

West of England

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**A meeting of the
West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee**

will be held on

Date: Monday 9th January 2017

Time: 10.00am – 1pm

**Venue: The Campus, Highlands Lane, Weston-super-Mare,
BS24 7DX**

Members of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee:

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Cllr Bob Goodman
Cllr Paul May
Cllr Rob Appleyard

Bristol City Council

Cllr Steve Pearce
Cllr Charlie Bolton
Cllr Peter Abraham

North Somerset Council

Cllr Chris Blades
Cllr Don Davies
Cllr Terry Porter

South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Pat Hockey
Cllr Martin Farmer
Cllr Brian Allinson

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Bath & North East
Somerset Council



West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence and introduction
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Member and Public Forum*
 - I. Petitions
 - II. Statements
 - III. Questions
4. Minutes of meeting held on 28th November 2016
5. Matters arising from the papers relating to the Strategic Leaders Board (11 Jan 2017) and Joint Transport Board (13 Jan 2017)
6. Rail Update
To provide a presentation to update on progress with the MetroWest Phase 1 and 2 schemes and other rail matters
7. Joint Spatial Plan & Joint Transport Study
To provide an update on consultation activities
8. Forward Plan 2016/17

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th March 2017 at Somerdale Pavilion, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW

* *Members of the public can speak for up to 5 minutes each. The total time for this session is 30 minutes so speaking time will be reduced if more than 6 people wish to speak. Notice is required as follows:*

- *By noon on the working day before the meeting for **petitions** or **statements***
- *3 full working days notice for **questions**.*

West of England



**Draft minutes of the meeting of the
West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 28th November 2016 at 10am

Present

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Cllr Rob Appleyard
Cllr Bob Goodman
Cllr Chris Pearce (Sub Cllr May)

Bristol City Council

Cllr Steve Pearce (Chair)
Cllr Charlie Bolton

North Somerset Council

Cllr James Tonkin (Sub Cllr Davies)
Cllr Chris Blades
Cllr Terry Porter

South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Pat Hockey
Cllr Martin Farmer
Cllr Brian Allinson

In attendance

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Pete Davis | West of England LEP |
| John Malyckyj | West of England LEP |
| Joanna Greenwood | West of England LEP |
| Adam Powell | West of England LEP |
| Antony Corfield | West of England LEP |
| Helen Edelstyn | Bath & North East Somerset Council |
| Shelley Nania | Bristol City Council |
| Peter Dawson | Bath & North East Somerset Council |

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Paul May, Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Donald Davies, North Somerset Council

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none

3. Public Forum

Questions were submitted by:

Victoria Bywater, Clerk to Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council regarding the removal of the Pilning Station footbridge. Written answers were provided.

Anne Lock on various rail related matters. Written answers were provided.

The following statements were considered:

David Redgewell, South West Transport Network on:

- The impact of the postponement of electrification upon MetroWest and need for a clear statement regarding progress
- Referred to 'Modernising the Great Western railway' (issued by the National Audit Office) and asked that the link be circulated to members <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Modernising-the-Great-Western-railway.pdf> **Action**
- The disabled ramp had been postponed again at Nailsea Station
- The rolling stock cascade
- The need to have a West of England transport conference to agree a strategy to present to government to secure funding
- Invite Network Rail and Department for Transport officers to a future meeting

Cllr Pearce noted the comments and said that he would raise the issue with the Bristol Mayor, he would also raise it at the Strategic Leaders Board. **Action**

Cllr Allinson agreed and said that he felt the area to have been betrayed particularly as the West of England was a net contributor to the economy.

Cllr Tonkin noted that the Nailsea ramp had been postponed for a third time.

Cllr Pearce suggested that members write to the clerk with any suggestions as to what might go into a letter to Network Rail.

Action: All

Cllr Bolton agreed with the suggestion that Network Rail be invited to a future meeting and also endorsed the idea of a conference.

Cllr Pearce felt perhaps a day could be spent on rail matters in the new municipal year.

Christina Biggs on behalf of Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways regarding devolution and the Joint Spatial Plan stating that with regard to the former it wasn't entirely clear what new money was actually there.

Gavin Smith on behalf of Friends of Bristol Suburban Railways and Transport for Greater Bristol regarding the Joint Transport Study (written).

The following members statement was noted:

Cllrs Bolton, Hockey, Appleyard and Davies regarding the spatial strategy,

transport plan, climate change and air quality. A written officer response was provided.

Cllr Bolton noted a slight difference in ambition, the Joint Transport Study had a target of car usage down to 49% whereas Bristol City Council had an ambition to be carbon neutral by 2050, so there appeared to be a slight conflict between the two positions and wanted to understand how this might work.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2016

It was noted that Cllr Davies was a member of North Somerset Council but had been listed in the apologies as representing Bath & North East Somerset Council.

The minutes were agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr Farmer asked if an opening date for the Portishead Line had clearly been established and if not when a clearer picture would become apparent.

Pete Davis said that an update would be provided to the Joint Transport Board and the report would be circulated to JSC members in January.

Cllr Hockey said that she was aware that the Local Government Association was taking up the issue around electrification and the knock-on effect it would therefore be useful to understand the views of officers.

Pete Davis said that he would check this point and circulate to members. **Action**

6. Brexit

Shelley Nania presented the report.

A discussion then followed which covered the following points:

Cllr Hockey asked about the involvement of all four councils in the process, with some of the universities and such sites as the Bristol and Bath Science Park lying outside the Bristol City council boundaries.

Shelley Nania said that most of the work was being carried out by Business West and the LEP therefore a West of England perspective was being captured. It was understood that the universities were carrying out their own lobby of central government. Economic development teams were beginning to discuss the issues as well.

Cllr Pearce expressed concern that matters were not yet formalised and the situation could be further complicated by the introduction of the Combined Authority, it was important to maintain a coherent approach.

Shelley Nania said that it was apparent that around the country the economic development elements were being explored via LEPs. The Mayor and leaders had agreed to work together and that the LEP was best resourced to explore the issues and a paper would be considered at a future LEP Board.

Councillor Bolton asked about the National Industrial Strategy and was there anything available yet that would indicate the financial impact of Brexit.

Shelley Nania said that care was being taken to ensure resources weren't put into work that wasn't required. However it was necessary to consider the impact upon major employers in the area, migrant workers and key employment sectors, the response would be shaped towards the economic impact. The universities funding had an international element to consider particularly in the field of innovation. The financial implications will come out of the work once it was completed.

Cllr Appleyard noted the challenges for the universities across the West of England, it would be helpful to receive updates on the implications once Article 50 had been triggered and the Government had showed its hand.

Action: Include in Forward Plan 17/18

Shelley Nania said that part of the work was to understand and address the concerns of voters. The Mayor was involved in an engagement programme with communities and some of the issues might surface.

Cllr Appleyard noted this and said that it should be something done across the West of England understanding the mood of people would be important in shaping the future.

Cllr Bolton asked if there was an understanding of what was being done across the South West. He felt that the environmental standards set by the European Union (EU) were an important and positive element of membership as were attitudes to energy and some food systems. Trade relations with countries further afield might potentially increase pollution.

Contact with authorities further afield had not yet been made, however it was known that they were feeding into the work of the LGA on Brexit. There were many shared concerns. The Great Repeal Act would be enacted and currently the LGA and DCLG were looking at developing a list of the ten laws that should be prioritised and air quality was amongst this group.

Cllr Farmer commented on the Industrial Strategy and noted the importance of the aerospace industry to the area, whilst planes were not built, parts were exported to France and Germany, it would be important to the sector to continue to do this without the imposition of tariffs. Would this point be addressed?

It was understood that the Industrial Strategy would say where growth would take place in each region and so it was likely that the point would be addressed. Business West was looking at the issue of those EU nationals who were engaged in high skill occupations and how to plug any future shortages.

Cllr Porter noted the lack of available information and it would be the Government's decisions that would determine where and how the country went. 70% of the North Somerset population voted to leave the EU yet it was an area of low immigration so he felt that the reasons for voting patterns would differ depending on where the questions were asked.

Cllr Pearce suggested that the response from national politicians hadn't been

helpful just after the result of the referendum had been announced. There were a number of matters that needed to be considered:

- What scope was there to build bi-lateral relations with EU countries?
- What resources would be available to act as a foreign service?
- JSC to be kept informed of developments
- What resources were being made available by the LGA?
- It was important to engage with the whole of the South west to find areas of common interest
- Members should encourage their own authorities to engage with each other.

Cllr Appleyard asked if there should be an individual conduit for all this information. Could the leaders be asked to formulate a plan to make this possible? He noted that the Autumn statement had indicated additional funding for LEPs so it would be helpful to know how this would be cascaded.

Pete Davis explained that this was about the Local Growth Fund allocations, the West of England had bid for £81m but there had been no news yet about the precise figure awarded. Transport funding was for pinch-points and smaller scale projects.

Shelley Nania said that international engagement was something that could be approached on a West of England basis and explained some recent work that had been carried out with Chinese provinces as an example of how things might operate on a wider basis.

Cllr Blades asked if the LEP had considered establishing an international trade and development group, would this be a possibility and was it something the UAs could look at? To have a single powerful voice would be helpful.

Cllr Farmer said that it was important to emphasise to Government the sectors that were important to the West of England.

Cllr Hockey stressed the importance environmental issues and asked where they fell in the quadrant displayed on the slide.

Shelley Nania said that this sat within the area of finance.

ACTION:It was agreed that the draft minutes be circulated as soon as possible

7. Hinkley Point C

Adam Powell and Antony Corfield presented the report.

Cllr Pearce noted with concern the possible drain on construction labour away from the West of England, so there would be a need to backfill so as not to jeopardise local projects.

Cllr Appleyard pointed to the strength of the area retaining its graduates and wondered what could be done to encourage those engaged in the Hinkley work once the project was complete to stay in the area.

Adam Powell said that he understood that as EDF had other projects to complete such as Sizewell they perhaps viewed the workforce as transferrable. However there was potential for other more locally based projects at Berkeley and Oldbury that would require a skilled workforce but were not under the wing of EDF.

Cllr Goodman felt that there were not sufficient people prepared to become apprentices, was there a better way of getting them engaged and interested?

Adam Powell acknowledged the points, there were changes in the pipeline which would hopefully make apprenticeships more attractive.

Cllr Tonkin asked what would happen to the educational infrastructure that had been established to support the project once it had been completed.

Adam Powell noted that universities and colleges were independent organisations that were used to adapting to a changing landscape. It was true to say that only a small proportion of the workforce would be nuclear specific so it would not be a major issue.

Cllr Hockey noted the huge scale of the project, the new technology involved and the possible influx of people that would be required, was there a contingency should the project hit a major problem?

Adam Powell said that he wasn't aware of this at present but the strong links that were being developed with EDF may help to identify any issues.

Cllr Porter expressed concern about the pressure on the local construction labour market when housing developments were not being completed on time due to workforce issues.

Cllr Farmer commented on the position of SMEs in the hierarchy of procurement, was there a target in terms of local businesses and workers?

Adam Powell said that a network had been established to create a locally based supply chain, for example the 'Somerset Larder' project was drawing on local companies to provide food on the site.

Cllr Pearce asked when it would be clear as to what the job roles and skills requirements would be.

Adam Powell said that this information would flow from EDF and the colleges but there wasn't yet clarity as to when this would be.

Cllr Pearce noted that infrastructure would be established to support training and education, there might be a legacy element that would benefit the West of England in the future.

Adam Powell acknowledged this but pointed out that the project would last 10 years so the long term impact could not be judged at this point.

8. Devolution

Helen Edelsteyn presented the report.

Cllr Hockey asked about the possible scrutiny arrangements and if there was to be any consultation.

It was explained that there would be a separate parliamentary order covering scrutiny and it would be published in early 2017. It wasn't yet clear what the consultation arrangements would be.

Cllr Pearce noted the tight time frame bearing in mind that there was to be an election in May 2017.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to have an understanding and the opportunity to contribute to the eventual make-up of the (scrutiny) arrangements.

Helen Edelstyn explained that she had been liaising with the Centre for Public Scrutiny and that she could invite them to a future meeting if this was felt helpful.

Cllr Appleyard hoped that the arrangements would provide more opportunity to contribute to policy and to give joint scrutiny greater teeth.

There was a discussion around legacy arrangements and the role of North Somerset Council once the Combined Authority had been established.

9. Economic Intelligence Report

The report was noted.

10. Forward Plan 2016/17

It was suggested that there be an update on Brexit at the March meeting with a focus on the LEP.

At a future date the Industrial Strategy should be considered.

Invite Network Rail to the next meeting.

A further session on devolution would be required, this might be an additional informal meeting or workshop.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th January 2017, at The Campus, Highlands Lane, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 7DX

Signed.....
Chair, West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee

Date.....

West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee

9 January 2017

Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study – Engagement Update

Purpose of Report

1. To provide a progress update on the current consultation and engagement programme to support the development of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS).

Background

2. The current stage of consultation encompasses both the Joint Spatial Plan 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy Document' and the Joint Transport Study 'Transport Vision' document.
3. The consultation started, as planned, on 7 November 2016 for a period of six weeks until 19 December 2016. Whilst this meets statutory planning requirements, this consultation is the second stage of consultation in the draft plan making stage (regulation 18) and the level of engagement undertaken reflects the Unitary Authorities' commitment to have an ongoing dialogue on the work to date. The purpose of this stage of consultation is to:
 - inform local residents and other key stakeholders about the current stages of the JSP and JTS and how they can participate;
 - explain how the evidence base has been gathered and how this has led to the current Emerging Spatial Strategy and Transport Vision;
 - provide an update on how the responses to the previous stage of consultation have informed and contributed towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy and Transport Vision;
 - explore the suitability of the potential strategic housing and employment locations with local communities and stakeholders;
 - engage, seek views and gather opinion on the JSP Emerging Spatial Strategy;
 - present and seek views on the overall JTS Transport Vision, including a suggested scale of ambition to address current and future challenges up to 2036, and packages of multi-modal investment to address these challenges;
 - explore the suitability of the package of infrastructure measures identified in the transport Vision, including associated transport mitigation to support the emerging strategy up to 2036; and
 - provide decision makers with information to assist them in making informed decisions about plan development and delivery.

4. The consultation programme utilises a range of consultation and engagement methods including online channels through the use of web, video and social media as well as offline communication channels via a launch event, four themed workshops with stakeholders, location events that were open to all and specific key meetings.
5. The consultation documents, supporting technical information and a consultation events calendar, is available for public viewing on a web based information hub <https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk> with links to/from each council. Documents are made available for public inspection at each council's usual deposit stations.

Engagement Programme Update

6. The JSP and JTS launch event was held on Tuesday 8 November at the Watershed Cinema in Bristol, over 250 stakeholders were invited and with just over 150 stakeholders attending the event . Overall the feedback received on the launch event was positive regarding the venue, video and presentation on the JSP and JTS.
7. The JSP and JTS media briefing was also held on Tuesday 8 November at the Watershed Cinema in Bristol. The briefing was attended by: BBC Bristol, Heart FM and Bristol 24/7.
8. There were two central releases issued on behalf of the Unitary Authorities:
 - 7 November: Consultation launched on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study
 - 30 September: [Next step announced for consultation on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study](#)
9. During the consultation period there has been a various press and media enquires as well as articles across various publications including:
 - The Week In
 - Gazette Series
 - Somerset Live
 - The Bristol Post
10. An animated short video was prepared to explain key messages of the consultation and to engage with a wider audience, this is available online: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/189143033> Together with the use of social media it is envisaged that this will assist in providing alternative opportunities for younger people to participate in the JSP and JTS consultation, which remains a priority. Up to 23 November, the JSP and JTS video has been played 646 times.
11. Four themed workshops were held across the West of England with targeted audiences to discuss some of the key issues in the JSP and JTS and to seek their professional input into the process. A report will be prepared summarising

the response from each workshop and will be reported on in March alongside the consultation report. The workshops were:

- Environment, Sustainable Lifestyles and Wellbeing workshop- 21st November
- Boosting Affordable Housing Delivery workshop -1st December
- Economy and employment workshop -5th December
- Transport and infrastructure workshop - 7th December

12. Some 15 local consultation drop in sessions have been held in community centres, libraries and other locations during the consultation period and included:

Bath & North East Somerset:

- **Keynsham** - Keynsham library, Keynsham Civic Centre, BS31 1FS - 7th – 18th November
- **Midsomer Norton** - The Hollies Reception, Midsomer Norton, BA2 2DP - 21st November - 2nd December
- **Bath** - One Stop Shop, Lewis House, Bath BA1 1JQ - 5th - 16th December

Bristol:

- **Bristol Central Library** - Thursday 17th November, 12-3pm, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TL
- **Whitchurch Library** - Wednesday 23rd November, 1:30-4:30pm, Otlands Avenue, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0SX
- **Bristol City Hall** - Wednesday 7th December, 12-3pm, Deanery Vestibule, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

North Somerset:

- **Backwell** – Backwell Parish Hall, Tuesday 22nd November, 5-7pm
- **Churchill and Langford** – Churchill Primary School, Wednesday 23rd November, 5.30-7.30pm
- **Nailsea** – Tithe Barn, Monday 28th November, 5-7pm
- **Banwell** – Banwell Village Hall, Friday 2nd December, 6.45-8.45pm

South Gloucestershire:

- **Yate/Sodbury** – Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Thursday 10th November 1-7pm
- **Charfield** – Charfield Memorial Hall, Tuesday 15th November 1-7pm
- **Coalpit Heath** – Coalpit Heath Village Hall, Monday 21st November 1-7pm
- **Thornbury** – Armstrong Hall, Friday 25th November 1-7pm
- **Buckover** – Falfield Village Hall, Monday 28th November 1-7pm

13. Six business consultation events have taken place with support from Business West and have been well attended by a range of businesses across the area.
14. At the time of writing, with one further week of consultation remaining, 305 responses had been received to the Joint Spatial Plan consultation and 377 to the Joint Transport Study consultation. A further verbal update on the responses received will be provided at the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9th January 2017. Between 1 October to 14 December, the consultation website www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk received 114,280 page views. 71.5% viewed the site via a desktop device and 28.5% viewed the site on a mobile device. The majority of visits for the website have come from a Bristol postcode followed by a London postcode:

| City | Page Views |
|-------------------|------------|
| Bristol | 7010 |
| London | 2048 |
| Bath | 1264 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 461 |
| (not set) | 428 |
| Clevedon | 408 |
| Birmingham | 249 |
| Slough | 227 |
| Reading | 169 |
| Haverfordwest | 151 |
| Bournemouth | 120 |
| Malmesbury | 117 |
| Bridgwater | 115 |
| Tonbridge | 110 |
| Gloucester | 102 |

Next Steps

15. Responses will be recorded and technical officers will analyse the responses and group them into key themes for future reporting to the Joint Scrutiny Committee, Planning Homes and Communities Board and the Joint Transport Board in March 2017. The views and comments received through the consultation will be taken into account to help to shape the future development of the JSP and Transport Vision, supported by the further development of packages of transport interventions designed to address current and future forecast issues.

Recommendation

16. Joint Scrutiny Committee members to give their views and note this update report.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 Background Documents:

None

West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee Draft 2016/17 Forward Plan

| Date of meeting | Report | Officer responsible |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 06/03/2017 | <p>Investment Board Update To update on the progress with the programme schemes</p> <p>Joint Spatial Plan To provide an update on progress with the JSP/JTS</p> <p>LEP Activity Update To provide an update on key matters relating to the LEP's key cross cutting activities ie Infrastructure & Place Group, SME Group, Skills Group and Invest Bristol and Bath service</p> <p>Economic Intelligence For information: to present the Economic Bulletin for Q4 of 2016/17</p> <p>Brexit LEP perspective</p> <p>Devolution Update</p> <p>Industrial Strategy If yet published</p> | <p>Pete Davis</p> <p>Louise Fradd</p> <p>Patricia Greer</p> <p>Charlotte Hopley</p> <p>Patricia Greer</p> <p>John McCormack</p> <p>To be advised</p> |