

## **West of England Combined Authority Audit Committee meeting on 12 December 2022**

### **Statements received from the public**

1. David Redgewell, SW Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside
2. Robert Bentley, Bristol Disability Equalities Forum

## **1. David Redgewell, SW Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside**

(a) We welcome the review of governance of the Authority and the need to work together between the local unity councils and the west of England mayoral combined Authority.

But we understand the order that set up the Authority transfers Transport powers and Planning power to the combined Authority .

But as these Departments have not been transferred to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

This causes confusion to the travelling public as to which council or Authority running the services.

Especially bus service tendering and investment in the Network.

Bus shelters ,interchanges and infrastructure.

The governance review is not clear

On service delivery of projects.

Such as metro west railway.

Projects .

Bristol Temple meads station to Pill and Portishead line.

Bristol Temple meads station to Lawrence hill, Stapleton road Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood,Filton North Arena Exhibition station 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 and Gloucester central.

Charfield is a new metro west station.

Metro west railway .

Is west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

Joint with North Somerset council.

The also the governance of the bus service improvements plan between the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council is not clear .

The joint local Transport plan with West of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Or local Enterprise partnership joint working.

Which we welcome the co productions

Between the local councils

Bristol city council,South Gloucestershire council and Banes as per the governance report.and the 3 leaders of the unity councils. councilor kevin guy Banes councillor Toby savage and Mayor marvin Rees.

And for Transport joint working with North Somerset council.

The Act that set up the west of England mayoral combined Authority.

Set out Public transport powers

Bus tendering jointly with the 3 local unitary councils .

But the original order power over the bus Network with North Somerset council

But has now a joint arrangement on the bus service improvements plan.

And Metro west railway Network..

Transport functions and strategic road Networks.

And made the west of England mayoral combined Authority and the mayor the Regional planning Authority.

But the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority has no precepting powers like the combined transport and Planning Authorities.

Or west country parish councils

Having precepting powers.

The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority has powers to set bus Networks through enhanced quality partnership Advanced Quality partnerships and bus Franchising.

Under 2017 Transport Act .

Other mayoral combined Authority's Have full transport powers.

To plan road and railway Networks

Operator .

Bus coach, rail ,trams interchanges.

Bus station railway station enhancement

A Railway Executive .

Bus Network operating Network team .

In Merseyside an overground under ground railway Network.

Tram services in the west Midlands combined Authority and metro Mayor Andy street.

Trams in Greater Manchester with mayor Andy Burnham.

And South Yorkshire super tram .

Tyne and wear metro is run by Nexus

Including bus and ferry service.

The west of England mayoral combined Authority need to work towards becoming a transport and planning Authority with more mayoral powers.

to progress a number schemes on the ground .

City region Transport plan .

Bus service improvements plan.

Metro west railway lines.

Bristol Temple meads station to pill and Portishead line.

Bristol Temple meads station to Lawrence hill, Stapleton road Ashley Down Filton Abbey wood.  
Henbury loop .

Henbury station.

And Temple quay Temple meads station Reeneration.

The Government leveling up Bill

Wish to move the local Enterprise partnerships into the Combined Authority with the same boundary this would allow the west of England mayoral combined Authority to allow North Somerset council to join the Authority.

On the Governance review it's very important that the unity councils and the west of England mayoral combined Authority Chief executive officers work

together along with Council leaders Toby savage South Gloucestershire council

Banes council leader Kevin Guy and mayor Marlin Rees and in some case North Somerset council council work together in co production.

the west of England mayoral combined Authority has it own Transport Network rail, bus ,mass transit strategic highway officer to deliver project the most important thing is value for Taxpayers money and Delivery of public transport Networks metro west railway.

Bus service improvements plan.

And support bus services across the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Concessionary passes should be managed by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

and North Somerset council.

Stakeholder are very concerned about the need to let the support bus services to which they are need to maintain a commercial and support bus Network.

We welcome the governance review but remain councillors the metro mayor west Elected with a 40 000 majority.

and the Department for leaving up and Transport see metro and Rural mayors as the way forward note the proposed mayor for Cornwall also in South west England.

The Brown review also wants to set up more regional government and city Regional mayors.

We are concerned that the Transport Board meets in private and the last meeting councillor Steve Reede of South Gloucestershire was not present because he was presenting a very much support

west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and south Gloucestershire council Network rail western and First group plc Bus and Great western railway plus stagecoach west on Master Plan for Bristol Parkway station.

We think the planning and transport Board should meet in public like other combined Authorities.

And west of England partnership did .

Western gateway transport Board and Peninsula transport Board meet in public.

As should bus service Advisory Boards

The mayor Dan Norris is very open and transparent on Public consultation on bus services

We welcome the Auditor concern and better working together of the local Authorities. Councillor of the Transport Board The leader of the 3 unity councils mayor Marvin Rees, councillors Toby savage and Kevin Guy from Bath and North east Somerset council .

And joint working with North Somerset council through the joint committee.

Which is not mentioned in the governance review. Or the use of west of England mayoral combined Authority offices and officers by the western gateway transport Board.

We look forward to better co production by the local Authorities Banes South Gloucestershire council mayor of Bristol and North Somerset council.

With metro mayor Dan Norris.

To Deliver public Transport, Regional planning and Housing and skills as per the parliamentary orders.

We also want to see the scrutiny commission review the proposals for the new west of England city region and North Somerset council bus network from April 2023

We still have bus service missing on the Bristol city centre St Paul's St Werburghs Eastville park Stapleton Frenchay Winterbourne Frampton Cotterell Iron Acton Coalpit Heath Yate bus station y3 y4 route

Services withdrawn

Number 5 Bristol city centre St Paul's St Werburghs? Eastville park ,Stapleton Bromhill ,Fishponds, Oldbury Court Downend Emerson Green Puckchurch Westerleigh Yate/ 47

No longer serving Bromhill and Stapleton.

Services 126 Wells bus and coach station to Westbury sub Mendip Draycott Cheddar Axbridge Winscombe Banwell Locking Weston bus and coach station.

X 2 Yatton to Bristol bus and coach station.

55 Whitchurch Hengrove Dundry Bristol Airport Clevedon 54 and Clevedon Town 54 .

The rest of the supported Network has been restored by Mayor Dan Norris.

As a public Authority handling millions of pounds of public money we clear Auditing of west of England mayoral combined Authority and any joint arrangements with North Somerset council and the local Enterprise Partnership Agency .

And better co production with the local councils

(b) Governance of the City region bus services.

Greater Bristol and Bath city region bus Network working with North Somerset council.

With the present reductions in the Greater Bristol/ South Gloucestershire/ North Somerset council and Banes council bus service cuts.

We very much welcome the work carried out to restore bus service in city region following the cuts in services by the liquidation of HCT group bus services and the withdrawn of First group west of England buses of routes and 14000 journeys aweek.

But First group plc west of England buses is operating with about 200 bus drivers short at it Depots in Bath Somerset Weston super mare and wells bus Depots in Somerset and the city of Bristol bus Depots in Hengrove and Lawrence hill.

Stagecoach west is about 50 drivers short at it Patchway Depot in Bristol.

Metro mayor Dan Norris is running with both Bus companies and North Somerset council and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and west of England local Enterprise partnership adriver recruitment campaign.

To try to reverse the service cuts and restore frequentices across the city region.

A Brighton bus company with staff has been brought into run some services in Bristol and Bath.

On 505 Long Ashton park and ride site to Clifton Down , Cotham and Southmead hospital bus station.

506 City centre St Phillips, Lawrence hill Easton, Eastville,Horfield, Southmead hospital bus station.

515 Stockwood ,Hengrove ,knowle imperial park, Hartcliffe.

516 Knowle Hengrove whitchurch Hengrove Hospital.

20 Bath circle via the Royal United hospital.

11 Bath to Bathampton.

12 Bath to Haycombe cemetery.

.96 ,St Anne's park ,Bristlington ,knowle Hengrove ,Hartcliffe .

A bus .

178 Bristlington park and ride site.

Keynsham, ,marksbury, Timbury, Paulton,midsomer Norton.

Citstar

82 paulton,Midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock

But whilst some bus services have not been restored.

We welcome to new metro bus routes from Bristol uwe bus station Bristol Parkway station little stoke, Patchway station Filton North,Cribbs causeway bus station.

Y 3 y4 Bristol bus and coach station to st Pauls st werburges ,Eastville park Stapleton, Frenchay winterbourne Frampton cotterell,iron Acton Coalpit heath,yate park yate station and bus station.

Services 5 Bristol city centre st Paul's st werburges ,Eastville park ,Stapleton Broomhill, Fishponds,oidbury court Downend.

Services 47 Yate bus station , Westerleight puckchurch Emerson green Downend oidbury court Fishponds road,Eastville park ,st werburges st Paul's Bristol.

Partly replaced services but not through Broomhill and Stapleton.

(No services )

But with no evening or Sunday services.

This has left winterbourne Frampton cotterell iron Acton Hambroke Frenchay Stapleton Eastville park.

Fishponds Broomhill Stapleton with no Bus services or No Direct bus service to Bristol.

Or services 36 Bristol city centre to Brislington via st Anne's.

The services need to extend to Bristlington.

In North Somerset council.

X2 Yatton to Bristol city centre and Bristol bus and coach station.

Via Hotwells road.

126 Wells bus and coach station to Westbury sub mendip,Draycott, cheddar Axbridge ,winscombe ,Banwell ,locking Weston bus and coach station

55 whitchurch Hengrove Dundry Bristol Airport Yatton station clevedon 54 .

53 Clevedon town services.

For this reason we need a Network review by the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council .

And a plan to recruit Drivers from across

the world and Europe as key workers.

As we did privity to leaving the EU.

The metro mayor Dan Norris and councillor steve Hogg is working with First group to train Drivers with car licences and then Bus licenses.

After Christmas.

We are concerned that the 92 support bus service in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvements plan area .

Will not have enough funds through the Transport levy from Bristol city council Banes and North Somerset council.

And contributions from North Somerset council to run the network from April 2023 .

But Drivers will be required to run the services.

So recruitment of drivers is very important.

Governance review.

The model that the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council have agreed with the Department for transport

Is an enhanced quality partnership in the bus service improvements plan.

With a Bus Advisory Board and Bus Forum with the mayor Dan Norris and Transport executive councillor Steve Hogg of North Somerset council.

this includes all the bus companies in west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

A Transport Board is also operating in with the mayor and councillors Warren Banes Steve Hogg North Somerset , Steve Hogg Don Alexander

The cases for Bus Franchising is a way forward by will take 3 to 4 years and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority will need to include North Somerset council in its operating area .

The Authority will need precepting powers and to take over the bus Depots

Used to services the Franchising area .

Bath western riverside, Weston Super Mare Somerset Wells Bus Depot Somerset.

In Bristol Lawrence Hill and Hengrove Depot .

All first group plc

Patchway Depot Stagecoach West.

And Depot of smaller companies.

Plus like in Greater Manchester and Greater London to buy fleets of Buses.

I do not know where Mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset council can get the money to Franchise the Network.

With no tram services income or Block grant from Government or Precepting powers .

Even with the powers in 2017 Transport Act and bus back better the National bus strategy which Secretary of State Mark Harper MP is continuing to fund and look at further bus service recovery fund money in March 2023 .

City Mayor Marvin Rees has proposed a way forward of Emergency talks with the west of England mayoral combined Authority council leaders himself.

Dan Norris Metro Mayor, Kevin Guy from Banes Toby Savage South Gloucestershire Council and Steve Bridger from North Somerset Council



With the chief executive of First group plc and head of First group plc uk Bus jannet Bell and Regional Director Doug claringbold md

Representative from First group plc

Rail mark hopwood md and steve Montgomery.

And stagecoach group west Regional Director Rachel Geliamassi .

To find away forward via a bus and coach summit .

We must not have parts of Bristol city region without bus services or public transport Network services.

Bristol mayor Marvin Rees of Bristol city council is moving staff to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority to provide additional public transport Network offers for buses rail Executive , infrastructure services and interchanges.

We hope that Banes and South Gloucestershire council will transfer staff Transport and Public transport staff to west of England mayoral combined transport Authority with North Somerset council to form a intergrated Transport Authority.

With the support services bus service tender it's very important to cover bus service in East Bristol ,South Bristol North Bristol,Bath , North East Somerset. Chew valley area, North Somerset and south Gloucestershire council .

With transport inflation at 47 % the issue is how much the the of the support bus Network the mayor of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority will be able to commission with North Somerset council.

But before providing new services we need to maintain the Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset council area bus Network.

David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside. Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign. Bristol disability equalities forum Robby Bentley

## **2. Robert Bentley, Bristol Disability Equalities Forum**

We welcome the Audit commission review of Governance of the west of England mayoral combined Authority.

but we are not sure how the governance

now works for the west of England joint committee on services provided.

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

Such as metro west railway Network prodjects .

Bus service improvements plans.

Which is £ 105 million pounds.

This along with support bus services

Need to be Audited

Along with bus service improvements bus service tenders that have been let

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

City region transport plan.

Joint local transport plan .

Concessionary fare scheme.

Realtime information displays on bus stops .

As North Somerset council is part of the local Enterprise partnership but not part of West of England mayoral combined Authority.

Although it Government policy under the Department for leveling up to bring them into the West of England mayoral combined Authority under the leveling up bill .

This is not covered in the Report but both west of England mayoral combined Authority and the local Enterprise partnership have the same chief executive and some officers .

Again not mention in the report

We also have staff working for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

But also officer working for the western Gateway Transport Board.

We are not sure how this is Audited

Especially as the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

Is going to recruit a chief executive officer for the western Gateway Transport Board.

Support by a Department for transport budget to western gateway Transport Board.

We welcome the governance review and the working together of mayor Dan Norris and leader of the combined Authority committee Councillors Kevin guy mayor, Malvin Rees, Toby savage and Steve Bridger at North Somerset council on joint committee.

Closer working of chief executive officers and officers .

We also support the transfer of staff to west of England mayoral combined transport Authority working in Transport and Public transport as per the Parliamentary act that set up the Authority .

From Bristol city council to support bus service Network planning.

City region Transport plan.

Rail services.

Interchange and bus infrastructure.

Information services

Realtime information systems

Strategic routes

Mass transit

Regional planning.

We hope that South Gloucestershire council and Bath and North Somerset council will also transfer staff to set up a full integrated transport Authority

With North Somerset council as a member

But as staff and services transfer to the combined Authority these will need Auditing more closely.

But we super the improvements in governance in the west of England mayoral combined Authority as it moves under Mayor Dan Norris with elected 40 000 majority in a Regional Transport Authority that Delivers .

Metro west railway Network.

City region Transport projects .

Bus service improvements plan across the city region.

Support buses services

Regeneration of Bristol Temple meads and Temple quarter.  
Mass transit system.

We are also very concerned not to see Network gap in the support bus services Network rail services restored before new bus service start

Especially the services 5 Bristol city centre to st Paul's st werburges ,Eastville park, Stapleton Bromhill Fishponds and Downend with evening and Sunday services

This is at present the 47 Bristol city centre st Paul's st werburges Fishponds Road , oidbury court, Downend,Emerson green, puckchurch? westerleight yate bus station

Services Y3 4 Bristol bus and coach station st Pauls,st werburges ,Eastville park Stapleton Frenchay winterbourne Frampton cotterell iron Acton Coalpit heath yate bus station.

Services 36 Bristol city centre to st Anne's Extend back to Bristlington

We want the Greater Bristol and South Gloucestershire Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset bus Network protected.

Before new routes are started .

Its is also clear the Transport levy is paid by Banes council, South Gloucestershire,and city and county of Bristol and North Somerset council for cross boundary services.

Robert Bentley Bristol disability equities forum and David Redgewell.