

Statement: PS09.01

Cabinet – 26 January 2021

Re: Agenda item 9 - Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Statement submitted by: David Redgewell

We want to ask Cabinet to note the following.

Firstly we are concerned to make sure that the support bus service budget is spent by WECA on:

- local bus services in south Bristol, on local routes around Stockwood, Whitchurch Hengrove to South Bristol Hospital 515 HCT group;
- 512 511 First Group 96 Brislington, Knowle to Hengrove Hospital;
- 92 Bristol city centre to Whitchurch;
- East Bristol Route 18 Bath spa bus station Saltford; Keynsham; North Common; Warmley, Kingswood, Hillfields, Staple Hill Downend UWE Bristol bus station;
- 19 Bath Spa bus station; Weston RUH back entrance; Kelston; Bitton; Cadbury Heath; Warmley; Kingswood; Hillfields; Staple Hill; Downend UWE; Bus Station; Bristol Parkway Station and Cribbs Causeway bus station;
- The 505 from Long Ashton park and ride to Clifton down station and Southmead Hospital Bus Station;
- 506 Bristol Cabot Circus; Southmead Hospital bus station via Lawrence hill Easton Eastville park and Horfield;
- 10 11 Severn Beach Avonmouth and Shirehampton to Lawrence Weston Westbury on Trym to Southmead hospital bus station Lockleaze; Bristol Parkway Station; Bradley Stoke; Thornbury

This is alongside the Covid 19 bus operator's grant.

These are some very important bus services and need ongoing revenue support. When we carry out a governance review and a devolution deal with WECA mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council joins then we hope WECA will become a fully integrated transport authority with a Railway executive and full transport and planning authority. We hope progress can be made on the devolution deal and precept powers.

Railways

The Budget shows money for Portway Parkway but the Department for Transport grant runs out on 31st March 2021 so we wonder what progress is being made by WECA mayoral transport authority and Network Rail western routes and First Great western railway to progress this scheme and whether the station interchange be operational by December 2021.

For the New Severn Beach; St Andrews Road; Avonmouth; Portway; Parkway Station; Shirehampton; Sea Mills; Clifton Down Station; Redland; Montpellier; Stapleton Road; Lawrence Hill; Bristol Temple Meads; Keynsham; Oldfield Park;

Bath Spa; Freshford; Avoncliffe; Bradford on Avon; Trowbridge; Westbury; Frome or Warminster Metro west service which will need revenue support.

The budget needs to maintain bus stops shelter and infrastructure which should of by now been transferred to the combined authority.

We still would like a know of a date for the metro bus service around the south Bristol loop from Hengrove where we need a new stop on Bamfield and the route from Hengrove; Whitchurch; Hartcliffe; Withywood; Long Ashton Park and Ride Bristol Temple Meads and Cabot Circus and the city centre .

Other important issues are:

- the Harbour wall and Cumberland road and the Harbour Railway;
- money for PCSO to parole the city with the Avon and Somerset Police;
- more patrols on the public transport network with the Covid 19 marshals after an assault on a nurse;
- An Abus by being spat at by a passenger on a scooter and this is being investigated by the Avon and Somerset police officers.
- We also note with concern that HCT group still have not fitted safety screens to their buses to protect drivers despite the promises made to the Director of Public Health and the Health and Safety Executive. All other bus companies in Greater Bristol have safety screens. Unite the union are also concerned.
- Other Covid 19 related issues is money to maintain public toilets essential in view of the temporary ones in the Harbour and Queen Square - a budget is required for public toilets and community toilets and money invested from capital from the sale of public toilets blocks should be invested in fully accessible public toilets and changing places. We are worried that community toilets will not be opened so a budget is needed for the city centre and Harbour if we are to recover a £1.4 billion pounds tourism economy in the city region. We would hope like in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, the WECA mayoral transport authority would fund toilets at public transport interchange across the city region.