

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

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**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 January 2022**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted by the deadline:

Questions from: David Redgewell

Subject: Transport issues

Question:

Q1. What progress is the West of England mayoral combined Transport Authority and North Somerset council making to put the case for an extension to covid 19 bus operators recovery grant beyond April 2022 as bus services in the West of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council are only operating at 63 % of pre covid 19 levels?

As this will lead to a much reduced bus service Network operated by first group west of England buses, Stagecoach group, hct group, Rapt, Bath bus company and Faresaver buses plus other operators. Especially in the reductions in the National bus service improvements plans and Bus service improvements plan grant availability at £1. 4 billion for Draft plans and enhanced quality partnerships.

REPLY:

The two Local Transport Authorities have been making the case for continued Bus Recovery Grant ever since the Government announced the time-limited funding in the autumn. In December, the Mayor and Cllr Don Davies wrote a joint letter to Baroness Vere pressing the Government to extend the funding beyond April this year. This was supported by several of our local MPs. Our officers have also been using their existing professional channels, such as the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers and the Urban Transport Group, to alert Government officials to the real risk of services being lost permanently if funding is cut. Despite the Government making it clear that it does not wish to see bus operators withdraw services, to date, no further announcement has been made regarding extending financial support beyond April.

Q2. With the West of England mayoral combined Transport Authority and North Somerset council on public transport interchanges. What funding has been allocated to improve these bus interchanges with CCTV cameras, real time information displays, lighting, talking, bus stops, castle Kerbs and drop Kerbs, seating bins etc?

In view of the need for Passengers to interchange buses at Bitton, cherry garden between Services 45 Bristol city centre, Cabot circus, Lawrence Hill station, St George, Hanham, Longwell Green, Bitton cherry garden. Connection with service 19

Bitton cherry garden, Bitton, Kelston, Weston, Bath spa bus and coach station. Inter change at Henbury crow lane. For passengers on services 4 from Bristol city centre, Clifton Down station, Sea Mills, Shirehampton, Lawrence Weston and Henbury where passengers have to change for food shopping at Cribbs Causeway at Morrisons and Asda as well as Cribbs Causeway bus station for interchange with other key Greater Bristol bus Network. Henbury Crow Lane has been a major issue of anti social behaviour for the Avon and Somerset police and the office of the police and crime commissioner. Bath Grand parade for connections with service 6 and 7 from Larkhall and Fairfield Park for onward connections to Bath spa bus and coach station Bath spa Railway station and link to Bath Royal United hospital and links to Bristol Airport and other Network buses. At Portishead Town centre with bus links to Bristol city centre via Pill or Avonmouth and links to Clevedon and Weston super Mare. On Weston super Mare bus and coach station/ Interchange is the bus and coach shelters in the 6.8 million pound interchanges facilities fit for passengers needs to keep passengers dry and warm in a major South west public transport interchange which we welcome.

REPLY:

Transport Hubs are integral to the corridor projects that are being funded through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. We are in the process of setting out what those hubs look like, in partnership with the Future Transport Zone project. The aim is to commence trial hubs later this year and set the template for their roll out across the corridors from 2023 onwards.