North Somerset council areas.

With regards to bus service improvement plans these need to work across Boundaries, our concerns are about the Bristol Bath travel to work area. In the case of mendip district council into the west of England combined authority these are the following services

173 Wells bus station, chilcompton, Radstock, midsomer Norton, peasdown st John and Bath spa bus and coach station.

Needs an Evening and Sunday services.

174 wells Bus station shepton mallet Radstock midsomer Norton and peasdown st John Bath spa bus and coach station

Needs later Evening services.

172 Paulton, Radstock, midsomer Norton peasdown st John Bath bus and coach station.

184 Frome, mells, midsomer Norton.

Needs a Saturday service and Sunday services.

414 ,424 Frome to Radstock midsomer Norton.

D2 Bath spa bus and coach station to midford Norton st Phillip, Rode and Beckington and Frome.

This can then be a hourly stopping service

Need a fast service from Bath spa bus station along the A36 Express to Frome and

D1 Bath spa bus and coach station to Bathampton Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge warminster and Salisbury.

376 Street .Glastonbury. wells Bus station . chewton mendip .Farrington Gurney. clutton. pensford .whitchurch Hengrove .Knowle .Bristol Temple meads station and Bristol bus station.

Morning and evening journeys should operate via the Horringtons

683 well bus station to keynsham service.

126 Weston super mare Banwell winscombe Axbridge cheddar and wells bus station.

This route needs an Evening and all year round Sunday services

Service 20 Weston super mare Town centre Railway station, Brea, Berrow Burnham on sea.

The other service that is important is the south west falcon coach services from Bristol city centre Bristol Airport Churchill Brent knoll Bridgwater Taunton Wellington, Cullompton Exeter Newton abbot and Plymouth coach station.

This service needs improved coach stops and station in Bristol at Temple meads or the bus station.

Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington.

Region coach service must be included in the strategy.

In the Bath area we are very keen to see improvement to the Bath spa bus station to Cribbs Causeway bus service 19 via Weston Kelston Bitton Cadbury Heath Warmley Kingswood Hillfields Staple Hill Downend Uwe Bristol Parkway station and Cribbs Causeway.
Evening and Sunday services.

Service 37 Bath spa bus station to Weston RuH back entrance Kelston Bitton Longwell Green Hanham St George Lawrence Hill station Bristol bus and coach station.

This should be an hourly service tendered by the West of England Combined Authority.

620 69 Bath spa bus station Yate Bus station Chipping Sodbury Tetbury and Stroud bus station.

Evening and Sunday services.

All services should terminate at Stroud bus station.

With the Department for Transport spending £27.3 a week on bus service. There is need for the West of England Combined Authority, North Somerset Council and Somerset County Council plus Wiltshire and Gloucestershire to run like the North East of England a marketing campaign with the 2 Region South West and Western Gateway Transport Board to get people back on to public transport network.

In terms of bus and coach stations should have toilets and travel centres. Public toilets should be reopened at Bath spa bus station and the Tourist Information Centres move into the bus station.

Wells bus station Travel Centre should be reopened.

Public toilets are very important at all public transport interchanges.

For passengers and staff.

West of England Combined Authority Mayoral Transport Authority needs to set up a public transport forum with North Somerset Council.

And a bus advisory panel

Somerset County Council have appointed consultants to work on the bus improvements plan.

Somerset County Council need to set up public transport Forum with the bus and rail operators with users groups and Banes, North Somerset and WCA Mayoral Transport Authority.

Working with Wiltshire Council is very important on bus service out of Bath to Corsham and Chippenham bus station x31.

272 273 Bath spa bus station to Melksham and Devizes.

D1 Bath bus and coach station to Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge Westbury Warminster and Salisbury.

And the important Bath spa bus station to Stroud bus station service 69 620 into Gloucestershire.

Somerset catch the bus campaign see integrated transport as important and Bus railway station interchange.

At Bristol Temple meads station.
Bath spa bus and coach station
Weston super mare .
Yatton for clevedon.
Keynsham.
Castle cary station.
And Frome.
Highbridge and Burnham on sea.
Bridgwater and Taunton.
We like to see realtime bus information at local railway station
And railway information at bus stations.

We would still like to see important bus link like the x2 Weston super mare to Bristol via the village operate Sunday and evenings.
Better bus service Yatton station to clevedon.
A Bus service reinstated between Clevedon portishead and cribbs causeway bus station x5
7 days a week operation.
We welcome the new bus interchange at Weston super mare.
Taunton need a new bus interchange.
The Somerset catch the bus campaign and Somerset bus partnership welcome the mayor plans with North Somerset council who we support be coming a full weca mayoral combined authority member as soon as possible.
Advance quality partnership plans .
And will be happy to engage in public consultation to the plan submission o Baroness Vere of Norbiton the bus minister in October 2021 .
And operational in April 2021
We hope the Region mayor Dan Norris will also work with the Western gateway transport board and south west transport board on Region bus service across the Somerset Wiltshire Gloucestershire Bristol to Bath travel to work area.
The most important point is public and passengers consultation.
By the west of England combined Transport authority North Somerset council and with passengers group across the travel to work area from Somerset,Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.
On bus service in to the travel to work area.
More needs to be done on rural bus services but also marketing especially to the Tourist market.
Bus shelter and information at every bus stop with realtime information system timetable and disabled access and cleaning standards.
And information lines for passengers at weca mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council.
And improvements in public transport safety with the British transport police and Avon and Somerset police through work with public transport safety partnership with Bristol city council weca mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council The police and crime commissioner
This safe partnership is very important to passengers.

Lucy Travis