

Public Statements received for the West of England Combined Authority Audit Committee on 11 December 2023

Statement 1

Public statement received from Mr David Redgewell

We meet today with Public Authority going Bankrupt and serving 114 notices Birmingham City Council, Nottingham City Council, Thurrock, Slough, Bristol city council and Banes are Declaration financial emergency with Somerset council Devon Council. Communities Having their bus service with to poorest communities in Greater Bristol and Bath city region and into North East Somerset and North Somerset, South Gloucestershire county council and Gloucestershire County council deeply cut back

With all these major issues to discuss million of pounds of Taxpayers money being spent of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan, £ 105 million pounds including the west link Demand responsive bus services Having to have its destination and zones changed to be lawful with the western Traffic commissioner Kevin Rooney, because of Eu Drivers hours The terms of the contract with Ezeq medical services and big lemon buses of Brighton Sussex. Or the Fares scheme the the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council have set up with the Democratically Elected metro mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset Councillors leader Mike Bell and Deputy leader Catherine Gibson Democratically Elected.

Or the contract to provide, £ 35 million pounds of Contracts to First Group plc Greater Western trains limited. To run metro west railway Network. Services From Bristol Temple meads station To Keynsham, Oldfield park Bath spa Freshford Avonclife Bradford on Avon Trowbridge Westbury Dilton marsh warminster Salisbury/ Frome Or Bristol Temple meads station to Filton Abbey station Bristol Parkway Yate ,Charfield new station Cam and the Dursley Gloucester central, Cheltenham spa Ashchurch for Tewkesbury Worcester Shrub Hill, Worcester Forge Street,

Taunton, Bridgwater, Highbridge and Burnham on sea, Weston super mare, Weston millon, Yatton for Clevedon, Nalisea and Backwell Parson street Bedminster Bristol Temple meads station Bristol Lawrence hill, Bristol Stapleton road, Montpellier, Redland, Clifton Down station, Shirehampton, Portway park and ride, Avonmouth Dock St Andrews Road and Severn Beach. Or cost over runs in Charfield, Henbury station or the BcR on the Bristol Temple meads station To Pill and Portishead. Being locked at by the Department for transport

Or the Bristol Temple meads station to Bristol Lawrence hill, Bristol Stapleton road, Ashley Down, Filton Abbey wood, Filton North, Henbury for Cribbs Causeway and Bristol zoo station.

Or the city Region transport plan adjustment in Delivery in funding of key Transport of the city Region transport Network.

Or the level of money being spent on interim Directors and legal officers and the Interim chief executive or the number of consultants in this Authority
The lack of filling posts with local Government officer

The provision of joint post with The local Enterprise partnership and western Gateway Transport Board, partnership
The transfer of local government officer from the Transport Authority to from the Highway authority at Bristol city council South Gloucestershire county council Banes or closer working with the North Somerset Transport Authority's.
Bus stops shelters Interchanges being transferred to west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council to save Taxpayer money.

Or Auditing the the supported bus service Network and the Transport levy paid by North Somerset council Banes South Gloucestershire county council and Bristol city council.

Or the level up Act on the merger of North Somerset council and the local Enterprise partnership in the west of England mayoral combined Authority
From the 2025 mayor Election.

The main issue today agenda is the spending £ 10 000 by Democracatly Elected mayor Dan Norris On a campaign for bus drivers and promoting bus travel
When we had 120 bus driver short at the time at Bristol Lawrence hill Depot, 120 to 130 bus driver short at Bristol Hengrove bus Depot Wells bus Depot 48 Drivers short
Bath spa bus Depot at western island
130 drive short ,70 Drivers at Bristol Patchway stagecoach west Depot, 40 at Stroud and 50 at Gloucester London Road Depot,
We need Drivers the mayor lead a campaign working with the local Enterprise partnership and Bristol city council Transport Board and South Gloucestershire county council Banes and North Somerset council
We were on emergency timetables
With bus service being cut the situation we on were on Television nearly every night and the radio on the BBC in Somerset Bristol and Gloucestershire,
Stagecoach west were publishing cancellation every Day
Passengers were complaining unable to get to work school, College university heath provision, Hospital food shopping and leasure facilities.
I was getting 70 phone calls emails away about the lack of public bus services
The metro mayor Dan Norris lead from the front Meeting took place of Bristol Transport Board city council and West of England mayoral combined transport Authority officer and Banes council South Gloucestershire county council and North Somerset council.
Doug Claringbold md of First group plc Wales and West Division bus team Rachel geliamassi md of stagecoach west and her team and small operators
To put marketing on all bus shelters bus and coach station, interchange, Railway stations job centres, we targeted Lawrence hill ward ,Easton, because of it proximity to Lawrence hill First group plc bus and coach Depot st Paul's

South Bristol, Twerton and Southdown in Bath Somerset the Bournville estate in weston super mare Somerset
Southmead Henbury ,Bradley stoke
Filton, Patchway and yate in South Gloucestershire,
Any where we could attract bus drivers community champions Engineers and cleaners.

I was a it was causing passengers alot distress bus were being cancelled routes cut
councillor Steve Bridger leader of North Somerset council and Steve Hogg Transport Executive were
concerned as North Somerset network in to Bristol were cut back or withdrawn like bus services
through Yatton and Yatton for clevedon station.

126 Wells bus and coach station to Easton Westbury sub Mendip Draycott Cheddar Axbridge
winscombe Banwell locking weston super mare bus and coach station.
Bus service in Bristol were on hourly frequencies.

It was a perfect storm we look at first group plc South west buses md Alex Carter having a picture of
Himself on the side of a bus
and we look to rapp bus with advertising for bus drivers and the Birthday card bus promotion
scheme.

We needed Bus and Drivers and to win passengers back .

As the md of First group plc South west buses had Done in Somerset Devon and Cornwall.

The passengers numbers of the pre covid levels was 65 to 70 % in Greater Bristol, 65 ,% in Bath
65% to 70 % at weston super mare and in the Wells Depot just 65 % to serv Banes and the Mendips
Stagecoach west in Bristol and Stroud

Depots were 65 %

Dan Norris the Democracatly Elected mayor was doing everything to get people on the bus and
railway network

First Group plc Great Western Railway company were carrying with cross country trains arriva db 60
% of pre covid levels and Train time tables

Were cut back as were coaches .

No Director or legal officers said we doing anything wrong to through everything at bus marketing
and bus and coach Drivers and fares promotions.

Is not a proposal of and Elected Transport Authority.

So when the Buses to be wrapped were cancelled by the interim chief executive of the west of
England mayoral combined transport Authority and localEnterprisepartnership.

Dan the mayor Rung me up and said David can you get a bus to launch the Birthday card scheme
and Drivers recruitment I spoke to number of bus company and within 2 day I got Rapt Bath to
provide the bus and we lunch the campaign in Bath Somerset with Dan Norris the Democracatly
Elected metro mayor and Angel the Dog

Did not cost the Taxpayer a Penny and iam proud of that

2 have 2 major items today on the Audit commission agenda for £ 10 000 of marketing money make
this Transport Authority look badly managed by officers not servicing the travelling public and the
poorest communities of the Bristol and Bath city region into Somerset and Gloucestershire.

This would not Happen in the Liverpool City Region mayor Steve Rotherham new

Merseyside train launch in Liverpool or Mayor Andy street in the west Midlands or Andrews
Burnham in Greater Manchester combined transport Authority who has been very high profile on
bus trams and trains network Beeline in Greater Manchester

The Department for transport is looking at this with disbelief and is wondering about the
competence of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset
council to run and manage Public transport.

We need to resolve this issue and work in partnership with Bristol city council South Gloucestershire
county council Banes and North Somerset council .

No labour Bristol city council going to sanction a mayor of a Democracatly Elected metro mayor
Dan Norris labour run west of England mayoral combined Authority.

Their is a special meeting on 12 th December 2023 at 7 30 pm .

And this now very political with political advertising on Facebook and on bill Boards against the Democracatly Elected metro mayor Dan Norris.

So the west of England mayoral combined Authority should be Auditing Public Transport service and plans and operations not £ 10 000 marketing budget for bus drivers and fares promotions.

We need to urgently stop the expenditure in this Transport Authority combined Authority on interim Directors and consultants whilst many community have not public Transport service or bus service. Bring the finances under control of Human resources in this organisation
le the consultants and interim Directors cost and Employ local government officers
The Railway Directorate and Public Transport unit are made of very skilled Railway Division Directors and staff
And people from the bus and coach industry were specialists staff and Directors are required from Railway and Bus and coach services background.

But not consultants doing 3 months worth interim Directors costing the Taxpayer £100 000 of pounds a year

David Redgewell South west transport Network and Bristol disability equities forum Trustees.
South Gloucestershire County council
Disability equities network Trustee
Members of Bristol one city Transport board.
Passengers represent on the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council Bus service improvement plan advisory panel.