

Appendix A: Further essential background / detail on the proposal

WECA Public Statement (November 2019)

The West of England Combined Authority took on new transport powers as part of the devolution deal, and we are now working with our constituent councils to bring the delivery of these new powers and functions together.

Since WECA was set up in 2017, these functions have been carried out by the councils on behalf of WECA, but now we are looking at how we bring them together.

Working together in this way means we can achieve more by combining resources and taking positive action to address our challenges as a region.

It means we can plan public transport across council boundaries, supporting our Joint Local Transport Plan and Bus Strategy; we will have a stronger negotiating position with public transport providers and there is a greater opportunity to advance sustainability and climate change agendas.

It is expected that by April 1st 2020 staff from the three authorities will transfer to WECA to carry out these functions in a new combined team. As the Transport Authority for the region, WECA will take responsibility for delivering the following:

- **Concessionary travel** - administration of the service providing free off-peak bus passes for older people and people with qualifying disabilities.
- **Bus service information** - provision of bus timetable information at bus stops and data to journey planners and apps, including the real-time predictions.
- **Community transport** – funding, advice and support for on-demand local transport services, such as dial-a-ride, community buses and voluntary car schemes.
- **Supported bus services** - procurement and management of bus contracts supported with public money where the service is not commercially viable.
- **metrobus** - management of the metrobus contract and providing service information to metrobus iPoints.
- **Travelwest** - management of the travelwest website, including travel information.

We are working together to ensure that there will be no impact on public services during the transition.

Additional Information (also supplied by WECA November 2019)

Below is a more detailed proposed division of responsibilities between WECA and UAs:

Function	WECA Main Activities	UA Main Activities
Concessionary Travel	<p>Overall responsibility for delivery of English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (jointly with NSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of scheme-wide non-statutory elements • Policy setting including the non-statutory elements • Management of scheme and reimbursement to operators • Guidance to agents on assessment of eligibility and issue of passes to WECA residents • Data collection and submission to DfT • Fraud checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As agents for WECA to process pass applications including assessment of eligibility • Printing and issuing of passes
Bus Service Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real time information system and contract (jointly with NSC) • Managing changes to commercial service registrations • Preparation, printing and posting of paper timetables • Traveline data input • Representation at SWPTI and SWAPTO meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangement of temporary diversions for planned and unplanned road closures, road works and events • Promotion of PT projects and local engagement
Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and consistency standards • Advice and guidance to providers • Assessment of applications, award of grant funding and management of service level agreements • Issue of s19 permits 	
Supported Bus Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported bus services contract specification, procurement and management (including for Bristol Park and Ride services) • Bus service registrations • Monitoring of performance of services • Bus punctuality data collection, analysis and submission to DfT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of S106 contributions (in consultation with WECA) and commissioning these services through WECA • Receipt of devolved BSOG on behalf of WECA (subject to discussions with DfT) • Procurement of Home-to-School and SEND transport • Influencing PT input into Capital Programme, Highway DM and Local Plan development
Metrobus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer service • Liaison with operators • Managing the Quality Partnership Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiating further scheme development projects

Travelwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operation and management of Travelwest website/platform• Development and improvement of the website to reflect new technology• Lead on Travelwest working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare and provide content for Travelwest website• Represent UA at Travelwest working group
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