

# Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 4 December 2023 Public Forum



## Public Forum Questions

None received.

## Public Forum Statements

Ref	Name	Topic
S1	David Redgewell, Southwest Transport Network and Gordon Richardson Bristol Disability Equalities Forum	Budget Setting & Transport Levy
S2	Jen Smith	Transformation Programme



## **PUBLIC FORUM - STATEMENTS**

### **Statement 1: David Redgewell, Southwest Transport Network and Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disability Equalities Forum**

With Bristol City Council budget setting for 2023, 2024, we are very concerned about the; Transport Levy to the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset Council To pay for public transport services.

And bus services under the joint power under the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Act with Bristol City Council and county of Bristol, South Gloucestershire county council, BANES council and North Somerset council because of joint transport Authority powers on bus services improvement plan and metro west Railway Network.

The powers including all public transport Railway services, buses, coaches and ferry services. Sustainable transport Networks.

As the Bristol city Region has had major bus service cuts, and many estates in the City Region are unable to access schools, colleges, universities, work, food shopping, shopping centres, health care hospital and leisure facilities.

Especially Ashton Vale Estate, Stapleton Broomhill Fishponds Oldbury Court Downend Bromley Heath, The Dings parts of Brislington and St Anne's park, Westbury on Trym links to UWE bus station, Bristol parkway station, Bradley Stoke, Aztec West, Hortham, Alveston, Thornbury, Evening services, Sunday services.

We would like a proper negotiation over the Transport Levy between Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire county council, Banes and North Somerset council over the level of Transport Levy required to run the public transport Network.

Scrutiny commission to discuss and Joint Committee and West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee oversight.

We also welcome the transferring the clean air zone money to the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority for spending on public transport including bus services and railway, ferry service, walking and cycling facilities. But with priority toward bus services to excluded communities.

In Greater Bristol as a priority such as 505 Bristol Southmead hospital bus station, Horfield, Downs, Clifton Village, Hotwells, Ashton Gate, Long Ashton park and ride site 505 to Ashton Vale.

Services 1 1a from Cribbs Causeway bus and coach station, Bristol City Centre, Broadmead shopping centre Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale Brislington sandy park road St Anne's park, Guilford Road, Brislington Hungerford road Brislington.

1a 1 b splitting at sandy park road.

Services 5 25 restore Between Bristol City Centre, St Paul's, St Werburghs, Eastville Park, Stapleton, Broomhill, Fishponds, Oldbury Court, Downend, Bromley Heath,

Services 52 Bishopsworth to Bristol city centre via Hengrove restore for Chew valley services 672 .

Services 10 11 Shirehampton Avonmouth to Lawrence Weston, Westbury on Trym, Southmead Hospital bus station, UWE bus station, Bristol Parkway railway station, Aztec West roundabout, Hortham, Alveston, Thornbury, The Dings; these are some of services that need to be restored and need discussion with the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset council and Mayor Dan Norris.

**Statement 2; Jen Smith.**

Our Families Programme is yet another transformation programme involving Send. What this basically boils down to is a dystopian time-loop event whereby the council keeps failing to solve the issue before it resets and starts again.

That the programme will 'design effective services' is laughable. What have you been doing since 2014 when the Send reforms came in? Lots of people appear to have made money consulting, meeting, Miro boarding, directing, PR-ing and spying. But we always hear there's no money in Send.

We still can't get our Annual Review paper work on time. The requirement to send this out is set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, so it's hardly come as a sudden surprise.

We're still waiting for all the provision in the EHCP since 2019. I assume you want me to go back to the LGO for a third time, I've already booked time in for Sendist next year.

And some 200 Send pupils are currently still without a school place across Bristol.

Meanwhile, the Send community is seeing consultation cuts to things like Short Breaks – not that there are any Short Breaks for lots of Disabled families anyway.

And what is with the EHCP redesign underway? Have you not literally been redesigning it for years now? Yes you have.

I've sat in so many meetings since 2018 and witnessed Children and Education Services – the ones supposedly operating in a 'complex and challenging environment' run into the ground by executive directors and Cabinet education leads who have treated Send families with contempt. It's always called 'Transformation'.

So often, Send failures in Bristol (transformation) are re-branded as a failure by central Government to fund the Send reforms. Yes, we all know funding from the Government is appalling. Yet one Bristol Cabinet lead for education once said that Bristol's issues ran far deeper than that. I totally agree with that statement and it still stands now.

Education in Bristol is an ideological battle which puts Cabinet and the LA as some hard done by underdog who then airbrushes education and Send with PR speak (transformation) over the realities of its incompetence and indifference.

When you look at an EHCP draft plan, you need to check Section F provision for unlawful language. If provision is not quantified or specified it's not lawful. We call those words 'weasel words'. When you spend enough time doing EHCP stuff, you quickly pick up the 'weasel words' in other reports. You can see them here, they are the ones that say everything yet mean nothing:

Transformation  
 Design effective services  
 Efficiency of delivery  
 Delivered sustainable  
 Long-term improvements  
 Better value for money  
 Efficiently and effectively

## There's plenty of weasel in the Transformation Portfolio Update