

# **Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways (FoSBR)**

Statement to West of England Combined Authority Extraordinary Meeting  
Thursday 26 May 2022



## **Transport Levy**

FoSBR notes with grave concern that the constituent authorities of the West of England are proposing to scrap the Transport Levy.

We understand that existing funding direct to WECA is solely Investment funding, which is capital funding which must be demonstrated to return a profit and cannot be used as a revenue funding stream to deliver public transport services. Even if WECA have now secured revenue streams for Socially Necessary services, subsidy is needed to increase frequency and reduce fares across the West of England area.

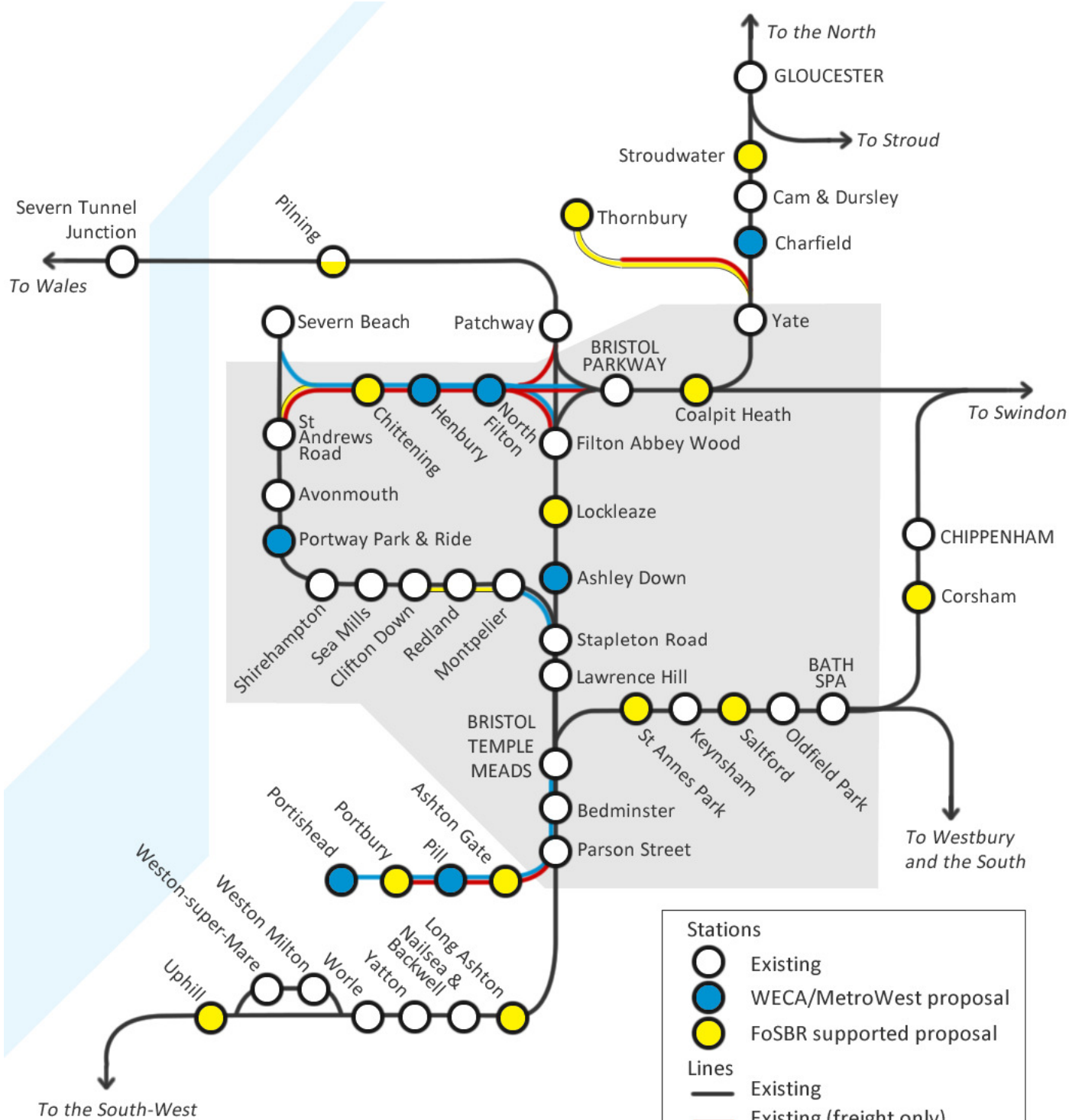
Bus and train services are vital if car use is to be cut back. In many areas of the West of England, bus and rail service is only hourly or half-hourly and this frequency should be enhanced to incentivise modal shift away from the car.

FoSBR calls on the constituent authorities to continue the Transport Levy as otherwise this will mean that bus services are cut at a time when they are urgently needed.

In particular, FoSBR seeks assurance that the train-set hire for the Portishead Line will be provided.

FoSBR appeals to the four West of England authorities to work together to deliver a public transport system that can address the climate and ecological emergency.

Christina Biggs  
Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways  
24/05/2022



David Redgewell statement

Special WoE CA Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

We are very concerned about the situation of retendering the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority bus Network. With 80 bus service due to be rendered for services starting at the end of August 2022.

Passengers are very concerned the many communities will be left without Public bus services in the city and county of Bristol, South Gloucestershire council and Bath and North east Somerset council.

The Network includes cross boundary services into North Somerset council area into Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

At present out of 80 services it look like 26 services are unfunded. There are also services in South Gloucestershire council area where First group west of England buses have withdrawn the services.

T2 Thornbury, Rudgeway, Hortham, Almondsbury, Cribbs Causeway bus and coach station  
Patchway, Filton, Gloucester Road Bristol bus and coach station. Hardship for college students to Filton college.

Y2 Bristol bus and coach station, Eastville park, Fishponds, Downend, Bromley Heath, Coalpit Heath, Yate park and ride, Yate station, Yate bus station.

This used to go on it chipping sodbury worker being unable to get to East Bristol Downend and Fishponds. only link being the train services first group Great western railway between yate and Stapleton road station.

Services 18 Cribbs Causeway bus station, Bristol parkway station, uwe bus station Downend, Staple Hill, Hillfield, Kingswood Warmley, North common, Willsbridge, Keynsham, Salford, Newbridge, Weston and Bath spa bus and coach

Hardship 1000 signature petition are not within the services withdrawn but not in the support bus stop list to be reinstated.

y4 Is 90 minutes Yate park and ride to Bristol city centre via Coalpit heath, Frampton coterrell, winterbourne, Hambroke Stapleton.

Bath and North east Somerset

services 8 City centre to Kingsway.

79 Bath spa bus and coach station to Marshfield.

South Gloucestershire council have a lot of rural services within their area threatened by the loss of bus services into rural Gloucestershire.

622 Cribbs Causeway bus station to Thornbury Yate bus station and chipping sodbury,

85, 86, 84 Kingswood, Emerson Green and Yate bus station.

Yate bus station to chipping sodbury Wootton under edge.

via charfield ,

69 ,620 Stroud bus station,Tetbury, Yate bus station puckchurch and wick to Bath bus and coach station.

We got a lot of services that could not be reduced in North Bristol/ South Gloucestershire council .

Services 13 Bristol city centre to Southmead hospital bus station to shirehampton.

Services 10 Thornbury to Avonmouth via Alverston, Rudgeway, Almondbury, Little stoke,Bristol parkway station, uwe,bus station, Westbury on Trym.

services 11.

Bristol Parkway to Uwe bus station Southmead hospital bus station, westbury on Trym .

services 12 Bristol Parkway ,Patchway, cribbs causeway bus and coach station and Severn Beach.

505 Long Ashton Park and ride Clifton Down, Redland ,Horfield, Southmead hospital bus station.

506 Bristol city centre oid market, Lawrence hill ,Easton Eastville, Horfield Bristol Southmead hospital bus station.

672 Bristol city centre to the chew valley.

515 Stockwood to Hengrove hospital.

These are just just a few of very important services out of the 80 plus contracts in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority area

There are Bath evening and Sunday services.

Rural services like 35 Bristol bus and coach station to marshfield. 634 Kingswood to marshfield. keynsham to wells bus station. through the village services.

At present in the west of England mayoral combined Authority spent 20 million pounds on buses services a year. The Transport levy being £ 409 000 from South Gloucestershire council £ 1 million from the city and county of Bristol. £ 530 000 pounds Banes, cross Boundary services from North Somerset council.

The mayor Dan Norris needs a 10.% levy raise to take the the Budget to £22 million the west of England mayoral combined Authority is to put in £1.5 million.

But that not enough with 43 % in contract prices rises on Tenders and a shortage of Drivers with the metro mayor requirement of the requirements campaign with the local Enterprise partnership.

stagecoach west is paying a 15 % pay raise with unite the union

First group west of England bus is negotiating at 16 % pay raise with unite the union and the RMT in Somerset. HCT group as well.

104 Brand new buses.

30 brand new buses in Bath .

10 new buses from stagecoach west. used in Stroud Cheltenham and Bath .

2 clean air zone in Bristol and Bath city centres .

Bus are very important to the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council area.

The Department for Transport has award £ 540m region city Transport fund money.

The second biggest bus service improvements plan of £105 .5 million pounds in bus services improvements plan money jointly with North Somerset council.

money from the sustainable city fund with the biggest Department for transport awards to improve services bus service the Local councils need to Fund Public Transport jointly with west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

in the past South Gloucestershire council City and county of Bristol, Banes and North Somerset council funded bus services.

Railway revenue support on the Bristol Temple meads to Clifton Down Avonmouth Dock and Severn Beach railway [line.to](#) increase train service and lease rolling stock.

support ferry services in Bristol harbour.

The Transport levy will also have to pay for metro west railway services.

on the Bristol Temple meads to Clifton Down station Avonmouth Dock and seven Beach line.

in the future.

Bristol Temple meads to pill and Portishead line.

Bristol Temple meads to Ashley Down, Abbey wood Filton North station, Henbury for cribbs causeway

The sectary of state Grant shapps has ask for the revenue support for the Bristol Temple meads to Portishead

via Pill subsidies and rolling stock leasing charges to be sorted by February 2023 .

Buses are essentially to the community of the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council residents

For access to jobs, Education, schools, college, university, food shopping and shopping Heath care ,hospital Leisure and Tourism facilities.

with the economy crisis and the withdraw of bus services some of the poorest people in society will be left without bus services will be using Taxis at £ 10 a time to food shop or visit food bank leaving choices around heating .

Public Transport is essential to urban and rural communities.

money may be found by looking at the economy growth fund but only if the Department for Transport agree funding routes

we need to raise the transport levy look at using reserves to 20 %

saving money by moving public transport staff and transport staff from Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire council, and Bath and North east Somerset. to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

To get away from these problems the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined Authority with North Somerset council as a full member, need preselecting powers for public transport

The mayor of west Midlands, Andy Street, mayor of Merseyside Steve Rotherham, mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham. have such powers and with Transport for North appear to be able to fund support bus services.

with reference to the 4 unitary councils and making Public transport a very political service which is not in the interests of passengers and stakeholders.

in the bus services in Greater Bristol and Bath city region rural South Gloucestershire and North east Somerset and into North Somerset council area Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire.

The meeting today must be about maintenance of vital public bus service and not cutting them the

Department for transport and the bus minister has said a part of 1 st July 2022 services submission she is watching the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council with interest.

The Department for transport has also made it clear that Park Policy should be reviewed as part of improvements to bus services.

it noted South Gloucestershire council is only council to provide free parking in South west England.

David Redgewell South west transport Network and Rail future Severnside.

Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign

Brendon Taylor statement

Public statement.

Bristol city council South Gloucestershire council and Banes are refusing to  
to pay over the Transport levy the fully to the metro mayor to let 85 bus contract in September 2022  
.

in Greater Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North east Somerset.

including Cross boundary services in North Somerset council area.

Somerset county council Wiltshire council and Gloucestershire.

They do not want to pay the 43 % cost

in contract price to first group plc.

stagecoach west and hct plus favesaver in Bath on 85 Contracts .

26 bus service contract are at risk

The cost of course includes 104 brand new buses for first group west of England.

10 for stagecoach west.

hct .

pay raises for stagecoach west.

15 %

16 % for first group/ hct .

being negotiated with unite the union.

The council leaders want a one year extension and they feel it will drop contract price it will not with  
European war

first group and stagecoach west

hedge their fuel .

in fact with No parliamentary powers Banes, South Gloucestershire council and the city and county  
of Bristol officers

.

That should be working for metro mayor Dan Norris appear to be drawing up the bus and coach  
Network

Against parliamentary orders

Whist these political games go on vital bus routes and services could be withdrawn on the 1st of September 2022

IT looks to council leaders and chief executives do not appear to be working for bus and rail passengers

unless answer can be found bus service will be withdrawn

In all other mayoral combined transport Authority the metro runs all bus coach tram ferry and Train services.

are run by the metro mayor with a precepts

This need to happen urgently in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council which need to be a full member

With 85 routes being cancelled if agreement not reach with metro mayor Dan Norris.

The council leader s want to use the mayor infrastructure fund with North Somerset council but the Department for transport and Baroness vere of Norberton the buses minister may not allow this .

it is very important

west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council.

need to start working for passengers

in co production with the unity councils.

we must main be services at risk in Rural areas of south Gloucestershire the urban areas of Greater Bristol and Bath city region with services into Bath and North east Somerset ,and Somerset.

£530 000 million for Banes council,

£1 million for buses in the city and county of Bristol.

£ 409.000 million pounds for bus services in the urban area of Bristol covered by south Gloucestershire council and rural south Gloucestershire.

Buses are very important for access to work, jobs ,shopping health care, hospital and in the west of England mayoral combined Authority area Somerset and Gloucestershire leisure and Tourism.



The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council has the second largest bus service improvements plan allocation in the country of £105.5

and £540 .00 in the city region transport plan.

£ 110 million for the Bristol Temple meads to Portishead line.

and sustainable transport improvements money.

So find fund for public bus services is very important through the Transport levy and money from the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

maybe through growth funds .

Somerset county council also has bus service improvement plan money

for key corridor out of Taunton.

but in the sub region we need to improve bus 376 From street, Glastonbury, wells bus station  
chewton mendip, Farrington, Clutton, Pensford, whitchurch, knowle, Bristol Temple meads, Bristol  
bus and coach station.

173 174 Wells bus

and coach station, chilcompton, Shepton mallet, midsomer Norton westfield ,Radstock, Peasdown  
and Bath bus and coach station

The are rural services like 178 Radstock midsomer Norton Paulton ,Timbury marksbury  
,keynsham,Bristlington Arnos vale, Bristol Temple meads, and Bristol bus and coach station.

424 414 Radstock, midsomer Norton to Frome.

keynsham to wells

keynsham to whitchurch services 636

515 stockwood to Hengrove Hospital.

672 Bristol to chew valley.

These are some of rural Somerset services that passengers are worried about if the west of England  
mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council Transport levy and support are cut back .

The levy also need to be increase from 20 million pounds to 22 million pounds.

and of course this needs to including funding for metro west routes Bristol Temple meads to pill and  
Portishead

Bristol Temple meads to Henbury loop line subsidies. for services and Rolling stock

As per instructions from Grant Shapps secretary of state for transport.

we need to maintain all 80 support bus service and add to the Network that not commercial to stagecoach west and First group west of England buses.

we need to set up a proper integrated transport Authority for the west of England mayoral combined Authority with North Somerset council as full members of the west of England mayoral combined Authority along with the local Enterprise partnership.

and full precepting powers for the mayor to run Public transport Network.

of buses .

Trains .

ferry services.

bus infrastructure.

bus and coach stations and interchanges.

similarly to the conservative mayor of the west Midlands Andy Street who works with a council leaders in the west Midlands.

and Regional Transport Board.

similarly Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester the Greater Manchester Local Authorities.

Bus service are very important to the communities of Greater Bristol Bath city region and into rural Gloucestershire and Somerset and into Wiltshire.

working with western Gateway transport Board.

we note Baroness Vere the buses minister did not fund bus services improvements plan in the western Gateway transport Board in Wiltshire and Swindon Gloucestershire and Dorset .

and in Plymouth and Torbay in the South west transport Board.

so the west of England unity council leaders and North Somerset council need to protect bus services

with the mayor .

we must fund these 80 bus service's

and the other services that need support.

Disabled people need and required bus service community Transport and local trains to get around and can not fund Taxis services.

we also need to mayor to promote Public transport to the Hospital in Bristol Royal infirmary, Weston super mare, Clevedon Hospital, Southmead hospital, Bath Royal united hospital and Peasdown hospital, Paulton hospital.

and Promote older people and Disabled bus pass.

and rail card to older people, disabled people, students, people seeking work family rail cards.

There is very little promotion of cheaper fares and tickets of the west of England mayoral combined Authority and North Somerset council bus and coach network or Timetables we need market of buses services and public transport.

Brendon Taylor Bristol disabled equalities forum and Somerset catch the bus campaign.

Jevon Smith Somerset bus partnership.

## **STATEMENT TO WECA MEETING – THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**From Councillor Tim Ripington, Brislington East, Bristol**

I represent an area of Bristol which is recognised as having some of the worst bus service coverage in the city. As a direct result, car ownership is amongst the highest, a direct result of the lack of alternatives. If we are to address the issues of congestion, clean air and climate change, it is wards such as mine which must see improved bus services if we are to give people additional choices on how they move around.

The current situation is simply not good enough for a city the size of ours– we have reduced services and multiple cancellations on a daily basis, and confidence in our buses is at an all-time low. If anything, it is forcing more people into their cars rather than the opposite.

It is therefore imperative that we stabilise our bus services at their current levels, and then look to build on this as soon as possible. We are simply running out of time to achieve the kind of modal shifts that will be required to help save our planet.

I therefore urge all parties to come to an agreement today and guarantee what is, to put it simply, the absolute rock-bottom level of service that this city and my residents require.

Carol McGinn statement

WoE CA Special Committee on 26 May 2022

To whom it may concern

I would like to propose a way for the buses in my area and perhaps other villages, to function in a more reliable and cost-effective way.

I live in Severn Beach and the number 12 sometimes comes and sometimes doesn't. Obviously, you can see the implications on those without vehicles, especially when it comes to hospital appointments etc.

I suggest that buses run for example, 3 designated days a week and ALWAYS arrive. That way the buses will be fuller as residents can plan around those 3 days. That is provided they arrive of course.