

ATTACHED ARE THE STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS & RESPONSES FOR THE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY MEETING ON 27 JUNE 2022

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## WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday, 27 June 2022

### Questions received from the public

#### Item 1 – David Redgewell

Question 1 .

In view of the public equalities duty at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council and the month being National pride month.

Whilst we welcome the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

Being a partner in the Bristol public transport safety partnership.

What action is being taken by the mayor and the Transport Authority to improve safety and access on the public transport Network for the LGBTQ community young people BME and Disabled passengers including buses coaches ,Trains and Ferries.

and will the mayor be attending Bristol and Weston super mare pride with the pride bus this year .

Ian Beckey Railfuture Severnside

Brendon Taylor Bristol disability equalities forum.

#### **Response:**

The West of England is committed to promoting equality and diversity within the transport sector. As already noted by the questioner, we are a partner of the Bristol public transport safety partnership.

The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4) has one of its main objectives to: “Enable equality and improve accessibility” to the transport network. By working with our partners within the transport sector, we are promoting safety and access for individuals within the LGBTQ+ community as well as individuals from other backgrounds, including BME, individuals with physical disabilities and hidden disabilities.

A lot of the main focus within the transport sector is the improvement of physical access onto public transport. Through the current investment within the transport network, the transport proposals being built will help improve physical access – a example of this is the access for all programme at railway stations, or improvements to bus stops that will be rolled out as part of the bus improvement corridors as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, that will feature improved facilities for individuals. We encourage engagement in the consultation processes that are undertaken as part of the development of these transport infrastructure proposals, to ensure that these schemes are inclusive as possible.

The Combined Authority are working closely with equalities groups in the region to understand the impacts of the e-scooter rental trial on users with characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 (including those with visual impairment). Members of these groups are also closely involved

in the development of our Monitoring and Evaluation strategy. This is intended to help us gather as much information / learning as possible during the current trial period, so that we are well placed to react if/when a decision is made by central Government on the long-term legality of the use of e-scooters on the public highway. Our monitoring and evaluation activities will of course consider safety impacts for both scooter users and other road users (including pedestrians).

Regarding safety on public transport, or for walking and cycling, the Combined Authority is not running any campaigns directly regarding safety issues on the transport network. However, in working in partnership with the bus and train operators, we do support the campaigns for example, around women's safety on the rail network, and are aware that bus and train operations provide training to their staff to have consideration towards passengers who may be more vulnerable when using the public transport network, and how to intervene if issues do occur for these passengers.

However, we also need to acknowledge that we can and need to do more to ensure that access and safety is improved for the transport system. There are still issues with outdated infrastructure and vehicles that make it difficult for people to access trains and buses, safety on vehicles can still be a concern for many, safety concerns can be an issue for walking and cycling (especially at night), and there are issues of workforce diversity within the transport sector. In recent years, there has also been wider awareness of the transport issues that individuals with hidden disabilities have when using transport – such as neurodiversity like Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ADHD.

In recognition of the challenges still faced by individuals using transport, the Department for Transport in 2020, published its Inclusive Transport Strategy Plan, and the promotion of “its everyone's journey” public campaign, noting that disabled people have been disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic, with the aim of encouraging positive behaviours as we return to normal. This document recognises there is the need to do more within the transport sector to ensure inclusive transport, of which the Combined Authority will need to play its part in.

The inclusive transport strategy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-transport-strategy>

Specific to Pride Month:

GWR is a supporter of the Weston-super-Mare pride weekend, which is occurring on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> July. GWR is actively promoting its services to Weston-super-Mare railway station for this event, as well as to Bristol Temple Meads and Clifton Down stations for Bristol Pride, which will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

First Bus is a partner of Bristol Pride, and is operating a dedicated pride shuttle service between Parade End, the Amphitheatre and the Downs, running from 11:30am, with the last shuttle to the Downs at 7:30pm, with returns continuing into the evening as well as promoting the 1, 2, 3 and 4 services to the Downs for the event. The operator is also providing free bus travel for those with Pride supporter wristbands, within the First Bus Bristol Zone on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

In addition, both bus and train operators are operating rainbow-liveried vehicles in the region in support of Pride – the “Trainbow” GWR train, and rainbow liveried bus by First.

Question 2 .

What progress is being made on access for all bids and grants on access for all to metro west railway stations at Bristol Lawrence hill, Bristol Stapleton Road , Bedminster, Parson street, Nalisea and Backwell, oidfiled park and Trowbridge.

With the Department for transport Network rail western route and First group plc Great western railway.

What has happened to the successful bids for Weston super mare and Cheltenham spa lift scheme

What action is the Western gateway transport Board and west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council making to progress these schemes.

In view of the fact that disabled passengers can not get Network rail western route to hand rails at Avonmouth and Bristol Stapleton road station.

And a new footbridge was put in a Highbridge and Burnham station

With No disabled access by Network rail western route.

Please will the scrutiny commission as the mayor Dan Norris , Bristol city council Banes ,South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset council to reset up a access for all group with Network rail western. First group Great western railway, Transport focus western Transport gateway transport Board and Somerset cc Severnside community railway partnership South Gloucestershire disability equities Network, Bristol disability equities forum Banes and North Somerset forums

Ian Beckey Railfuture Severnside,

Brendon Taylor Bristol disability equities forum.

Somerset catch the bus campaign.

**Response:**

Thank you for your email regarding accessibility issues in the greater Bristol area. This is an important area of focus for the Combined Authority and is being targeted as part of the Combined Authority's 10 year rail delivery plan and 25 year rail strategies. Working with industry partners (Great Western Railways & Network Rail) we are aiming to improve station accessibility throughout our region.

We recently held a programme of workshops reviewing station accessibility across a selection of regional stations with Great Western Railways, Network Rail, the unitary authorities and Severnside Community Rail Partnership. The output of these workshops was the approval and funding to do initial design work for a "Step Free" solution at Lawrence Hill station. If the construction phase is funded in the future, we hope to have a solution in place by the end of 2025. Alongside this workstream, as part of our 10 year rail delivery plan, we plan to take more stations in the Combined Authority region requiring accessibility improvements into the initial feasibility/design stages and hopefully through to construction.

Also, Network Rail and Great Western Railways have submitted a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funding towards accessibility enhancement works at other stations in our region, including Oldfield Park, Parson Street and Stapleton Road. If funded, these are planned to be delivered between 2024 and 2029. This funding is not guaranteed, as other regions are competing for a national DfT 'Access for All' funding pot. Due to the cost of installing accessible footbridges and limitations on the overall national funding pot, securing funding will be extremely competitive.

Nailsea and Backwell station, Weston Super Mare, Cheltenham Spa and Trowbridge Stations all fall outside the West of England Combined Authority region, therefore we have limited involvement with accessibility improvements in these locations. We have tried this week to source information on progress with accessibility improvements at these stations from Network Rail and Great Western Railways but key representatives are unavailable. Hopefully this can be shared separately to this response.

Recognising the importance of improving accessibility at our regional stations, we are happy to commit to exploring the possibility of instigating a forum of key stakeholders, focussed specifically on station accessibility.

## **Item 2 – David Redgewell**

### **Question 1**

In view of the Government leveling up bill proceedings through the house of lord and house of commons.

What progress is being made to bring the local Enterprise partnership in the west of England mayoral combined Authority as a committee of the combined Authority

This will allow North Somerset council now to join the Authority

Allowing the combined Authority to negotiate a New devolution deal in phase 1 .

This could include full public transport precept for bus coach train ferry and future mass transit lights railway system.

And a railway executive jointly with Western gateway transport Board.

Interchanges facilities and bus stations.

As well a Devolution deal on Transport infrastructure and fares.

### **Response:**

The Government White Paper "Levelling Up the United Kingdom", published on 2 February 2022, proposes changes to the current framework for the governance and funding of LEPs. It sets out the Government's intention that LEPs will integrate into Combined Authorities where they exist. It sets out that where a LEP's geography does not match that of the Combined Authority, solutions will be considered by Government on a case by case basis.

In the case of the West of England LEP, North Somerset is outside the Combined Authority area and so a bespoke solution will need to be developed for the provision of LEP functions in North Somerset. At its meeting on 30th March, the LEP Board made a recommendation to establish a working group comprising representatives from the Combined Authority, the LEP, North Somerset and a representative from the three other Unitary Authorities to consider options and proposals to bring before the respective bodies in the summer. The Combined Authority subsequently adopted this recommendation at its meeting on the 8 April.

The subgroup is now working towards the Government's timetable of submission of an integration plan by the end of July.

The integration of the LEP into the Combined Authority will have no impact on the membership of the Combined Authority itself or on the terms of the devolution deal for the West of England. North Somerset will remain outside the Combined Authority area as is currently the case.

## Question 2

In view of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council having the second largest bus service improvements plan money allocation in the country

What progress is being made to properly maintain passenger information services

And bus shelters and interchanges

across the city and county of Bristol, Banes council South Gloucestershire council and working in partnership with North Somerset council.

Some shelters in Weston super mare at ellborough park Weston super mare on route 7 and 20 are unsafe condition as Alcombe road in Weston super mare.

Main shelters on the A4 between Bristol and Bath via keynsham and Salford via Bristlington are graffiti.

Timetable unreadable.

A370 main bus stop and timetable are unreadable and between Bristol city centre and Weston super mare bus station have graffiti with homophobic and racist remarks on them .

As Do timetable and shelters from Bristol city centre to Hotwells Bower Ashton, Ashton court smashed shelters toward Bristol, pill , portbury and Portishead.

Main shelters in Bristol city centre and Bath city centre kingswood and the North fringe are graffiti damage what being Done to repairs and clean bus shelters and interchanges including broken benches at Bath spa bus and coach.

Realtime information not working at Weston super mare bus and coach station interchanges on 1 points

Out of date bus tube maps in Weston super mare.

And for the police to catch the people carrying out criminals damage.

What urgent action is west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council taking with the city and county of Bristol , South Gloucestershire council and Banes .

Repair and clean very important public transport infrastructure.

As this gives a very poor impression of the west of England metro mayor transport services jointly with North Somerset council.

We need a urgent bus stop shelter maintenance service.

David Redgewell South west transport Network.

**Response:**

Bus stops and roadside infrastructure in the Combined Authority area are owned and maintained by our constituent councils. At present, different standards of cleaning and maintenance apply in each area. Every roadside timetable poster in the CA area has local authority contact details for damage and graffiti to be reported directly and followed up promptly.

Where specific locations have been identified in the question, we will pass that information on to the relevant councils.

The issues highlighted in respect of North Somerset Council's area have been passed on to them to follow up.

One of the commitments in the draft enhanced partnership for buses is for the authorities to work together to establish a consistent standard of bus shelter cleaning and maintenance across the whole area.



## **WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday, 27 June 2022**

### **Statements received from the public**

#### **1. David Redgewell – Transport issues**

With the leveling up bill going through the House of commons and the House of lords giving more powers to the combined mayoral Authorities.

and for the local Enterprise partnership to become a committee of the west of England mayoral combined Authority

and for the local Enterprise partnership and North Somerset council to join the

West of England mayoral combined Authority in phase 1 of the leveling up proposals.

This will allow the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority. To have the same powers as Mayor Andy Burnham Greater Manchester combined transport Authority

West Midlands combined transport Authority under mayor Andy streets

To set a precept for local bus service's

Local bus and coach services

Bus stations .

Coach stations .

Ferry services .

Mass transit system and light rail. systems in the future. .

And public transport interchanges .

We all with the public transport users groups from Transport for Greater Bristol, Friends of Bristol suburban railways ,Portishead railway group

Somerset catch the bus campaign.

Somerset bus partnership.

Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign.

Railfuture Severnside and South west.

South west transport Network.

Bristol disability equities forum.

South Gloucester disability equities Network.

Would all to see a proper west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and more direct control over the Greater Bristol,Bath and Weston super mare city region public transport Network.

In partnership with Western Gateway Sub Regional Transport Board and South west Transport Board.

AS Railway Executive powers are to be made available to both organisations.

For both west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and mayor Dan Norris and the regional Transport Boards under The Great Britain's Railway bill .

On Railway we need to make progress on metro west on the following routes

Bristol Temple meads to Bedminster,parson street pill and Portishead.

With a future station at Ashton Gate.

Bristol Temple meads to Lawrence hill, Stapleton road,Ashley Down , Filton North and Henbury for cribs causeway.

Henbury loop.

Re opened

Bristol Temple meads to Gloucester central and Cheltenham spa service.

Via Lawrence hill, Stapleton road Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood,Bristol Parkway,Yate , Charfield new station cam and Dursey stonehouse new station Gloucester central, Cheltenham spa Ashchurch for Tewkesbury and Worcester shrub hill Worchester Forgate street.

Half hourly services

Bristol Temple meads to keynsham saltford new station oidfiled park Bath spa , Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon Trowbridge Westbury warminster and Frome

All metro west routes .

Half hourly services

The Bristol Temple meads to pill and Portishead route requires leasing of rolling stock and train units by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council and subsidies or the train services.

This will allow the secretary of state to find the extra £ 15 .5 million pounds.

In capital for the project.

Reopening of the line .

In the case of the Bristol Temple meads station to Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood Filton North and Henbury for cribs.

The same applies lease for the train unit and subsidies by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and Bristol city council and South Gloucestershire council.

Lack of Disabled access to stations

On access for all with Network rail western route.

It would appear before the the covid 19 lockdown that we were making progress

On access for all schemes to Railway stations and interchanges.

Ramps at Bristol Stapleton road, but we still need lifts , Lifts at Patchway station,

New lift at Bristol parkway.

And plans for construction by Network rail western route for lifts in conjunction with western gateway transport Board.

For stations at Weston super mare and Cheltenham spa.

and Torquay in the south west Transport Board area along with Theale all access for scheme on Network rail western routes. Have stalled Why ????

We have access for all bids with first group Great western railway and Network rail western route.

On Lawrence hill, Stapleton road, Bedminster, parson street, Nailsea and Backwell, Oldfield park , Trowbridge, Castle Cary and Bridgwater.

Plus Par and Bodmin parkway in south west transport Board area .

With the Bristol Temple meads to Weston super mare and Taunton line being part of metro west in the future

Disabled groups are concerned about Network rail western route putting in Brand new footage without ramps or lifts with no public consultation.

Or diversity impact assessments.

This is the rail head for Burnham on sea Berrow and Brean .

We can not get hand rails at Bristol Stapleton road and Avonmouth Dock stations to the platforms

We need an urgent working group with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority, Bristol city council Transport focus Bristol disability equities forum South Gloucestershire disability Network, Severnside railway partnership. Network rail western and First group Great western railway.

Western gateway transport Board and Banes , South Gloucestershire North Somerset council Somerset and Gloucestershire.

This working party happened pre covid 19 at Temple point Network rail western Bristol headquarters.

We also do not understand the situation regarding modernisation of our railways

Will any money be spent on opening up the Bristol Temple meads to pill and Portishead line

Bristol Temple meads to the Henbury loop line.

Or charfield , Salford,or Ashton Gate station

Electrification from Chippenham station to Bath spa and Bristol Temple meads and Bristol parkway.

From any National budget savings ??

In the Railway budget.

With a 2 billion pounds saving .

We welcome the government leveling up money for Temple meads station and Temple quay .

On buses we welcome the city region transport plan money but we need

A co production of infrastructure on the sustainable transport corridors

Toward net zero

On the following corridors

Part of the city region transport plan.

Need bus priority measures and investment

Bristol bus and coach station to Yate and chipping sodbury

Bristol bus and coach station to Thornbury via Bradley stoke and the A38

Bristol bus and coach station ,Bristol Temple meads station, knowle, Hengrove whitchurch pensford  
Clutton Temple cloud Farrington Gurney, chewton mendip, wells, Glastonbury and street

Bath spa bus and coach station to peasdown st john Radstock, Westfield midsomer, Norton paulton  
chilcompton or shepton mallet

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

Bristol bus and coach station to Hotwells ,Ashton court pill and Portishead.

Bristol bus and coach station to Nailsea Backwell station and clevedon.

Bristol bus and coach station to Weston super mare via Hotwells road Backwell cleve and congesbury and worle .

Bristol Bond street,Bristol Airport churchill, East Brent, Bridgwater ,Taunton Wellington ,cullompton ,Exeter Newton Abbott and Plymouth coach station

Whitchurch/ stockwood,Hengrove knowle, city centre ,park street ,Clifton Down station ,Westbury Henbury Henleaze Brentry and cribbs causeway bus and coach station.

These corridor need realtime information drop Kerbs and castle Kerbs and shelters.

All should be the same high quality branding across North Somerset and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

Travel west of similar new logos .

We must have quality maintenance contact in place jointly by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council under the bus service improvements plan .

We need the same quality of interchanges facilities and passenger information and bus information as the west Midlands combined transport Authority with Andy streets or Greater Manchester combined transport Authority Andy Burnham.

The lack of shelter maintenance in

BANE S Along the A4 is giving a very poor impression for the travelling public and lack of bus stop maintenance and tagging.

The Bristol city centre to Hotwell Road and to Backwell cleve congesbury worle and Weston super mare bus station is very bad with tagging broken shelters and racists and homophobic tags

And shelters thick with dirty

Portishead and clevedon have shelters tagged and graffit sprayed

.

Bristol bus station to to Ashton court

Pill Portway and Portishead have damaged bus shelters.

Weston super mare town has damaged shelters in Ellborough park Beach road services 20 and park side services 6 . 7 with flooding at the bus stop.

Atworth road locking road has smashed shelters.

Parts of Clevedon have no timetables at main stops .

Realtime bus and rail information is not working at Weston super mare bus interchange

Parts of South Gloucestershire Kingswood have damaged and graffiti shelters

Bath spa bus and coach station is not being maintained with broken seats .

Bath spa bus and coach station and Weston super mare bus station.

Has no National Express coaches megabus information.

Bristol bus and coach station .

Has damaged doors and glass roofs

If we are to deliver the city region transport plan and infrastructure we must have a clear delivery team at west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

With Bristol city council and South Gloucestershire council.

And cross border working with western gateway transport Board and South west transport Board.

Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire councils

We also need to do a review of support bus services which the metro mayor Dan Norris has extended to April 2023 with the unity Authorities.

North Somerset council need to put more funds into 672 Blagdon Chew valley Bristol bus service.

and a tender process needs to happen for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council services.

On course North Somerset council and the local Enterprise partnership need to become part of the west of England mayoral combined Authority as soon as possible in leveling up bill phase 1 .

We need a fully integrated transport Authority.

We are concerned that statements on the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council Public Transport Facebook site suggest that it could take 3 years to bring public transport interchanges and infrastructure up to a safe maintenance standard.

Passenger in North Somerset council and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority need these repairs to bus shelters in Weston super mare, Ellenborough park both side of the park Atworth road Weston super mare.

Graffiti removal on the A370 From Bristol bus and coach station to Weston super mare via Hotwells ,Backwell, Cleeve , Congesbury, Worle and Weston super mare bus and coach.

A369 Bristol bus and coach station city centre Hotwells road Bower Ashton,pill , Portishead.

Shelters damaged at the suspension bridge and Graffiti on shelters in Portishead, Portbury , Gordano and pill .

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

Part of South Gloucestershire around kingswood

Realtime information displays not working in key locations including west on super mare town centre.

This is giving a very poor impression of public transport and is a maintenance issue is the metro mayor Dan Norris and his team raising the issue with The city and county of Bristol mayor , Banes leader Kevin guy council leader of South Gloucestershire council Toby savage leader and North Somerset council leader .councillor steve Bridger.

We need a van type services to maintain public transport interchanges and infrastructure.

But can not wait 3 years for basic public transport interchanges and infrastructure maintenance.

Bath spa bus and coach station need seats repaired and Tourist information point in the Travel centre as Does Bristol.

Bristol bus and coach station has broken Doors at the Entrance panel missing on the Glass roof at the Taxis stand entrance.

and No cleaning machines working.

The question of bus station maintenance is some think that should be addressed by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and especially with North Somerset council joining the combined Authority with the local Enterprises partnership.

The Bristol Temple meads Temple quay leveling up money also needs to look at Ferry interchanges and infrastructure at the Railway station and disabled access.

The ferry boats also need disabled lifts fittings.

The company is keen to work with Bristol city council west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and metro mayor Dan Norris on a services from the city centre to Bristol Temple meads to Netham for st Anne's and to Hotwells.

In Bath from the city centre to Weston riverside.

Ferry service can play a key role in journey to Net zero along with bus services and metro west railway services.

But for this we need a clear delivery team of co production of the city regional transport plan.

With the city and county of Bristol.

North Somerset council, Banes and South Gloucestershire council

And west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

The metro mayor Dan Norris should chair a Transport Board with Members and officers from North Somerset council councillor Steve Bridger, councillor Don Alexander city and county of Bristol Sarah Warren Banes council.

Councillor Steven reade South Gloucestershire council.

On marketing we still need a campaign for more bus drivers, cleaners and Engineers, inspectors for the bus service's

And a marketing campaign to get passenger back on public transport in Greater Bristol, Bath Somerset, Wiltshire Gloucestershire and South west England this summer.

We have a working party looking at both bus service marketing and recruitment

And one for interchanges facilities and hubs

At Bristol city council.

And at Banes the journeys to net zero forum

In South Gloucestershire council a working party on Thornbury high street.

And Rock street which we need to progress for public transport interchanges facilities.

Public transport Network forum for yate and chipping sodbury.

and equalities groups

With the bus service changes to support bus service Network and bus service improvements plan Networks

We need a meeting of the bus users forum.



On region bus services with the Bristol bus and coach station to Bristol Temple meads, Hengrove  
Whitchurch, Pensford Clutton Farrington Gurney Chewton Mendip Wells bus and coach station  
Glastonbury and street.

376 is failing now to connections.

At Glastonbury town hall 77 to street and Yeovil bus and coach station.

29 Street and Taunton Town centre.

75 To Bridgwater hospital and Bridgwater bus and coach station.

Can this be raised with Somerset county council and First group.

DAVID REDGEWELL SOUTH WEST TRANSPORT NETWORK RAIL FUTURE SEVERN SIDE.

IAN BECKEY GLOUCESTERSHIRE CATCH THE BUS CAMPAIGN.

PETER TRAVIS SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP AND CATCH THE BUS CAMPAIGN.

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