

Public statements

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**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2021**

Statements received for this meeting:

1. David Redgewell – Transport issues
2. Graham Ellis – Rail issues

STATEMENT 1 – David Redgewell

With regards to Bus service improvements plan and the Enhanced quality partnership we to work hard to improve bus service frequencies on the key investment corridors.

Bristol bus and coach station to Arnos Vale, Brislington, Keynsham, Saltford Corston, Newbridge, Weston Bath bus and coach station A4 corridor.

Bath bus and coach station, Peasedown St John, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Shepton Mallet and Wells bus and coach station. A367.

A37 corridor from Street, Glastonbury, Wells bus station, Chewton Mendip, Farrington Gurney, Clutton, Pensford, Whitchurch, Hengrove, Knowle ,Bristol Temple Meads station, Bristol bus and coach station.

A 4018 corridor Bristol cabot circus, Bristol city centre Park Street, Clifton Down station, Downs, Westbury on Trym, Henbury, Cribbs Causeway bus station.

Bristol city centre to Thornbury corridor. A38
Bristol city centre to Yate bus station and Chipping Sodbury. A420

Bristol bus and coach station to Ashton Gate, Long Ashton, Backwell, Yatton, Congresbury, Worle and Weston super Mare.

Bristol bus station, Long Ashton, Nailsea and Backwell and Clevedon.
Bristol city centre to Bristol Airport, Churchill, East Brent, Bridgwater and Taunton corridor.

Whilst corridor investment is welcomed including metro bus service corridor Bristol parkway to Cribbs causeway bus station.

The south Bristol metro bus loop from Whitchurch Hengrove Hartcliffe Withywood, South Bristol link road to Bristol city centre and via the portway parkway and severn Beach cabot park.
Which need metro bus service.

The concerns we have is a lot of bus walking and cycling and new bus Taxis and coach lane but with no bus services on high frequency on these economy necessary services.

Under bus back better and the West of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvements plan and the enhanced quality partnership.
With the setting up of Bus Advisory Board and passengers forum.

The problem we have is 32 bus service cuts across the West of England mayoral Combined Authority area of Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset council.

Where First group plc west of England buses and stagecoach group plc stagecoach west have to run 90 % of services to receive bus service recovery grant from the Department for transport. Which has been reduced from £27.3 million week to £226,5 from September to 1st April 2022. Which leaves the bus operator unable to provide a complete service Network the Network being operated is about 80%

With the support bus service money from the west of England mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset council having been spent and we still do not the number 5 services from Downend to Fishponds Stapleton St Paul's and Bristol city centre.

Or the 18 from UWE bus station to Downend, staple hill, kingswood warmley North common, oldland common, willsbridge, keynsham, saltford, Newbridge weston and Bath spa bus station.

Where services are not restored

We must make sure we set in the budgets for Bath and North east Somerset council, the city and county of Bristol council, and South Gloucestershire council enough money to fund the supported bus service Network and bus stop shelters and bus stations and a interchanges facilities.

The public consultation of which needs extending so copy were not in Bus and coach station libraries tourist information offices and poster on some bus stops until the last few days of the public passengers and stakeholder consultation.

We would like an extension until the 20th December 2021

Bath spa bus and coach station needs a tourist information offices to replace the travel centre and also need visit west offices at Bristol bus and coach station

And the buffet and Newsagents reopened.

The most important issue is the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council western gateway transport Board and South west transport Board mps to write to Baroness Vere of Norberton and Grant Shapps secretary of state for transport to uplift and provide better financial support to the bus and coach services up to April 2022.

But with covid 19 very much still in the communities of South west England and mask wear window open buses and to be welcomed deep cleaning programmes the bus coach and train passengers figures stay at about 60 to 70 % and the department for transport also do not want fare increases on local buses.

But we need extra financial support buses in the Greater Bristol, Bath, weston super mare, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire are about access to employment, education from schools to colleges and universities, medical care shopping leisure and tourism and night time economy.

We also need to address the bus infrastructure in Thornbury high street and Rock street bus interchanges.

We have a limited metro west railway Network although we welcome the cross city line from Severn Beach to st Andrew Road and Avonmouth Dock and half hourly service to Clifton Down, Bristol Temple meads, Bedminster and station to weston super mare across the city Region.

We need a governance review of west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council to allow North Somerset council to join.

And to set up an integrated Transport Authority.

With all public transport staff working for the west of England mayoral combined Authority including public transport infrastructure.

A Railway executive including light rail.

And a Director of Transport.

Head of public transport to be in charge of all former local Authority public transport staff.

On railway services and proposed light rail system.

Whilst we welcome the investment in Bristol Temple meads station. Which needs a bus interchanges facilities better shopping facilities waiting room disabled toilets and changing places and buffet restaurants improvements as a region transport hub on the inter city rail network. and gateway to South west England.

Other railway projects.

Following the reopening of the Exeter central, Exeter st Davids, crediton Okehampton.

A partnership between The Department for transport Network rail western route

First group, Great western railway. Devon county council heart of the south west lep

Oke rail, Dartmoor railway. Has open as great South western success story.

We need to make progress on Portway park and ride which has had Grant aid from the Department for transport with Funding from the west of England combined Authority and Bristol city council.

We need Network rail western route to start work on this scheme.

On the Bristol Temple meads to Pill and Portishead line Development order progress.

And the objection from Barry cash local Environmental campaigner and liberal Democrat withdrawn.

We know this not liberal Democrat party policy in the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council who support railway reopening and public transport Network improvements.

This may need to be made clear to the secretary of state for transport. Grant shapps.

We also need to see progress on the Bristol Temple meads Lawrence hill Stapleton road, Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood, Filton North and Henbury loop line.

Would the metro mayor take action to push the city and county of Bristol and South Gloucestershire county council to grant planning permission.

To Deliver the Bristol Temple meads, keynsham, oldfield park ,Bath spa Freshford, Avoncliff, Bradford on Avon Trowbridge and Westbury service some services extend to Frome and warminster.

Bristol Temple meads, Lawrence hill Stapleton road, Ashley Down ,Filton Abbey wood, Bristol parkway, yate charfield, cam and Dursley and stonehouse Bristol road, Gloucester central and Cheltenham spa We need a 30 minute service on this metro west route which is show as possible in Birmingham New street to Bristol Temple meads route study by Network rail western route.

We support the reopening of charfield station and stonehouse Bristol road.

We also need progress on st Anne's Park station, saltford, Ashton Gate, Corsham station.

We must make progress on the delivery of metro west railway Network which are along with buses services metro bus coach services and ferry are the back bone of The Somerset Greater Bristol Bath weston super mare Wiltshire and Gloucestershire public transport Network.

On light rail their a need to look at the Bristol city centre Bristol Temple meads Arnos vale Brislington keynsham Saltford Newbridge Weston and Bath spa.

And the Bristol city centre Bristol Temple meads Arnos vale North Somerset railway line to callington road Hengrove whitchurch Hartcliffe withywood South Bristol link to Bristol Airport and return to the city centre need studying.

It is also we make progress on Disabled access to station at Weston super mare Nailsea and Backwell Parson street Lawrence hill Stapleton road Avonmouth st Andrew road Freshford and Cheltenham spa lifts .

And a equalities manager employed at the west of England mayoral combined Authority.

We need a Railway executive on officers based under Peter mann team at the west of England combined Authority with North Somerset council and the western Gateway transport Board.

To hold The Department for transport and Network rail western route and the future Great Britain Railway Region.

We should be looking for an office in Bristol.

We must open up customers services and passengers engagement at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

The Transport Authority needs to been to be delivering Public transport for the community.

We are so pleased the mayor Dan Norris is changing the west of England mayoral combined Authority away from being a ATM for the city and county of Bristol Bath and North east Somerset and South Gloucestershire council.

We look forward to a stronger west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council as full member.

As Grant shapps secretary of state for transport has made it clear Transport Grant will only be paid to city region

With metro mayors.

That why grant was not paid to the North East England combined Authority.

David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.

Public statement update bus services and interchanges.

We are very concerned about the implementation of the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council bus strategy.

And the bus and public transport interchanges policy.
 We only have limited bus and public transport interchanges in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset.
 At the bus and coach station at Bristol Bath cribbs causeway bus station uwe bus and coach station, Yate bus station
 Southmead hospital bus station.
 The new bus and coach interchanges at weston super mare under construction
 Bristol Parkway station and limited interchanges at Bristol Temple meads station. Metro bus interchanges.
 Interchanges should include public toilet and refreshment facilities.
 We have no bus or public transport interchange at keynsham or in Bitton. at cherry Gardens.
 The best interchanges facilities for keynsham terminating services is Brislington park and ride site with full interchanges facilities and transfer from Bus service from Radstock midsomer Norton paulton Timsbury marksbury keynsham if the 178 services is replaced by services 172 .
 But Oxford and Salisbury used Park and ride site for public transport interchanges.
 This should be look at in the city and county of Bristol Bath and North east Somerset council South Gloucestershire county council and North Somerset council.
 Yate park and ride is one such interchanges site.
 Facilities are better at Cadbury heath.
 Has the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council produce an interchanges facilities design Guide like Transport for London. The mayor combined Authorities for the west Midlands the mayor combined Authority for Greater Manchester and liverpool city region mayor .
 Before implementing the of this policy can we please develop a design guide policy.
 Under bus back better the National bus strategy we should setting a bus Advisory Board and passengers forum.
 Jointly with North Somerset council.
 Passengers and stakeholder at the heart of bus service improvements under supported services and services operated under the enhanced quality partnership.
 We also need to make sure we have equalities group, Disabilities forums LGBTQ forum members, black South west .rural councils National union of farmers Town councils like Thornbury Yate ,chipping sodbury ,Radstock and midsomer Norton clevedon,weston super mare and Portishead and Avon parish councils association rep.
 Not just the business community hospital Trust and universities.
 We also believe the mayor and leader of North Somerset council should set up a passengers forum to be chair by the mayor and vice chair councillor Don Davies.

That the mayor Dan Norris in conjunction with councillor Don Davis should send out to all local councillors proposed bus service changes by first group stagecoach Group, Hct Group ,Rapt bus company. Bath Favesaver and the smaller operators.

On bus and coach interchanges we would like to realtime information systems displays passengers timetables graffiti removal from all bus stops and shelters Bristol city centre Broadmead and old market ,keynsham and Yate bus station all need graffiti removals.
New bus stop information is required at yate bus station.
The issue of work on the bus and Taxis interchanges at Thornbury high street and Rock street needs to progress with South Gloucestershire county council and stagecoach west hct and first group.
And the west of England mayoral combined Authority. South Gloucestershire council equalities group.
Thornbury Town council.
And the design of this important interchanges facilities.
For buses to Bristol bus station and city centre,Yate bus station and chipping sodbury, cribbs causeway bus station
Wootton under edge cam and Dursley may lane bus station connections for Gloucester Transport hub and Stroud bus station.
Berkley and sharpness cam and Dursley may lane.
Passengers need easy interchanges.

We also pleased to see Progress on Charfield station at the west of England mayoral combined Authority Board meeting.
On the Bristol Temple meads, Filton Abbey wood Bristol parkway Yate charfield cam and Dursley and stonehouse Bristol road new station and Gloucester central.
And on Bristol Temple meads station Eastern entrance but we need progress on the bus rail interchanges in the Friary Temple gate and Bath Road .
We need a proper bus interchanges not just a bus stop and a shelters.
A fully accessible ferry terminals.

We also need Disabled changing places .
Car park for staff and the British Transport police and public car park and Bath Road.
Supermarkets and Boots chemist and Restaurants a Hotel welcome the conference centre university students flats and housing we would like to bus and coach services access under Feeder road railway bridge.
We Bristol clean air zone.
We need to see progress on Grants to stagecoach west buses.
Provision for Tourist coaches and National Express coaches stagecoach megabus coaches and Falcon coaches
And flix European has set up coach terminal with a west of England mayoral combined Authority blocking disabled access to Hampton by Hilton Hotel
Their is no bus shelters for the coach station that been set up.
Provision for the Railway replacement bus and coach services exemptions Which are fund by the Department for transport and Network western route and operated by first group Great western railway and cross country trains German state Railway.
By we welcome the clean air zone and lives that will be saved by the clean air in Bristol city centre and improvements in walking cycling and public transport.

We would like to see free Railway tickets as well as bus tickets for local journeys and the Freeman pass

We welcome the metro mayor Dan Norris and Network rail western route in the proposed Shirehampton parkway on Seven Beach via Clifton Down Bristol Temple meads railway line which is fully funded.

The showcase bus route from Street Glastonbury wells bus station Chewton mendip Farrington gurney Clutton pensford whitchurch Hengrove Bristol Temple meads and Bristol bus station city centre Park street Clifton Down station Westbury on Trym Henbury and cribbs causeway.

We welcome this bus and sustainable transport improvements corridor.

We must reduce the private car and lorries from Bristol city centre and save lives.

On the bus and sustainable transport corridors

A4 Bristol bus and coach station and Bristol Temple meads Arnos vale Bristlington, keynsham , Saltford Newbridge, Weston and Bath spa coach station.

A367 Bath bus and coach station peasedown st john , Radstock , midsomer Norton , paulton , Shepton mallet and wells bus station.

We must make sure the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council and Somerset county council provide bus service on this corridor under the bus service improvements plan and enhanced quality partnership.

Update statement from David Redgewell South west transport Board and Railfuture Severnside.

Update on my Public statement.

With 33 bus service change from the 30 th January 2022 and stagecoach west from the 2nd January 2022 .

We had a lot of stakeholder and passengers interested in South Bristol somer valley Town of Radstock, Westfield, midsomer, Norton paulton, keynsham Bath .

I have received 125 phone call on my phone asking how to contact the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council public transport Customer services line.

I explain they need to email the west of England mayoral combined Authority or the metro mayor Dan Norris.

On public emails.

But we need urgently to set passengers help line to talk to customers about bus and rail services .

Especially with such are large numbers of bus service changes.

We need to improve public transport passengers services within the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council.

Please can we carry out more stakeholder and passengers consultation and to set up urgently a passengers forum Bus service Advisory Board and passengers phone line.

David Redgewell South west transport Network.

STATEMENT 2 – Graham Ellis

Can I express concern from Wiltshire for cross-border public transport services in the (Bristol) Bath - Bradford-on-Avon - Trowbridge - Warminster - Salisbury corridor.

* South Western Railway run their final trains on this route as I write this on 10th December 2021

* Great Western Railway are reducing their service south of Warminster from 12th December 2021

* First Bus (West of England) have registered changes for January (D1, D1X, 3) and whilst it's unclear exactly what they propose to run in the New Year, all suggestions are of substantial cutbacks to frequency and length of journey, and the removal of intermediate route sections

West Wiltshire (as far as Warminster) is an integral part of the travel-to-work and travel-to-leisure catchment for Bath and Bristol, and any reduction of public transport - which has been full and standing even this year - pushes additional traffic into private cars, dirtier air and congestion, and deprives those who cannot switch of journey opportunities

Would WECA please liaise at a top level with Wiltshire Council to ensure that appropriate public transport continues along the corridor. Come 2023, MetroWest services are expected (we are told) to increase train services along this route, and it would be a significant loss of public transport along the corridor, and loss of faith in that public transport, that would take years to rebuild if it there were to be further cuts in routes, frequency, length of service during day, or service limited to certain days of the week.

Thank you.

Graham Ellis

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