

A meeting of the

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

will be held on

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Place: Bristol City Council Council Chamber, City Hall, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR

Notice of this meeting is given to members of the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee as follows

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Smith, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Tristan Clark, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council

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West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda

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- Inspect background papers used to prepare public reports for a period public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of background papers to a report is given at the end of each report.) A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report.
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6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS)

5 - 20

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (written procedure)

1. Any member of the public can submit a maximum of two written questions in advance of this meeting.
2. The deadline for the submission of questions is 5.00 pm, at least 3 clear working days ahead of a meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for questions is **5.00 pm on 7 March 2023**.
3. Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and e-mailed to democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
4. Under the direction of the Chair, wherever possible, written replies to questions will be sent to questioners by the end of the working day prior to the meeting.
5. Please note - under the Combined Authority's committee procedures, there is no opportunity for oral supplementary questions to be asked at committee meetings.
6. The written questions and replies will be circulated to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

1. Any member of the public may submit a written statement (or petition) to this meeting.
2. Please note that one statement per individual is permitted.
3. Statements must be submitted in writing and received by the deadline of 12 noon on the working day before the meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for statements is **12 noon on Friday, 10 March 2023**. Statements should be emailed to democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
4. Statements will be listed for the meeting in the order of receipt. All statements will be sent to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.
5. **Please note:**

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting to orally present their statement, they are asked please to notify the Combined Authority's Democratic Services team of this at the point when their statement is submitted and by 12 noon on the working day before the meeting at the very latest.

For those presenting their statements at the meeting, up to 3 minutes 'speaking time' is permitted for each statement. The total time available for the public session at this meeting is 30 minutes.

Next meeting: Date Not Specified

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West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March 2023

Statements received from the public

1. David Redgewell, South West Transport Network, Railfuture Severnside and Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disabilities Equalities Forum
2. Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus service campaign, Brendon Taylor Bristol Disability Equalities Network and Somerset catch the bus campaign.
3. Adam Reynolds

1. David Redgewell, South West Transport Network, Railfuture Severnside and Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disabilities Equalities Forum

The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council is responsible for the Region public transport Network.

With the bus service improvement plan and the city region sustainable transport strategy

But with over£ 108 million pounds of bus service improvement plan money

We are still see some of deepest bus cuts in any city region.

Whole communities are losing their bus services in South/ East and North Bristol in April 2023

With no replacement bus services

and in June 2023 in part of Bath and North east Somerset and South Gloucestershire council areas.

With Demand responsive bus services only being able to operate in Deep rural areas

And a very small part of Bristol in Brislington, keynsham, Totterdown Avonmouth and Severn Beach.

And just 2 bus service improvement plan service due to start operating

On 522 Bristol bus and coach station to Arnos vale Bristlington keynsham marksbury Timbury paulton,Midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock peasdown st john and Bath spa bus and coach station

On the Northern end of the Bristol city council to st Pauls St werburges Eastville park Fishponds road oidbury court Downend Emerson green puckchurch westerleight yate bus station route .

From Emerson green puckchurch westerleight yate bus and coach station and Yate North as service 525 .

With a large number of bus services being withdrawn in South Bristol being service on 1st April 2023 .

96 Bristlington ,knowle Hengrove hospital ,imperial park Hartcliffe.

516 Whitchurch estate , Hengrove knowle

52 Bishopsworth to Hengrove hospital and Bristol city centre.

91 Bristol city centre, Bedminster,Knowle Hengrove , Hartcliffe

23 Ashton vale, Southville,Bedminster Bristol city centre and Broadmead.

636 whitchurch stockwood keynsham.

In East Bristol the service.

47 Bristol city centre St Paul's st werburges Eastville park Fishponds road oidbury court Downend Emerson green puckchurch westerleight yate bus station and yate been withdrawn.

Leaving community's without public transport.

2 disability equality centre are left without public transport st Paul's learning centre and west of England centre for independence living In oidbury.

508 Bristol city centre st Phillips ,Lawrence hill Easton Eastville and Southmead hospital bus station.

Service 17 keynsham town centre Hanham , kingswood corsham hospital,Hillfield, staple hill Fishponds, Eastville park,

Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

Evening services.

In North east Somerset.

Bus service are being withdrawn in june 2023 .

179 Bath spa bus and coach station to Timbury paulton,Midsomer Norton.

672 Bristol city centre Bedminster Highridge Bridgwater road to the chew valley.

172, Bath spa bus and coach station to peasdown st john Radstock Westfield midsomer Norton paulton and wells bus and coach station.

Evening service.

768 Bath spa bus and coach station to Timbury paulton,Midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock .

82 Radstock, Town service.

Radstock Westfield,midsomer ,Norton paulton Town service.

In North Bristol Greater Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

Service 10 11 shirehampton/ Avonmouth Dock Lawrence Weston Westbury on Trym Southmead hospital bus station uwe bus station Bristol parkway station Bradley stoke Aztec west Hortham Alverston Thornbury.

Section better Southmead hospital bus station Uwe bus station and Bristol parkway Aztec west Hortham Alverston Thornbury.

Is withdrawn on 1st April 2023 .

Service 85 84 is planned to be withdrawn in june 2023 yate park and ride yate rail station yate bus station chipping sodbury Wickwar charfield and Wotton under edge .

622 Cribbs causeway bus station Overton ,Alverston ,Thornbury yate bus station and chipping sodbury.

With west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan bus services .

A number of bus service were planned but never let at tendered.

Service we need looking at working with Bus operators to create new bus services.

St Anne's park,Bristlington, knowle Hengrove whitchurch estate Hengrove hospital imperial park Hartcliffe withywood long Ashton park and ride.

This was to be service 521 524 and could be incorporated into a new South Bristol commercial bus service.

A service could be developed in From Ashton vale Southville Bedminster st John lane Redcliffe Bristol Temple meads station Bristol Broadmead shopping centre, st paul ,st werburgess Eastville park ,Stapleton ,Broomhill Fishponds, oidbury court Downend Bromley heath winterbourne Frampton cotterell.

A service Bristol city centre Anchor Road Bedminster,parson street,Highridge Dundry chew magna chew valley and onward to cheddar or wells bus and coach station

This was 527 with extended to wells bus and coach or cheddar.

Service 179 Bath spa bus service cuts Timbury, Farmborough ,Paulton,midsomer Norton Tesco and wells bus and coach station.

We also have Demand responsive bus services in Radstock,Westfield Midsomer, Norton paulton

We need fixed timing point on this route it could be subcontracted to Liberia travel with a 27 seater bus service.

The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority is with North Somerset council joint transport Authorities and need to deliver a full universal bus service.

The Act of parliament that set up the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority which put a joint Duty on the unity councils Bristol, Banes and South Gloucestershire council. and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and the metro mayor Dan Norris to maintain public bus services and cross border services.

In to North Somerset council.

We urgently need universal bus service plan for the Greater Bristol and Bath city region for a Network.

Not just a bus service improvement plan

That improve bus service on the following bus and sustainable transport corridors.

Bristol M32 to Bradley stoke Aztec west Alverston Thornbury.

Bristol M32, Hambroke ,Coalpit heath yate park and ride, Yate railway station yate bus station and chipping.

Cribbs causeway bus station , Henbury Brenty westbury on Trym, Southmead

Henleaze Clifton Down station park street city centre Broadmead Bristol Temple meads station Totterdown knowle Hengrove whitchurch/ stockwood.

Bristol bus station Totterdown knowle Hengrove whitchurch Pensford Clutton Farrington Gurney Wells bus and coach station Glastonbury and street.

Farrington Gurney,

Paulton,Midsomer Norton, Westfield ,Radstock, peasdown st john Bath spa bus and coach station .

This corridor starts from wells bus and coach station via chilcompton shepton mallet interchanges.

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

Bristol pill and Portishead.

Bristol to Nailsea.

Bristol to Clevedon.

Bristol bus and coach Backwell Congesbury Worle interchange and Weston super mare bus and coach station

London Transport peak hour service every 15 minutes actually Transport London frequencies are every 5 to 7 minutes and universal service Network.

Many corridors have reduced Evening and Sunday services.

349 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station, Arnos vale Bristlington keynsham park estate loss its Evening service.

The corridor service contracted to First group plc.

Are £ 7 million pounds in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority. to First group plc.

£4 million pounds on service by North Somerset council to First group plc.

Public transport Network is one of the main functions of setting up the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority with partnership with North Somerset council through the bus service improvement plan and metro west railway Network plan .

But mayor Dan Norris has no precepting powers and is reliant on the Transport levy from Bristol city council, Banes and South Gloucestershire county council.

As the Auditor has said the support bus services and Demand responsive bus services is a very high risk strategy..

The bus service strategy needs to sort out

With some bus service improvement plan services new and supported bus services as per Somerset council, Devon and Cornwall councils.

On metro west railway .

We welcome the investment in Bristol Parkway station.

A further £1, 2 million for station track and signalling work to Network rail western route.

But the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority is being asked to 02 million pounds of revenue support from the Seven Beach St Andrew road Avonmouth Dock station Parkway station Shirehampton sea mills Clifton Down station, Redland, Montpellier Bristol Stapleton road Bristol Lawrence hill Bristol Temple meads train service which operates as a through service to Bedminster parson street Nailsea and Backwell Yatton for Clevedon Worle Parkway Weston millon.

Weston super mare .

The revenue support is for 3 years to the Department for transport and First group plc Great western railway.

But we need more tickets machines

To protect revenue on the Bristol Temple meads station to Severn Beach line train service.

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

Will need to revenue support the Bristol Temple meads station Bedminster parson street pill and Portishead metro west railway service.

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

We still need planning permission granting by south Gloucestershire county council to Network rail western route and Firstgroup plc Great western railway to start work on this line .

These routes will require 3 years revenue support from the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Banes council South Gloucestershire council and Bristol city council will need to add money to the subsidies via the Transport levy.

Like bus and ferry railway revenue support needs addressing.

We welcome the half hourly train service from Bristol Temple meads station to keynsham oidfiled park Bath spa Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon Trowbridge and Westbury from may 2023 metro west railway.

With Wiltshire council.

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

With Gloucestershire county council.

Service starting in May 2023 .

We hope the metro west railway branding can be applied.

On mass transit system light railway.

Its important to develop the system for the Greater Bristol and Bath city region

We need to develop on light rail system.

Mass transit system.

Light rail system are operating in all other city regions

Liverpool city region.

Mersey Rail.

Mayor Steve Rotherham

West Midlands metro .

Expansion with mayor Andy street's.

South Yorkshire combined transport Authority.

Sheffield super tram .

Mayor of South Yorkshire combined Authority.

Nottingham super tram.

Newcastle upon Tyne.

Tyne and wear metro

North of Tyne mayor

Greater Manchester combined Authority metrolink .

Metro Andy Burnham.

Blackpool tramways .

Scotland.

Scottish government.

Edinburgh Tramway.

Glasgow underground.

Transclyde

Wales .

Welsh government.

Transport for Wales.

New light rail system in Cardiff and the valleys

Ireland.

Transport for Ireland.

Dublin lus

And Dart .

West Yorkshire combined Authority.

and Transport for the North

With the Department for transport are Developing a mass transit system light rail system .

Gloucestershire county council are

Looking at Hardwick Gloucester Cheltenham and Bishop cleve.

Are looking at mass transit.

So why not in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council area.



The Greater Bristol and Bath city region needs a mass transit system to be developed.

With Lee Rowley mp minister for leveling up Local government looking at the governance review and plan for the Authority.

We need a west of England mayoral combined transport Authority with North Somerset council and the local Enterprise partnership being a full member of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

We need the Transport and housing Board open to public as the Transport Boards are in the west Midlands combined Authority.

Liverpool city region.

Great Manchester combined transport Authority.

We also need to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Bus service improvement plan meeting in public on line .

Like Somerset county council Devon county council and Cornwall council.

Unless in contract negotiations with public transport operators

Public transport meeting should be held in public at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Stakeholder business and passenger are the heart of everything the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Carry out.

Please put passengers are the heart of the Transport Authority.

Passenger pay taxes and also vote for the unity councils at Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire county council.

Banes council North Somerset council and the west of England mayoral combined Authority metro mayor.

We need to transfer officer from the Transport Department's at Bristol city council Banes and South Gloucestershire council to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

And public transport infrastructure bus shelters interchanges facilities bus and coach and railway interchanges.

We need west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

To run all universal bus service provisions.

Metro west railway Network.

Metro bus services.

Ferry services.

Coach services.

Ticketing and passenger information.

Main highways.

We need a transport Authority with North Somerset council as a full member.

And co production of services with Bristol city council Banes South Gloucestershire county council and North Somerset council.

We must make the governance review work for passenger and communities.

So we do not get constant monitoring by the Department for leveling up minister lee Rowley mp minister for local government and Mark HARPER mp secretary of state for transport.

Especially as all our transport prodject are subject to gateway reviews by the Department for transport.

It very important the Bristol city council Banes South Gloucestershire council and North Somerset council as partners

Make the west of England mayoral combined combined Authority works for the city region and we work with the Elected regional metro mayor Dan Norris with 40 000 votes majority

2. Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus service campaign and Brendon Taylor Bristol Disability Equalities Network and Somerset catch the bus campaign

We are very very concerned about the loss of west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council support bus services being withdrawn on the 1st April 2023 and June 2023

Funded by the the Transport levy .

From Bristol city council Banes and South Gloucestershire council

Especially the 96 St Anne's park Bristlington, knowle, Hengrove,Hospital whitchurch, Hartcliffe

With no replacement bus service for passengers travelling to colleges and schools and South Bristol hospital having to bus service.

With 52 Bishopsworth to Bristol city centre via Hengrove hospital cancelled

516 Whitchurch estate Hengrove hospital Bristol cancelled.

636 Whitchurch stockwood keynsham bus service cancelled.

91 Bristol city centre to Bedminster, Hartcliffe.

23 Ashton vale, Southville, Bedminster Redcliffe Bristol Broadmead

512 Hengrove to Bedminster.

511 Totterdown to Bristol.

513 , 514 Bristlington knowle

47 Yate bus station westerleight puckchurch Emerson green Downend oidbury court Fishponds road Eastville park St werburgess st Paul's Bristol city centre

508 Bristol city centre st Phillips Lawrence hill, Easton, Eastville Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

10 11 Avonmouth Dock/ shirehampton Westbury on Trym Southmead hospital bus station uwe bus station Bristol parkway station Bradley stoke Aztec west Hortham Alverston Thornbury.

Withdrawn section Southmead hospital bus station to Thornbury

By the metro mayor Dan Norris.

Because the council failed to fund the Transport levy.

But froze the levy leading to 42 bus service being withdrawn the largest number of bus service withdrawn in any city region in England..

In June in South Gloucestershire council.

84 85 yate park and ride yate railway station yate bus station charfield wickwar wootton under edge.

622 cribbs causeway bus station, Olverton Alverston Thornbury yate bus and coach station.

17 keynsham Kingswood corsham hospital Hillfield staple hill Fishponds Eastville park Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

Evening service.

672 Bristol bus station Bedminster Highridge Dundry Chew valley

82 Radstock, Westfield, Midsomer Norton, paulton

768 Bath to Timbury paulton, Midsomer Norton Radstock .

179 Bath spa bus and coach station Timbury Farmborough Paulton, Midsomer Norton.

172 Bath spa bus and coach station peasdown st john, Radstock ,Westfield midsomer Norton,paulton wells bus and coach station

Evening service.

With all these main line bus service's being withdrawn

We now very concerned that the bus contract for the Demand responsive bus services via we DRT and E-zec medical service merger with ERS medical services.

Have failed to fine enough Bus drivers

To run the service from 1st April 2023.

So their concerns that Bristlington knowle Hengrove Totterdown may not have a local bus service.

Keynsham town service to saltford whitchurch.

Chew valley area link to main line bus on 376 ,172 street Glastonbury wells bus station to Bristol Temple meads station and Bristol bus and coach station.

And the Scottish city link Falcon coaches from Plymouth, Newton Abbott Exeter ,cullompton,Wellington ,Taunton Bridgwater ,East Brent,churchill Bristol Airport Bristol Bond street.

Service around Avonmouth and Severn Beach.

Service in rural areas out of yate bus station chipping sodbury.

Thornbury toward Wotton under edge.

Midsomer Norton and the somer valley.

With the only bus service improvement plan routes being 522 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station,Arno vale keynsham Marksbury Timbury paulton,Midsomer Norton Westfield, Radstock, peasdown st john and Bath spa bus and coach station.

525 Emerson green puckchurch westerleight yate bus station yate North

With the government minister lee Rowley local government minister Department for leveling up and Mark HARPER mp secretary of state for transport

Looking at the governance of the west of England mayoral combined Authority with North Somerset council.

We shocked and very and disappointed that so many communities will be cut off for bus services and now with no Demand responsive bus services in place either in some case not until the summer.

Leave people unable to get to work school college university hospital and medical services or even food shopping.

Whilst main line bus services at welcomed the investment in main road bus service of 7 million pounds in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and 4 million pound in North Somerset council.

Awarded to First group plc owned by pension funds staff unions and small shareholders.

Many other community are cut off from the Public transport Network in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council area .

Railway service on metro west railway are also welcome at Bristol Parkway parkway.

Gloucester central to Westbury line train every half hour from may .

Cam and Dursey yate Bristol parkway station Filton Abbey wood Bristol Bristol Temple meads station keynsham Oidfiled park Bath spa Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon Trowbridge Westbury.

But the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council needs a universal public transport Network bus coach and ferry service like Transport for London

3. Adam Reynolds

I would like to express my serious concern about CRSTS funding being used for soft measures within the BaNES Liveable Neighbourhood Programme, which wouldn't achieve the desired reduction in private car journeys. In May 2021, the BaNES Liveable Neighbourhoods programme allowed councillors to submit Liveable Neighbourhood: Low Traffic Neighbourhood proformas that did not include "hard measures" to reduce traffic.

This resulted in identification of 24 Liveable Neighbourhood:Low Traffic Schemes, 15 of which are now being progressed. Community design workshops have been held which have resulted in many "soft measure" only schemes.

On the 27/01/22 BaNES council agreed to the CRSTS programme which also required LTN 1/20 compliance across all schemes and for Liveable Neighbourhoods to include traffic reduction measures.

On the 22/09/2022 Dan Norris wrote to me in an email (see Appendix A) that:

"In the context of the Liveable Neighbourhood programme, this means that projects must demonstrate that their principal objective is to encourage local walking and cycling journeys through the interventions they propose. Projects that only seek to provide softer and streetscape measures without reducing private car journeys would not be suitable for the funding."

On the 12/01/2023 BaNES council's decision on the WECA LN Programme

(<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=1829&LLL=0>) states:

"To approve spend of £1.640m (£1.2m to be funded from the B&NES Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) Provisional Programme and a £440k grant from WECA funded from the programme's CRSTS allocation) to deliver the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Liveable Neighbourhood programme. The FBC will include preliminary designs for the shortlisted interventions across the LN project, which have been identified following co-design with communities in the 15 areas (of which Southlands is one).

To delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the £440k WECA grant when it is provided. Until then, to cashflow the costs incurred through approval of other allocations in the Council's capital programme to be repaid as soon as the WECA grant is released, which is expected to be in early 2023."

On the 05/03/2023 BaNES councillor Sarah Warren wrote about the £540m City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Liveable Neighbourhoods Programme:

(<https://sarahwarrenbathnes.wordpress.com/2023/03/05/bringing-some-facts-to-discussions-about-travel-in-bnes/>) stating:

"Liveable Neighbourhoods mean far more than restricting traffic so we are also working with 15 communities on schemes that will make communities cleaner, healthier, greener and generally better to be in. They include a wide range of improvements to neighbourhood streets including better crossings, wider pavements, cycle lanes, traffic-calming measures, space for bike hangars and improved outdoor spaces."

The decision that BaNES council took on the 12 of January this year could not have been taken without the tacit approval of the Director of the WECA CRSTS Programme and this would have been with the full knowledge that many of the BaNES Liveable Neighbourhoods did not include "hard measures" to reduce traffic in clear violation of the CRSTS agreements signed between the Metro Combined Authority and the constituent Local Authorities. It also directly goes against the written statement made by Dan Norris (Appendix A).

Can you confirm that the correct due diligence measures are in place and that Local Authorities are not being given a "free pass" by the Director of the CRSTS Programme to implement soft measures without supporting hard measures and there will be auditing of individual schemes for funding eligibility? There is a significant risk of DfT audit failure caused by this lack of due diligence.

Appendix A

Re: BaNES Liveable Neighbourhoods Program (Case Ref: WE1026)

Dear Mr Reynolds,

Thank you for your email.

As you describe the CRSTS funding is designed by government to be spent on projects that directly improve public transport and active travel. As a region, we have been clear that the focus is on the outcomes of quicker and more reliable bus journeys, improved access to railways stations, and cycling & walking that is safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable. This will ultimately drive the shift away from private car journeys that is the main aim of the programme. In the context of the Liveable Neighbourhood programme, this means that projects must demonstrate that their principal objective is to encourage local walking and cycling journeys through the interventions they propose. Projects that only seek to provide softer and streetscape measures without reducing private car journeys would not be suitable for the funding.

However this does not mean that no wider measures are fundable within the context of a project if they are proportionate and the business case can demonstrate their necessity. For example, the importance of making streets attractive, providing opportunities for shade and rest, and increasing green provision play a key part in encouraging new walking and cycling journeys. Alternatively, where a Liveable Neighbourhood implements filters along routes within an area that reduce private car access to a limited remaining set of routes, it could be appropriate to provide traffic calming measures on these. We recognising that some softer measures may be key in context to making the project deliverable or driving key benefits and are thus fundable.

Due to the context above, we cannot provide a list of approved measures as this will depend upon each individual project. All projects are required to go through an assurance process at the

Combined Authority that is led by our independent Grant Assurance Team as part of the business case process to ensure that spend and delivery plans are appropriate to the funding. However we do work as a programme team within the Unitary Authorities and Combined Authority to give general guidance to project teams on ensuring their measures are fundable. Officers are happy to discuss in more detail how we approach this.

Yours sincerely,

Dan

Dan Norris, Metro Mayor for the West of England

End

West of England Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March 2023

Questions received from the public

1. David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Bristol Disabilities Equalities Forum

Question 1

With many areas of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Not covered by Demand responsive bus services from 3rd April 2023 .

What progress is being made to develop

More Bus service improvement plan routes with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Bus operators such as First group plc

Stagecoach group big lemon buses.

Abus, citistar ,Euro coaches CTC coaches. Favesaver buses.

Across South North and East Bristol

and North east Somerset.

In way Somerset county council, Devon county council, Cornwall council and Oxfordshire council has developed new and revised bus services.

As long as theses routes are commercially viable in 2 years .

With the support of the Department for transport under their bus service improvement plans.

Can letters and advise please be published to stakeholder from the Department for transport to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority in the way that information is published by Somerset council.

Response from officers:

The WESTlink service will provide extensive coverage of the West of England area to many communities that do not have access to conventional bus services. Using the Bus Service Improvement Plan funding, we have been able to tender two new services and support the increase in frequency of dozens of existing commercial services from 2 April 2023. A further round of fare incentives will come forward in the next few months to encourage additional bus passenger growth. Whilst the Bus Service Improvement Plan funding is time-limited we anticipate that bus use will continue to grow over that 2-year period, prompted by the fares and services investment along with a strong marketing and promotion campaign. However, whether 'pump-primed' services become commercially viable in the longer term is something we cannot currently predict.

Question 2

With the Transport levy Frozen by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority councils of Bristol city council, Banes and South Gloucestershire council.

Their is now very deep concerns about the ability of the west of England mayoral combined Transport Authority to provide universal bus services and a public transport Network across Greater Bristol and Bath city region with North Somerset council area.

With the act of parliament setting up the west of England mayoral combined Authority putting a joint power on the Authority and the mayor Dan Norris to provide support bus services with the unity councils.

As First group plc and stagecoach group and other operators have made it clear that they can not provide a universal bus or Rail service without support from the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Even the train service from Bristol new Portway parkway station will require £2 million pounds of taxpayers subsidies to the First group plc, Great western railway

and the Department for transport for the Train service for 3 years

This will be paid from the Transforming cities fund but other bus and rail services will require the Transport levy.

What progress is the mayor Dan Norris making to talking to the councils in the way the mayor of Peterborough and cambridge has to keep his bus and rail Network operating savings 17 bus routes

in some of poorest and isolated communities in Greater Bristol and Bath city region so children can go to school and colleges to work shopping facilities Hospitals and leasure and Tourism facilities.

In Greater Bristol and Bath

These areas are not covered by Demand responsive bus services but need public transport.

Response from officers:

The West of England Combined Authority has secured over £500m of new capital funding from government to deliver a comprehensive programme of bus priority along multiple corridors, mainly focused on urban and inter-urban bus routes. The purpose of this investment is to improve journey time and service reliability, as well as reduce operating costs, to increase the attractiveness of bus use over the next few years. This investment programme sits alongside the other funding secured through the Bus Service Improvement Plan and together will help us deliver high quality bus services, making it easier for everyone to use the bus, improving local air quality and supporting our decarbonisation, health and well-being objectives.

End