

**West of England Combined Authority
West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Monday, 12 December 2022, 1pm
Oak Hall, Bradley Stoke Town Council, The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke,
South Gloucestershire, BS32 8HL

Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East
Somerset
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset
Council
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council

Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Tristan Clark, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Steve Smith, Bristol City Council
Cllr Keith Burchell, South Gloucestershire Council
(as substitute for Cllr John Ashe)

From North Somerset Council:

Cllr Mike Bird

Officers In Attendance:

Richard Ennis, Interim Director of Investment and
Corporate Services

Apologies:

Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council
(Cllr Keith Burchell attended as substitute)
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Alex Hartley, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council

Minutes

1	Evacuation Procedure The evacuation procedure was noted.
2	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Alex Hartley (Bristol City Council), Cllr Steve Pearce (Bristol City Council), Cllr Brian Allinson (South Gloucestershire Council) and Cllr John Ashe (South Gloucestershire Council). Cllr Keith Burchell (South Gloucestershire Council) attended as a substitute for Cllr John Ashe.
3	Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 There were no declarations of interest declared under the Localism Act 2011.
4	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record subject to the correction that Cllr Tristan Clark is a Member of South Gloucestershire Council and not Bristol City Council as stated in the attendance list.
5	Chair's Announcements Metro Mayor Dan Norris attending the meeting and took questions from Members. The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Th Metro Mayor was asked about a leaflet that had been sent to households in the West of England providing information on energy bills and which featured a profile picture of the Metro Mayor with his pet dog. In response the Metro Mayor stated that the leaflet had been in accordance with usual practice and was extremely important to draw people's attention to these issues. He stated that the Metro Mayor was a figurehead for the region and therefore important for people to know who he was and how to get in touch with any issues they may have;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Metro Mayor stated that there would be ongoing opportunities for small operators to provide services under the DRT proposals and urged small businesses and individuals to get in touch; • In regards to bus stops, a sum of money had been allocated to bring these under Authority control; • There was also plans to provide bicycle hangars for residential users, where the individuals concerned did not have room to store bikes in small houses or flats. He urged anyone with ideas for allocation of resources to come forward so that they could be examined. He did not want a situation where money would remain unallocated and handed back to Government, whilst stressing that all monies had to be used wisely; • The Metro Mayor did not rule out a franchising model for local transport in the region but did stress that other areas (such as Greater Manchester) were in a different position with monies raised through existing tram systems etc. However, there were more pressing urgent needs locally such as driver recruitment; • The Metro Mayor had met with community transport groups and hoped that some could be part of a future plan, with utilisation of mini-buses for example. Technology would also be important but vulnerable people with limited access to technology needed to have their needs catered for as well through other mechanisms. It was noted that North Somerset Council had 72% passenger numbers compared with pre-pandemic levels whereas the concessionary fare numbers were only at 60% of the pre-pandemic levels; • In respect of enhanced partnerships the Metro Mayor confirmed that this was ongoing although the Authority were being tough negotiators as good value for money was needed. He acknowledged that EPs may lead to a predominant provider; • In terms of a levy the Metro Mayor stated that if no consensus was reached then it would be have to be based on a per capita basis. Individual councils would need to benefit. He acknowledged also that staff should have been transferred to the Authority from the UAs when transport powers transferred and all UAs needed to work collaborative and think strategically across the region; • The Metro Mayor reminded the meeting that constitutionally he only had a very limited choice as to who could be Deputy Mayor and he would have liked a wider pool to choose from. He was trying to resolve the situation as quickly as possible; • It was noted that a service known as ‘the extra mile/the last mile’ had been trialled in some areas to promote pubic transport but had not been publicised properly so ended. It was often difficult to travel across local ward areas without getting two buses with residents with mobility issues often struggling. Community transport could provided some solutions. The Metro Mayor, acknowledged the need for change and new solutions but it stated that it was important to manage people’s expectations. There were sometimes bus services running that were not advertised; <p>Resolved:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That the Metro Mayor be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members’ questions.</p>
6	<p>Items from the Public (Questions, Statement and Petitions)</p> <p>Three statements had been received from members of the public. The statements had been circulated to the Committee and published on the Authority’s website prior to the meeting. The following individuals attended the meeting and addressed the Committee for up to three minutes on the topic of their statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbie Bentley
7	<p>Review of items for 16 December 2022 West of England Combined Authority Committee</p> <p>The Committee discussed the reports due to be considered by the West of England</p>

	<p>Combined Authority Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2022. These comments were collated and circulated to the Committee in advance of that meeting. The comments are attached.</p> <p>[NB the meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee due to be held on 16 December 2022 was subsequently postponed and due to be rearranged for a date in early January 2023.]</p>
	<p>The next meeting would be held on Monday, 23 January 2023, 10.30 am, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood BS15 9TR</p>