

Public Document Pack

Public questions and responses – Joint Committee

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West of England Joint Committee – Public Questions

Date of meeting: 15 March 2024

No.	Rec'd from
JC1	David Redgewell
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Question JC1

From David Redgewell

Following concerns from many stakeholders, passengers groups and equalities representative about the bus service cuts in west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan area

We are very supportive of North Somerset council work in restoration of

Much of the bus Network in its Authority area and new services

For Example Clevedon and Portishead to cribs causeway bus station and Southmead hospital bus station

X10

Service 126 Weston super mare bus and coach station to Wells Bus and coach station via weston super mare Railway station Hospital Hutton, Banwell

Winscombe Axbridge cheddar Westbury sub Mendip Draycott Easton,

Service 126

Service x5 Portishead and clevedon to weston super mare bus and coach station via Yatton for clevedon station,

And service in South Gloucestershire county council and Gloucestershire County council area

84 85 yate Park and ride Yate Railway station yate bus station, chipping Sodbury Wickwar Charfield and Wotton under Edge

New services 23 24 Ashton vale estate Southville Bedminster to Bristol city centre,

Service 47 Downend ,oidbury court Fishponds Road Stapleton road station Eastville oid market

Street Bond Street Bristol city centre,

New west local Service.

Bristol to Chew valley,

Service 82 ,179 ,Bath odd Down Park and Ride Tunley Timsbury Paulton midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock,

With the west of England mayoral combined Authority in special measures for 12 th months

What effects will this have on the submission to Department for Transport and secretary of state for Transport mark Harper,

With Department for levelling up panel

Review the decision of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority metro mayor Dan Norris and councillor leaders,

How will this effect the public consultation with passengers, stakeholders groups and passengers groups and especially employment of an equalities officer at west of England mayoral combined transport Authority,

Will their be a bus passengers forum of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council before the 12 th June 2024

Plan submission to the Department for transport and meeting of the service advisory panel and Bus services advisory Board,

With the sign of going to west of England mayoral combined Authority committee and west of England joint committee and North Somerset council cabinet will the Department for levelling up panel also have to sign off the bus service improvement plan

Response:

The refresh to the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) policy is being delivered in line with guidance set out by the Department for Transport (DfT). Submission has to be by 12 June 2024 to enable year 3 funding for the current phase of BSIP delivery and set out policy for any future funding opportunities that may become available. The refresh has to go through the Enhanced Partnership process with formal meetings in May and

consultation will take place with a wide range of partners and stakeholders ahead of submission.

The Equalities Officer recruitment is underway.

Question JC2

From David Redgewell

With the west of England mayoral combined Authority being in special measures with the Department for levelling up and the setting up on a panel by the secretary of state for levelling up Michael gove,

What progress is now being made on merging the local Enterprise partnership and North Somerset council into the west of England mayoral combined Authority for mayoral Elections in may 2025
It appears that we will be the last South west local Authority to merger the local Enterprise partnership in the combined Authority

As Devon, and Somerset are merging Heart of the south west local Enterprise partnership as is Cornwall, Dorset Council and Wiltshire and Swindon Gloucestershire,

Response:

The LEP integration process is ongoing. A range of options for integration have been considered but an agreed route forward has not yet been reached. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has been kept informed of the current position and discussions on potential steps that could be taken to reach a conclusion on this matter will continue.

Question JC3

From Ian Beckey

What is latest progress on Reopening the Bristol Temple meads station, Bedminster, Parson street, pill and Portishead, for 2027 opening of the line including bus rail Interchange at pill and Portishead,

To link with local bus services.

Including the passive provisions for a station in Ashton Gate,

Response:

Detailed design is progressing for the re-opening of the Portishead Branch Line, which includes new stations at Pill and Portishead, by the rail industry and its supply chain. The design includes bus interchange infrastructure, for both new stations.

A full business case (FBC) is being prepared for submission to the Department of Transport (DfT). Approval of the FBC is a significant milestone for the region unlocking funding from the Department and enabling construction works to commence. The working programme, subject to funding from the DfT sees works commence on re-opening the railway line to Portishead later this year.

A station at Ashton Gate is being considered within the Mayoral Combined Authority's new station study as presented at January 2024 Committee. The study will review the feasibility of potential new stations across the West of England Region. The design for re-opening of the Portishead Branch does not preclude a potential new station at Ashton Gate in the future.

Question JC4

From Ian Beckey

With the west of England mayoral combined Authority in special measures by the Department for levelling up secretary of state Michael Gove mp and Department for Transport

Secretary of state for Transport mark Harper,mp

With the instructions from the Department for levelling up to wind up the west of England local Enterprise partnership and North Somerset council and the becoming part of the west of England mayoral combined Authority

What progress is being made on one new Authority for Greater Bristol city Region,

Response:

The LEP integration process is ongoing. A range of options for integration have been considered but an agreed route forward has not yet been reached. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has been kept informed of the current position and discussions on potential steps that could be taken to reach a conclusion on this matter will continue.

Question JC5

From Rosa Kell

With the 126 services from Weston super mare bus and coach station interchange, weston super mare Raiway station uphill Hospital weston super mare, Hutton, Banwell Winscombe Axbridge cheddar, Draycott Westbury sub Mendip Draycott Easton Wells bus and coach station, This service inchanges with westlink Demand responsive bus services at Axbridge for the Chew valley.

What is level of service and the zone this that services 126 will link into at Axbridge and how far will the 20 mins zone cover ,

Response:

The zone will continue to follow the North Somerset Council boundary and residents using service 126 will be able to interchange with the WESTlink service in Winscombe, Sandford and Banwell. Passengers will be able to use WESTlink services to travel to Blagdon and Bristol Airport, however a change of service will now be required to travel to Chew Valley. Full details on the zone changes will be available shortly.

Question JC6

From Rosa Kell

With the submission of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan to the Department for transport by 12th June 2024 What discussion are happening with unity Somerset council to make sure the bus network in Somerset North Somerset council and West of England mayoral combined Authority are coordinated ,

In the submission to the Department for transport,

On route like service 375 Bristol bus and coach station, Whitchurch Pensford Clutton Farringdon Gurney Chewton Mendip Wells bus and coach, Glastonbury, street and Bridgwater Railway station and the bus station

Or services 374 Bristol bus and coach station to Bristol Temple meads station, Totterdown Knowle Hengrove Whitchurch Pensford Clutton Farringdon Gurney Chewton Mendip Wells bus and coach station, Glastonbury and street and Taunton,

Services 20 Weston super mare bus and coach station Railway station Uphill Hospital, Brean and Berrow and Burnham on sea 21 for Highbridge, Bridgwater bus and coach station and Taunton, 171, 173 174 Wells bus and coach station to Chilcompton or Shepton mallet interchange, midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock Peasdown st john Bath spa bus and coach station,

All are part of a Somerset network

So will the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council and Somerset council coordinate information for their bus service improvement plan also with Wiltshire Council Swindon Borough Council, Gloucestershire county council and western Gateway Transport Board and Peninsula Transport Board,

Response

The Mayoral Combined Authority does liaise with other authorities relating to established cross boundary services, although this does not extend to a wider network planning brief beyond the unitary authorities (UAs) that make up the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, and its constituent UAs, do have long-established collaborative working practices with neighbouring boundary authorities.

North Somerset Council does have a collaborative relationship with Somerset Council and with each of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority UAs.