

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE STATEMENTS, QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

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West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Thursday, 22 September 2022

Statements received from the public

1. David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside
2. Brendon Taylor, Bristol Disability Equalities Forum and Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign
3. Jordan Curran

1. David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

With the deepest bus service cuts anywhere in South west England .

We are very concerned that despite the bus driver shortages and recruitment campaign by First group plc and stagecoach group.

We are see the transfer of resources from secondary bus Network in Greater Bristol and Bath city region

The 178 has not been tendered

Radstock, Westfield, midsomer ,Norton paulton , Timbury ;marksbury keynsham Bristlington, Arnos vale Bristol Temple meads station ,Bristol bus and coach station.

and need to be urgently tendered.

82 Been tendered , Radstock, Westfield midsomer Norton, paulton Town services.

Services 20,Bath circular 11Bath to whiteway,12 in Bath to Bathampton have been tendered .

22 bus service in Bath has .been tendered.

20 service has been tendered.

And Hct group contract in Bristol.

North Somerset and Gloucestershire.

52 53 54 55 505 ,506, 512, 511

Have been tendered

These 3 services were used by residents

In whitchurch village.

55 whitchurch Hengrove Dundry to Bristol Airport

55 whitchurch Airport to clevedon via Yatton.

53 clevedon town services.

515 stockwood, whitchurch Hengrove Hospital imperial park

516 Whitchurch,Hengrove,knowle

Services tendered.

505 long Ashton park and ride to Clifton Cotham and Southmead hospital bus station.

506 Bristol city centre Lawrence hill Easton Eastville Horfield.

But not tender key route

In South Bristol. 96 St Anne's park Bristlington knowle Hengrove. Add on to 36 .

Bristol city centre to st Anne's.

Y3 Bristol to yate. Via Winterbourne

Y4 Bristol bus and coach station Eastville park Stapleton Frenchay winterbourne Frampton cotterell to yate.

All routes which should have been tendered as along with 178 .

379 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station Knowle Hengrove whitchurch pensford Clutton Farrington Gurney ,Paulton ,Welton ,westfield Peasdown st john Bath is a great service every 15 mins along the wells road .

But is not the same route .

178 Radstock Westfield midsomer Norton paulton Timbury marksbury keynsham Bristlington Arnos vale Bristol Temple meads station Bristol bus and coach station

Needs tendering

379 Bath spa bus and coach station to Bristol bus station via peasdown st john Radstock ,midsomer Norton ,paulton wells Road, Clutton ,pensford, whitchurch Hengrove knowle Bristol Temple meads

Bristol bus and coach station

Good service should have started April 2023

As use up drivers.

As does the 349 Bristol bus and coach station Temple meads Arnos vale Bristlington keynsham which follows the 349 cost £ 700 00 and uses Drivers

That could have used on local services

Services 4 operating Odd Down park and ride to Bath city centre bus and coach station to Royal united hospital.

Replacement for services 42 .

Odd Down park and ride to the RUH

Via Twerton.

Royal united hospital would not fund the services from it car park money.

No tender

Services 3 Bus station To Bathford

Will not serv Elmhurst estate.

Cars BLOCKING the buses.

X2 tender services Yatton to Bristol bus and coach station.

Tender by North Somerset council.

126 wells bus and coach station to cheddar,Axbridge winscombe Banwell locking Weston bus and coach station.

Tendering by North Somerset council and Somerset county council.

D2 Bath to Frome via Midford, Norton st Phillips,Rode and Beckington.

Not tendered by Somerset county council.is west of England mayoral combined transport Authority not asked for money

Train services Bath spa to Frome .

But village with no Evening service.

Sunday services still operating.

2 hourly.

Services 20 Weston super mare bus and coach station Railway station,uphill hospital,Brean ,Barrow and Burnham on sea .

Sunday services not tendered Somerset county council and North Somerset council.

No Sunday bus service to Weston super mare hospital.

Train for Highbridge and Burnham on sea to Weston super mare railway station.

But no hospital link.

We to to promote bus railway tickets.

Freedom pass and plus bus tickets.

Where passenger will need to make bus rail journeys.

Bus tickets where they are on more operator Services

Bath rider

Avon rider

Weston super mare rider

Wiltshire Rambler.

Faresaver is looking at taking over services in the Bath area

Kevin and Yourself should meet them

A bus on the 22 Twerton to the university and 82 Radstock Westfield midsomer Norton paulton town services.

CTC coaches may be interested in running 178 if it Tendered

By the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

But you need to talk to them

May a service Radstock Westfield midsomer Norton paulton Timbury marksbury keynsham
Bristolington park and ride connections to Bristol.

The issue for first group plc.

Is they are putting all their resources on the most profitable route with government funding and
main line buses.

University and college services which make money but drop secondary social bus Network.

This is an issue need to be addressed through the enhanced quality partnership schemes west of
England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Or with North Somerset council joining the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority
with the lep .

A bus Franchise area needs to be established by the west of England mayoral combined transport
Authority Dan Norris if a enhanced quality partnership does work for community.

Including the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council to
improve bus and public transport interchanges and infrastructure.

Including repairs bus and coach stops and shelters and removing tagging

The metro mayor Dan Norris need to take over bus infrastructure bus coach stations and
interchanges.

And precept to fund public transport like the west Midlands combined Authority

Mayor Andy streets

Greater Manchester combined transport Authority

Mayor Andy Burnham.

As special urgent west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset
council joint committee and west of England mayoral combined Authority committee meeting

are required on the bus service cuts by First group plc

And the winding of Hct group bus services.

Plus of west of scrutiny commission meeting.

From South west transport Network and Railfuture.

Firstly we would like to support the need for a mass transit light rail system.

For the Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset.

We believe the system should be integrated with the local metro west railway Network bus rapid
transit system bus and coach plus ferry services.

The route stations and stops should be fully accessible with platform fully accessible for wheelchair
users.

Like the fully accessible system in Newcastle upon Tyne, Manchester metro link and west Midlands metro stations.

A light rail system is required for the Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

We believe the the first line should be to South Bristol and Bristol Airport.

Which will not require much Tunneling as the are road wide enough for street running in South Bristol including the metro bus route that can be converted to a light rail system like the system in Edinburgh Scotland.

The other Route is Bristol bus and coach station to Bath via Bristol Temple meads station st Phillips marsh Arnos vale keynsham Salford/ Kelston Newbridge Weston and Bath spa bus and coach station.

This can use the North Somerset Railway through Bristlington to callington road then the A4 to Keynsham bypass Salford ,Newbridge ,Weston or Twerton on Avon,Bath spa,Bus and coach station. and Bathford.

The mass transit system could use the Bitton railway from Bitton to Newbridge and Bath city centre.

Other routes to From Bristol city centre to North Bristol need evaluation.

And to East Bristol / kingswood.

Including Tunnels option .

But a lot of the system should be street running were possible like Greater Manchester and Greater Nottingham.

And the system needs to be fully intergrated with metro west.

Bristol Temple meads station to pill and Portishead and Ashton Gate station.

Bristol Temple meads station to Lawrence hill,Stapleton road , Ashley Down,Filton Abbey wood, Filton North and Henbury for cribbs causeway.

Bristol Temple meads station Lawrence hill Stapleton road ,Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood Bristol parkway station, yate charfield,cam and Dursey stonehouse Bristol road Gloucester central and Cheltenham spa

Bristol Temple meads station,keynsham,Oidfiled park, Bath spa Freshford ,Avoncliff, Bradford on Avon Trowbridge, Westbury warminster ,Frome

And possible new stations at st Anne's park and saltford.

We need a fully integrated mass transit system.

With through tickets and intergrated transport system.

With regards to update on the bus Network we are pleased that the mayor

Is making progress.

With replacement bus services.

For services being cuts .

In the following areas.

Services 96 st Anne's park Bristlington knowle Hengrove whitchurch Hartcliffe.

Is to be run by Abus .

And services 22 Twerton to the university in Bath .

Service 82 Radstock, Westfield midsomer Norton, paulton

Libra travel.

511 in Bristol to Bedminster Euro Taxis.

52 Bishopsworth to Bristol city centre Transpora .

62 Thornbury, Berkley , sharpness, Dursey may lane.

Connections for Bristol with first group Applegate coaches.

But the mayor still need very urgent action.

On services 178 Radstock, Westfield Midsomer Norton paulton, Timbury, marksbury keynsham Bristlington Arnos vale Bristol Temple meads station Bristol bus and coach station

The section between Midsomer Norton paulton ,Timbury ,marksbury, keynsham Bristlington.

With a new operator.

Services 5

Bristol city centre st Paul st werburges Eastville park ,Stapleton ,Broomhill, Oidbury court, Downend.

Y4 Bristol bus and coach station Eastville park ,Stapleton, Frenchay winterbourne ,Frampton cotterell, Coalpit heath yate bus station.

Theses route serv Hospitals with no replacement services at Frenchay.

Stapleton. And Glenside hospital uwe campus.

Services 47 Bristol bus and coach station st paul st werburges Eastville park Fishponds Road, Fishponds, oidbury court ,Emerson green ,Puckchurch and westerleight and yate not a replacement services.

Is not a replacement services

And with no evening or Sunday service.

Other services need replacement are services 12 in Bath spa bus and coach station to Bathampton.

Services 11 Bath spa bus and coach station to Haycombe.

Services 20 in Bath circle .

126 wells bus and coach station to cheddar,Axbridge ,winscombe, Banwell locking ,Weston bus and coach station.

X2 Yatton to Bristol bus and coach station.

55 whitchurch to Bristol Airport

Bristol Airport to clevedon. 54

53 clevedon town service.

D2 Bath spa bus and coach station Midford, Norton st Phillips Rode and Beckington.

Evening service.

Frome to Bath spa has a railway service but needs intergrated ticketing on first group bus and trains .

As does yatton to Bristol Temple meads via Nalisea and Backwell parson street and Bedminster.

These route still need discussion with local bus and coach operators.

Some have drivers .

Abus citistar Euro Taxis Applegate coach Barkers coaches centurion coaches Berkley coaches Transpora coachstyle Faresaver ctc coaches.

To see if any of these services can be operated.

Big lemon bus company of Brighton is looking to run bus services.

But need a western traffic commissioner Kevin Rooney area licence.

And bus Depot with pits and tools.

Before it can take over bus routes .

506 Bristol city centre to Lawrence hill Easton Eastville park Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

505 Southmead hospital bus station to Clifton to long Ashton park and ride.

515 Stockwood ,whitchurchn ,Hengrove hospital imperial park.

516 whitchurch park Hengrove hospital to knowle .

But we also need to understand why the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority has the following

Bus routes via the Gloucester Road to Bristol bus and coach station.

17 Keynsham,Warmley,Kingswood soundwell ,staple hill, Fishponds Eastville park ,Horfield ?Southmead hospital bus station Gloucester road to Bus and coach station.

Services Y6 chipping sodbury yate bus station to Frampton cottesell iron Acton winterbourne ,Hambroke ,Bristol parkway station little stoke ,Patchway cribbs causeway bus station,Filton, Southmead hospital ,bus and coach station then via Gloucester road to Bristol bus and coach station

When these bus drivers could change over at Southmead hospital bus station with cafes and restaurants.

Services 349 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale,Bristolington and keynsham.

Is duplicating the Bristolington park and ride bus service From Bristol city centre and Bristol Temple meads station to

Bristolington,

Run very empty

Costing Drivers and £ 700 000 .

In west of England mayoral combined transport Authority subsidies.

Services 36 Bristol city centre to st Anne's park could start from Broadmead shopping centre and still run to Bristolington and save drivers and a bus

But first group plc is run buses to it's new canteen in the city centre or the bus station.

We need to Network review services with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council with the bus operators and First group plc and stagecoach group.

With more passenger input through the bus forum and Bus service Advisory Board.

Which must include Transport Board members Sarah Warren from Banes ,steve Reade from South Gloucestershire council Don Alexander Bristol city council and Steve Hogg from North Somerset council and passenger group's as per Department for transport instructions in bus back better.

And North Somerset council to join with the lep the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

On tickets all tickets should be all operators tickets Bath rider

Bristol rider ,Weston super mare rider

Avon rider and Freedom pass bus and rail services.

And ferry services in Bristol harbour.

Which need investment in disabled access to ferries and wharf.

2. Brendon Taylor, Bristol Disability Equalities Forum and Ian Beckey Gloucestershire Catch the Bus Campaign

Whist we welcome the investment in light rail/ mass transit system. for Great Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset council. area . Which need to be fully accessible and design for disabled passengers.

Like Manchester metro link and Glasgow trans clyde Network.

And Newcastle upon Tyne metro system which is fully accessible and has bus and ferry connections.

Which we welcome between Bristol and Bath and Bristol and Bristol city centre and South Bristol and Bristol Airport.

Bristol city centre and East Bristol.

We welcome the Investment in metro west Bristol Temple meads pill , Portishead line and a station at Ashton Gate in the future.

Bristol Temple meads station.

Lawrence Hill ,Stapleton road,Ashley Down Filton Abbey wood, Filton North for the Arena Henbury for cribs causeway.

Bristol Temple meads station Filton Abbey wood Bristol parkway station yate charfield cam and Dursey stonehouse Bristol road and Gloucester central.

Bristol Temple meads station keynsham Salford Bath spa Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon Trowbridge Westbury warminster or Frome.

These station need to be fully accessible.

But the most important issue is the cutting of bus services across the city region .

With area of the city region being left without public bus service.

Services y4 Bristol city centre st Paul's, St werburgess Eastville park, Stapleton Frenchay ,winterbourne, Frampton cotterell Coalpit heath yate bus station.

Park and ride.

5 Bristol bus and coach station st Pauls

St werburgess Eastville park Stapleton Broomhill Fishponds oidbury court Downend.

This services pass heath facilities at Stapleton university of the west of England Glenside campus Fishponds oidbury court Downend.

The vassal centre.

A west of England centre for independence living.

All these sites plus the head injury unit require at a bus service.

The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority does not appear to arrange any replacement support bus services.

In this area .

Except the 47 Bristol bus and coach station st Pauls st werburgess Eastville Fishponds Road services.

Oidbury court Downend Emerson green puckchurch westerleight and yate bus and coach station with no Evening and Sunday services.

Which does not operator the same route

And 626 Bus service wootton under edge iron Acton winterbourne Hambroke Frenchay, Stapleton ,Eastville park

Bristol city centre.

Other community cuts off our Midsomer Norton Paulton Timbury marksbury keynsham Bristlington Arnos vale Bristol Temple meads station Bristol bus and coach station.

178 needs a replacement services.

We understand the mayor talking to another operator.

Service x2 yatton to Bristol via cleverham Backwell and long Ashton,Ashton Gate. Hotwells.

Bristol bus and coach station.

We do have a Train services from

Yatton for clevedon Nalisea and Backwell parson street and Bedminster.

By first group Great western railway.

But services 55 whitchurch Hengrove Dundry and Bristol Airport.

54 Bristol Airport, Yatton station clevedon.

Clevedon town services.

126 Wells bus and coach station Draycott, cheddar, Axbridge, winscombe Banwell locking Weston bus and coach station

Services withdrawn.

D2 Bath bus and coach station Midford Norton st Phillips, Rode Beckington and Frome .

With the loss of the Evening service.

But with a train services.

Frome to Bath spa station.

But with no intergrated journeys bus and railway tickets other than plus bus .

We are concerned to see with a shortage of Drivers

We appear to have the following

Routes in operation with west of England mayoral combined transport Authority money.

Services 17 keynsham town centre kingswood staple hill Fishponds Eastville park Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

Now operating to Gloucester Road .

And Bristol bus and coach station.

For Driver change over

Instead of kingswood.

Services Y6 chipping sodbury yate bus station Coalpit heath, winterbourne Frampton cotterell, Bradley stoke , Bristol parkway, little stoke cribbs causeway bus Patchway and Filton and Southmead hospital bus station then Gloucester Road and Bristol bus station.

But again why are these buses changing over at the bus station

For drivers and use of canteen.

Southmead hospital bus station.

Hospital has toilets and cafes .

Which stagecoach group use

Services 349 and Bristlington park and ride service.

Duplicate bus routes along the A4 .

From Bristol city centre/Bus station Arnos vale Bristlington .

The 349 should be merger with Bristlington park and ride and save

Drivers and £ 700 000 of subsidies.

Services 36 Bristol city centre to st Anne's park could start for Broadmead shopping centre and still run to Bristlington and save a bus .

It appears to be operating to Bristol city centre for a new staff canteen.

But theirs a canteen at Bristol bus and coach station

We are pleased the mayor Dan Norris saved the 96 St Anne's park, Bristlington knowle ,Hengrove,whitchurch.

511 Bedminster to Bristol service.

52 Bristol city centre to south Bristol.

We welcome discussion with the big lemon bus company.

And saving services.

516 Whitchurch,Hengrove.hospital knowle .

515 Stockwood,whitchurch Hengrove hospital imperial park.

505 Southmead hospital bus station to long Ashton park and ride via Clifton.

506 Bristol city centre Lawrence hill, Easton Eastville Horfield Southmead hospital.

But this company has no operators license in the western traffic commissioner office Kevin Rooney the commissioner .

The company also need a Depot with pits and tools.

In Bath Somerset.

We see the village of Bathampton to Bath city centre route cut

Services 11 Bath spa bus and coach station to Haycombe cemetery cut

Services 20 cut Bath circle.

Without replacement services.

Older people being unable to walk to alternative bus stops .

St Nicholas court ,Harbutts And centre of Bathampton around Halcombe close

Older people will struggle to catch the D2 on the main A36 to and from Bath bus and coach station.

Including crossing the trunk road A36 .

We need a replacement bus operator.

A small local company this need take over the road and west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

The mayor Dan Norris and councillor Sarah Warren Banes transport executive should talk to independent bus companies.

We welcome the mayor rescuing the following.

Services 22 Twerton to the university has been saved by Abus .

82 Radstock Westfield midsomer Norton paulton town services.

By libra travelling

So were are keen to see the metro mayor Dan Norris and councilor Steve Hogg of North Somerset council tender and award as many bus routes as possible.

But with the mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset council bring in more small local bus operators.

We want see marketing.

And reductions in bus fares on all bus and coach services operated by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

With the Avon rider.

Bristol rider .

Bath rider .

Weston super mare rider .

Freedom pass on all local bus service's

And railway services first group Great western railway and cross country trains German state railway.

Including marketing campaign for railcard and coach cards .

We need to promote intergrated transport services and mobility as a service.

To all passenger including disabled passengers.

In the bus service improvements plan and enhanced quality partnership.

We need passenger forums more than once a year.

The bus service Advisory Board and passenger forum must include passengers group and the Transport board councillors, Banes South Gloucestershire council, Bristol city council and North Somerset council.

Not just bus companies and west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council officers.

Finally we need Bristol ferry company ferries and Terminal to be made fully accessible.

And a services extension from.

Nathan to Bristol Temple meads and the city centre and Hotwells.

Inconjunction we welcome the work by the metro mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset councillor Steve Bridger.

On a mass transit system.

But top priority for for passenger is a bus rail coach and ferry Network.

And for west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council to protect bus service for communities for access to schools colleges university Hospitals shopping leisure and Tourism facilities.

Brandon Taylor for Bristol disability equities forum .

3. Jordan Curran - Buses

Pre Covid the Frome to Bath bus corridor had at least 4 buses (5 during peak times) an hour on it during the day time. Bus service frequency has been reduced severely now to only 1 bus an hour during the day time.

From October 9, First Bus are posing significant service changes to their bus network across the West of England region. For the First Bus D2 this means the loss of the evening week day bus service and the Sunday service reducing to two hourly but additional loss of a few bus services during the day too. This will mean the last week day bus from Bath to Frome will be 1910 in the evening, and towards Bath 1755.

Frome is the 4 largest town in Somerset with a population of over 26,000 as of 2011, this is more likely to be closer to 30,000 with recent developments in the town. Frome and the surrounding villages see Bath as their go to place for work, shops, leisure, hospitality, hospitals and also education for many of their children and further education opportunities. The D2 is Frome's only evening and Sunday bus service.

I absolutely cannot stress enough the negative effect the loss of the weekday evening D2 service could have on this Frome to Bath bus corridor -

As I have used the D2 bus services for many years I have got to know a lot of the people who use the bus. I know many, many people who are facing prospects of losing their jobs, as their jobs are reliant on hospitality industries, leisure industries shift work or irregular hospital shift work. These people work in RUH, St Martins, Theatre Royal, Roman Baths, Bath University, retail, hospitality and for other companies. These people aren't able to drive and reliant on the bus to get to work. And these people are more likely to earn the minimum wage.

This will have an overall effect on Frome's employment status, hindering growth and limiting existing opportunities. Plus have a detrimental impact on the Bath and North East Council's economy as people will have to give up their jobs as no longer able to get to work.

Frome has a younger population which is ultimately more reliant on buses compared to the national average, as stated in the Frome Town Profile 2016. I know many of the users of the evening service, many live in the villages between Frome and Bath such as Beckington, Norton St Philip and B&NES villages of Hinton Charterhouse and Midford. These villages have absolutely no alternative available as a result of the cuts. Many of the D2 evening users use the D2 as a safe option in order to get home, many being young females or those with additional needs.

I myself, due to a medical condition, will never be able to drive and the D2 is the only way I can hold down my job in Shepton Mallet (use the D2 and 174 First Bus to get to work). I work nights, so am completely ultimately dependant on the D2, and I must stress - I am not alone, many, many people's livelihoods are ultimately at stake with their employment. Some of these people have mouths to feed and must provide, and Frome has faced a difficult job market in recent years with many looking to larger places such as Bath for employment.

The social need of this service is massively important, connecting friends, family and communities. My best friend Seb lives in Brislington - And I go via Bath on the D2 to get there, and I have no idea how we're going to see each other as a result of these changes. There is not a reasonable alternative and this is going to affect both mine, and many others in Frome's mental health incredibly negatively, just after a time when Covid-19 massively effected the mental health with isolation all over the world.

Some have promoted the train as a reasonable alternative for the D2, especially in the evenings - I am telling you now, the train is not an alternative for the D2 bus service, especially in the evenings. As it stands, Frome station is in an awkward location at the eastern edge of town, with a lack of infrastructure to connect it even with eastern developments such as Edmund park - with some facing walks up of to two miles from a dark unlit station, along dark unlit paths such as Willow Vale. There have also been several attacks at night over the last year in Frome and it's not safe to walk home late at night across Frome. There is no bus from the train station and Frome a lot of Frome taxi companies have gone out of business post Covid and the ones that remain don't operate late the evening. Frome station has, quite frankly, stagnated growth and not seen many improvements in the timetable for many years, at present the average is roughly a direct train every 2/3 hours between Bristol/Weymouth. Fares remain high, with a return to Bath well over £10, and the train which is meant to arrive at 43 minutes past midnight is usually prone to cancellations, delays and last minute alterations - the replacement is usually a 2 hour rail replacement bus via a long, convoluted route via Avoncliff - Meaning that some users may not arrive into Frome until gone 2 o'clock in the morning. The train does not serve any of the villages along the D2 route. As a local resident, knowing local

people, I know that the train arriving at 43 minutes past minute is also under threat in the GWR December timetable change.

By having no weekday evening D2 bus service will significantly affect bus patronage in the afternoon and early evening journeys as people won't travel as they can't come back. Losing the weekday evening service will be the start of spiral of decline on the D2. I wouldn't be surprised if the D2 Sunday service is withdrawn in the future as less people start to use the D2.

My take is that the D2 is being made unattractive as possible to deter growth and people using the service, in order for First Group to promote the train - Recent developments such as routing via Rode mean a longer time for the average commuter, and most likely will result in less passenger numbers, meaning that a complete D2 service withdrawal could be on the cards - And First Group have showed general disinterest in running evening D2 bus services due to a shortage of drivers. We must have commitment and find a reliable bus operator to operate this vital Frome to Bath bus service along this corridor in the evenings, until more sustainable balancing is found.

Additionally, more environmentally sustainable travel is being encouraged but at the same time the bus network is being slashed. In Somerset, 45% of Co2 comes from transport emissions and rural areas have an even greater contribution to Co2. Now is the time we should be building a better bus network not facing severe bus cuts.

I urge the West of England Combined Authority to work with Somerset County Council and find a cost effective solution that also works for regular bus users to the weekday evening D2 bus service as like many I'm genuinely going to lose my job as a result of the bus service cut.

End

WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Thursday, 22 September 2022

Questions received from the public

Item 1 - David Redgewell

Question 1

What progress is now being made on the mass transit system study and does this fit in with the bus rapid transit corridors.

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

Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station, Bedminster parson street, Bristol Airport.

Bristol bus and coach station to East Bristol.

If we use light rail system overground then some services will need to go underground in section like.

The Newcastle upon Tyne metro and Glasgow metro system.

How does the metro project fit in with Metro west railway services.

Bristol Temple meads station to Pill , Portishead new station at long Ashton.

Bristol Temple meads Lawrence Hill Stapleton road Ashley Down Filton Abbey wood Filton North Henbury for cribs causeway future extension to Avonmouth.

Bristol to Gloucester central line

Filton Abbey wood, Bristol parkway station yate, Charfield cam and Dursey stonehouse Bristol road and Gloucester.

Including fitting in with city region bus Network which is top priority to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Response:

Work is continuing to prepare a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) under the banner "Future For West" which will be considered in due course, and subsequently submitted to DfT. As per government guidance, the purpose of the SOC is to establish the case for change and to provide a preferred way forward. It establishes the baseline for more detailed planning at a later stage. The SOC is the first of a three stage Business Case process.

We are keen to ensure that public transport is well connected, fast, frequent, reliable and affordable. Following the submission of the SOC, and if the Government agree to our plans, over the next few years an overall network route plan could be broken down into separate, smaller projects. This will integrate our various multi modal transport initiatives, including those funds for buses stemming from our recently awarded Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Again, we are still at an early stage in the project and currently assessing transport corridors at a strategic level. Assessments on how this would link with specific bus rapid transit corridors, as well as regional rail services and stations, would be undertaken at a later stage in the project.

Question 2

Bus service Emergency Tenders.

Whist being very pleased with the progress on the following bus services.

22 Twenton to the university.

96 St Anne's park, Bristlington, Knowle Hengrove, Whitchurch hospital

52 South Bristol to city centre.

511 Bedminster Town service.

62 Thornbury Berkeley sharpness Dursey may lane bus station

Connections for Bristol.

What progress are being made on the following services.

178 Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Timbury marksbury, Keynsham, Bristlington park and ride.

Y4 Bristol bus and coach station Eastville park Stapleton Frenchay winterbourne, Frampton cotterell, Coalpit heath yate bus and coach station.

Should be route 46 .

And operator via St Paul's St Werburghes

And iron Acton .

Services 5 Bristol city centre to Eastville Stapleton Fishponds Downend extension to yate via Puckchurch.

Services 505 Southmead hospital to Long

Ashton.

506 Southmead hospital to Lawrence hill city centre.

515, 516 Stockwood Hengrove Knowle / Imperial park.

56 Whitchurch to Bristol Airport.

Bristol Airport Clevedon 55

54 Clevedon town services.

126 Wells bus and coach station to Cheddar, Axbridge Winscombe, Banwell Locking Weston bus and coach station.

D2 Evening service

Frome to Bath spa bus and coach station via Beckington, Rode, Norton St Phillips Midford .

Services 11 Bath spa bus and coach to Bathampton.

Services 12 Bath spa bus and coach station to Haycombe .

20 Bath city circle.

With new operators Big lemon and Transpora

What check are being made on bus Depot s for these companies.

David Redgewell South west transport Network

Response:

We are pleased that alternative operators have been found for a number of formerly commercial services that would otherwise cease running in October.

We have also been successful in securing two new operators for the region who will in part cover contracted services previously run by HCT Group including the important services to Southmead and South Bristol hospitals.

We remain in talks with operators to try to continue those services that are due to cease from the 8th October. Unfortunately, a few services have not generated any interest from alternative operators (as of 16th September) and will cease from the 8th October. Please be assured that officers are continuing their search to find alternative suppliers.

We are satisfied that there are adequate depot facilities for the new operators in the region.

END

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