

West of England Combined Authority Committee meeting on Friday, 1 July 2022

Questions received from the public

Item 1 – Kim Hicks

Question 1: Bristol and Bath Green Belt

With the demise of the SDS, communities in the region are waiting to hear of WECA's plans. A review of the Bristol & Bath Green Belt was commissioned and unlike other technical reports has not been published. Why has it not been published and when will it be published?

Response:

The Green Belt Assessment can be published as soon as practicably possible subject to agreement with Unitary Authorities. Please contact the West of England Combined Authority if you would like to be informed on its publication.

Question 2: South Bristol Corridor

The WECA area has:

- A lack of a unanimous agreement between the councils regarding the SDS.
- A JLTP4 that needs updating.
- A climate emergency
- An ecological emergency
- A desperate lack of funds available which needs to be spent wisely.

In the light of all of the above, when will the South Bristol Corridor be dropped, from the already out-dated JLTP4?

Response:

As Metro Mayor, I and the leaders of Bristol, and Bath and North East Somerset reached agreement on an evidence-led approach to housing numbers across the West of England. Unfortunately there was not unanimous agreement as required. There is a climate and ecological emergency which we must tackle with urgency. Since I became Metro Mayor we have created a £50 million Green Recovery Fund with a big focus on retrofitting; changed the Combined Authority's position on Bristol Airport; set up a Climate Action Panel and launched a brand new Climate Action Plan.

As the Action Plan makes clear the scale of the challenge is daunting. It will involve taking action locally, regionally, nationally and globally. We will all have to do things differently. We will need much, much more Government support and there will be trade-offs, compromises and we will need to make some very big choices

Importantly I have also secured around £2/3 billion for transport improvements. These will be crucial to meet our ambitious net zero targets. Now we must deliver.

The South East Bristol Orbital Low Carbon Corridor currently remains in the Joint Local Transport Plan 4.

The Combined Authority is committed to addressing orbital connectivity and to improving public transport. The first priority will be to do so through public transport, cycling and walking with a step change in sustainable transport provision.

Item 2 – Niall Phillips

Question: Expansion of CA to incorporate North Somerset Council

Does the West of England Mayor support the expansion of the West of England Combined Authority to incorporate North Somerset?

Response:

There are no current proposals to expand the West of England Combined Authority to incorporate North Somerset.

Item 3 – David Redgewell

Question 1: Enhanced Quality Partnership Board

Question 1 With the make up of the enhanced quality partnership Board.

We note the lack of of passenger representation on the Board. But of more concern is the make up of the Board with 2 places for First group plc west of England buses. 1 each for the smaller operators. and one only for the metro mayor Dan Norris staff or the mayor and one for North Somerset council. We believe as this a public Board dealing with Taxpayers money £ 105 .5 million pound 2nd bus service improvements plan money in the country. £540 million of Regional transport plan corridors. We need the public sector and the metro officers to have a higher representation on the Board .

How does the Enhanced quality partnership Board fit in with bus service Advisory Board and The passenger/ bus Forum. Has a date been set for the Next bus forum in conjunction with the bus service review for West of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Response:

The voices of passengers, and would be passengers, are absolutely vital to designing good public transport.

The Bus Passenger Forum is not a formal part of the governance structure of the Enhanced Partnership but the Combined Authority is committed to continuing to hold regular Bus Forums. The next one will be in September. There will also be important public involvement in the forthcoming Network Review.

The governance structure for the proposed Enhanced Partnership was designed in line with Government guidance.

The Enhanced Partnership itself is a framework that formalises the relationship between the Combined Authority and bus operators.

Representatives of bus passenger groups will have a key role to play in the work of reviewing its operation.

Question 2: City Region Transport Plan Corridor

What progress is being made on co productions of the city region transport plan corridors. With West of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris and The transport leads and officers Of the city and county of Bristol Councillor Don Alexander, Councillor Sarah, Warren Banes councillor Steve reade South Gloucestershire council Steve Hodges North Somerset council.

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

A37 Bristol bus and coach station to Bristol Temple meads, knowle, Hengrove whitchurch, pensford ,Clutton ,Farrington Gurney, chewton mendip wells bus and coach station, Glastonbury and street.

A367 Bath spa bus and coach station, Peasdown st john Radstock, Westfield midsomer ,Norton paulton ,shepton mallet interchanges, chilcompton and wells bus and coach station.

Stockwood, whitchurch, Hengrove, knowle, Bristol Temple meads park street, Clifton Down station Westbury, Henbury, Henleaze, Southmead Brenty cribs causeway bus station

Bristol bus and coach station Hotwell road , pill and Portishead.

Bristol Hotwells road , Bower Ashton cleve , worle, Weston super mare bus and coach station sea front .

Bristol bus and coach station,

Nalisea and Backwell station, Nalisea, clevedon

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

Bristol city centre to yate bus station and chipping sodbury.

Bristol city centre to Thornbury.

What corporate design will be present for bus shelters interchanges facilities.

Timetable displays realtime information systems and tickets machine.

There is a need for clear branding and maintenance contracts in the west of England mayoral mayoral combined transport Authority including North Somerset council for a public transport infrastructure.

Will a Delivery plan be put in place .

Including sustainable transport corridors and work to Bridges and access to ferry interchanges in Bristol Harbour and bus rail cycle and E scooters interchanges.

Response:

Work is taking place on the important corridor schemes outlined. They are at different stages of development and are all subject to business cases to ensure value for money and that residents and organisations including bus operators can help to influence decisions and be kept informed . The current aim is to deliver these improvements by 2027, in line with the funding timescales for the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme.

The parts within North Somerset, are set to be completed by March 2025 as they are being delivered by funding from the Bus Service Improvement Plan. They are being co-ordinated with the Combined Authority.

An exciting new brand for transport is under development as it is high time West of England people got a recognisable, co-ordinated brand. The days of a rainbow of different colours buses, trains and scooters needs to end.

There will be detailed delivery plans for all elements of this work.

End