

Resources Scrutiny Commission

4th February 2021

Public Forum



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Public Forum Statement

Statement 1: David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

We would like to raise the following issue; the need for progress on North Somerset Council joining WECA Mayoral combined authority following legal advice that progress can now be made between WECA mayoral elections. To ask what progress is now being made with the WECA scrutiny commission on the reform of WECA mayoral combined authority governance.

Public accountability of the Planning and Housing board, the Transport board Public transport forum Scrutiny meetings - the need to move the full public transport function from the city and county of Bristol, Banes Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

The need when North Somerset joins to set up a railway executive and a division to oversee a light rail system for Bristol and Bath city region.

We also need to make progress on a devolution deal on a light rail system for the Greater Bristol Bath city region and money for Temple Meads station public transport interchange facilities and money for Temple Quay and St Phillips Marsh.

Money to develop public transport network in North Somerset Council park and ride at Weston Super Mare metro bus from Bristol to Nailsea and Clevedon.

Work to stations for disabled access at Weston Super Mare transport interchange facilities and disabled lifts.

Full disabled access to Nailsea and Backwell station and Weston Super Mare to Locking Banwell, Winscombe new road and metro bus route to Cheddar and Wells bus station.

Powers to permit the for public transport service railway bus services and ferry services.

We need to make progress and holding the Western Gateway partnership to scrutiny account and the Western Gateway transport board.

The allocation of housing and affordable housing is very important in all four Greater Bristol authorities.

We would like to see progress on the city region governance by the growth and Regeneration Commission and WECA Mayoral Scrutiny Commission.

On the budget we would like certainty that budgets are transferred to WECA Mayoral Transport Authority to operate supported bus services in south Bristol link to south Bristol hospital East Bristol network and North Bristol network from Shirehampton and Avonmouth Lawrence Weston Westbury on Trym to Southmead hospital bus station to Bristol Parkway Bradley Stoke and Thornbury.

It's very important WECA mayoral transport authority has a revenue support budget and money for phase 1 of metro west from Severn Beach St Andrew Road Avonmouth Dock, Portway Parkway Station, Shirehampton, Clifton Down Redland, Montpellier, Stapleton Road Lawrence Hill, Bristol Temple Meads Keynsham, Oldfield Park, Bath Spa Freshford, Avoncliffe, Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge Westbury, Warminster or Frome.

On public toilets we need to see a budget - this is very important in view of the temporary toilets in Queen Sq and the harbour with disabled access.

We need a budget for public toilets with disabled access in our city centre and shopping centres and parks - any capital raised through sales of toilet blocks should be reinvested in new public and community toilets.

On Covid-19 we need to see more patrols on the Greater Bristol and Bath bus network by Police and Covid-19 marshals especially with an attack on a NHS Nurse on a bus travelling into central Bristol; [the nurse] was spat at by a passenger with a scooter. This issue is being investigated by the Avon and Somerset police.

We need Covid marshal patrols on the bus and local rail network with the Avon and Somerset police and the British transport police and port police.

We are very concerned about lack of progress on Portway Parkway railway station.

Network rail western routes and WECA mayoral transport authority have not started work on this project with First Great Western railway. The Department for Transport grant runs out on 31st of March 2021.

Of course money is needed to regenerate the Governor and Bristol and Exeter hotel and the derelict buildings in the High street around Castle Park - these are long term projects along Newfoundland Road corridor that need attention.

The need for a transport plan for Severnside Bus links from south Bristol via the south Bristol hospital link and the Portway and Portway Parkway station to Severn Beach Cabot Park and the St Andrews Road station area.

We need the Henbury loop to operate to Avonmouth and St Andrew's Road.

Severn Beach Station needs a car park and Pilning station needs rebuilding for the new development.