

**West of England Joint Transport Board
12 December 2014**

Views of Joint Scrutiny Committee on Matters Related to the Joint Transport Board

Purpose

1. To inform members of the views of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee (JSC) following a meeting held on Monday 8th December 2014.

Joint Scrutiny Committee Views

2. The following members were present at the meeting:

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Lisa Brett

Bristol City Council
Cllr Helen Holland (Vice-Chair)

North Somerset Council
Cllr Tony Moulin
Cllr David Pasley
Cllr Clive Webb

South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Pat Hockey (Chair)
Cllr Bill Bowrey
Cllr Colin Hunt

3. The JSC received representations during the public forum on the following transport issues:
 - Disabled access to MetroBus and MetroWest
 - Bus subsidies and the impact of public spending cuts in the area
 - The need for a garage to house MetroBus vehicles
 - The need for clear consultation on any changes to MetroBus
 - The need for a West of England director of buses
 - A combined authority with transport powers
 - There needed to be a division between the business side of the LEP and the local authorities
 - MetroWest Phases One and Two
 - The re-development of Temple Meads and the need for a transport hub at the site.
4. JSC received a presentation from Pete Davis updating members on major schemes, rail matters, the Joint Transport Strategy, the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) progress report and MetroBus. Members then asked questions and commented on:
5. The timing of the submission to the office of Rail Regulation on the possible siting of a level crossing in Portishead.
 - This wasn't known but officers would check and the information circulated
6. With reference to JLTP3 and targets to reduce carbon emissions, what was the proportion of spend from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and other schemes on cycling and walking provision?
 - These figures were not to hand but would be checked and the information circulated
7. It was important to encourage cycling and walking and this should be given priority in the visioning work for the Joint Transport Strategy.
8. Could the model established by the old London Transport which integrated rail and bus services be followed in the West of England or be used as part of the visioning?

9. The emphasis on cutting carbon was important but there were other pollutants coming from diesel which were now a greater threat and this should be included in any update of the JLTP.
10. The importance of incentivising bus fares to make public transport more attractive to commuters. It was suggested that schemes could be trialled over short periods of time but cost reductions needed to be made really attractive to encourage modal shift.
11. Operators needed to demonstrate that they understood the demographic profile of their customers or the elasticity of demand which members felt wasn't necessarily the case at present.
12. Members expressed great dissatisfaction that smartcards were not yet widely available throughout the West of England and asked that this be conveyed to the Joint Transport Board.
13. It was suggested that First Great Western be encouraged to consider 3 coach trains on Weston-super-Mare trains at peak times as demand was currently very high.
14. The A36/A46 Link and the East of Bath Park & Ride service should be included in the Joint Transport Strategy

Recommendation

15. That members note the views of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee

Author: John Malyckyj, West of England LEP Office

Tel: 0117 903 6865

Email: john.malyckyj@westofengland.org