

Statement: PS16.01

Cabinet – 14th July 2020

Re: Agenda item 16 – 2020/21 Period 2 (May) Finance Report

Statement submitted by: South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

We are still very concerned about the west of England bus recovery plan but pleased with the progress being made by the on bringing back bus services.

From the 2nd of August 2020 the Trunk route between Bath spa bus and coach station to Weston, Kelson, Bitton, Longwell Green, Hanham, St George, Lawrence Hill station, Bristol bus and coach station.

We still have 11 routes still not operational including route 18 Bath bus and coach station via Keynsham, 178 Bristol to Radstock via Brislington and Keynsham, 96 Brislington to Hengrove via Knowle, X2 Bristol bus station to Yatton, Worle to Weston super Mare.

With government instructions to bring the network back to 80% we do not have a proper bus service to Marshfield for the last 4 months. The Marshfield to Bristol city centre bus service stopped operation without any public consultation due to Covid-19.

As on the 31st march 2020 this was a south Gloucestershire council tender bus service, can we again ask WECA mayoral transport authority if this service is to be re-tendered or reinstated.

We wish urgently to see routes bus routes y2 Bristol bus and coach station to yate bus station and chipping sodbury evening service reinstated via Fishponds. Bristol Bus and coach station service reinstated via Gloucester road and cribbs causeway bus station to Thornbury on route T2.

There is an urgent need for these services to be reinstated for local journeys in the evening.

WECA mayoral transport authority has a duty under Government guidance on Covid 19 bus operators grant but is failing to carry this out with passengers consultation like Somerset county council Wiltshire or Gloucestershire county council. The government is not expecting Transport authority to reinstate evening and weekend service. This is now being put into operation in Gloucester Cheltenham and Stroud. Swindon Bournemouth Poole and Christchurch. Cornwall and Plymouth. In south west region it is very disappointing that we still have no public enquiry line at WECA mayoral transport authority since public transport services transfer from Bristol city council, south Gloucestershire county council and Bath and North east Somerset.

There is an urgent need for enforcement of face covering on public transport please can this be raised with Sue Mountsteven the police and crime commissioner and chief constable Andy Marsh, Bristol port police and the British transport police. As bus regulations have changed to allow 18 passengers on a single decker and 35 on a double decker bus .60 on a 3 car train. On the Bristol Temple meads Filton Abbey wood. Bristol parkway, Yate, Cam and Dursey and Gloucester and Cheltenham the Severn Beach line and the main line to south Wales via Patchway and Pilning, we need regular deep cleaning of Buses and trains. Bus shelters bus and railway stations and enforcement on face coverings. Realtime information is still not operational on bus stops interchanges and bus stations.

On Tourist attractions do we have dates for the opening of south Gloucestershire museums. In Yate, Kingswood and Thornbury and other tourist information centres. Bristol and Bath tourist information centres have reopened but not Bristol museum service so museum have opened in Bath. In line with Bath Bristol Gloucester Cheltenham and North Somerset coast tourism is 1 .4 billion pound economy to Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

We would like to see progress in this area with the cotswolds and the coastal seaside town of Severn beach, Western gateway transport board.

We are also very very concerned about the consultation of the western gateway transport board plan and the lack of public consultation on a vital region plan during the covid 19 emergency. The fact that the region has 2 transport boards is not supported by any environmental or transport group holds us back this was the view of the region travel watch south west meeting.

We are concerned Somerset is split in half as a county like east and west Germany. Partition is good in British history and now exist in the 7 countries of the south west. The issue that concerns us are the lack of a clear region bus and coach network policy.

No clear investment strategy for Transport interchanges such as Bristol Temple meads station as a major station in south west England. Or Bristol parkway. No clear region important Bus or coach links such as Bristol bus and coach station to cribbs causeway bus station to chepstow bus station or Bath spa bus station to Trowbridge warmister, Salisbury, Bristol Bristol Airport, Churchill Bridgwater, Taunton, Cullompton, Exeter Newton abbot, Plymouth falcon coach services. Chepstow bus station to Gloucester bus station link or Thornbury to Gloucester bus station .Bristol bus and coach station to wells Glastonbury and street. We welcome the reference to Bristol Bath city region bus network and Gloucester Cheltenham bus network. Bournemouth Poole and Christchurch network. The plan has no rural transport policy.

We welcome the railway policy and reference to metro west and Region railway routes but we have no clear priority on station investment with Great Bristol competing with Bournemouth Poole and Christchurch Dorset for public transport network investment.

There again is a lot of list of rural roads improvements to in Wiltshire and Dorset.

The main railway network to from London Paddington to Bristol Temple meads to Penzance via Taunton, Exeter Plymouth is seen as less important than a road From Bristol to m4 to Poole.

Ports and Airports investment are not clear. Is investment more important in Poole port Weymouth or the port of Bristol or Bournemouth Airport or Bristol or Exeter.

The region main focus is not Bristol To Bath to Bournemouth Poole road systems

The main road and Rail links go to Gloucester Cheltenham Birmingham.

Bristol, Taunton, Exeter ,Plymouth and Cornwall.

Bristol to Newport and Cardiff.

Having seen clear investment plans by the Northern power house and The Midlands Engine this plan need considerable work on it and integration with the south west

transport board plans . This not a region transport plan for investment post covid 19

Having read the west Midlands plan this need a lot of work on it .These concerns

Are also Express by Sera south west and Transport for Greater Bristol. The closing

date is 31st of July 2020