

**West of England Joint Transport Board
17th July 2015**

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 distribution of the agenda and papers for the Joint Transport Board (JTB).

Joint Scrutiny Committee Views

2. The agenda and papers were sent to members of JSC on Thursday 9th July 2015, there being no meeting of the committee between that date and 17th July written comments were invited. Members were further advised that they could take part in the JTB Public Forum by giving notice in the appropriate way.

3. The following comments have been received:

- I. Cllr Donald Davies, North Somerset Council:

- Can I please ask your and fellow councillors' advice on a call-in of a transport matter? The long-proposed Henbury Loop seems to have been scrapped. I am not sure how the conclusion was reached other than some further 'consultants' report. As it seems a key element of our rail strategy, how do we call the matter to joint scrutiny please before any final decisions are made?

Officer response to the question posed on call in was as follows:

- JSC is constituted as 4 independent scrutiny committees meeting as one (the three members of each authority attending on behalf of their own authority). As confirmed in the constitution of the Strategic Leaders Board (SLB), JSC has the right to 'call in' decisions of the SLB, but the arrangements for the Joint Transport Board are slightly different, below is the relevant passage from the constitution and a link to the full document:
<http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/assets/files/Local%20Transport%20Body%20Board%20Constitution.pdf> :
- "9. *Overview and Scrutiny Where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of any local authority party considers calling in or conducting a review of a decision by or on behalf of the Board, consideration shall be given to inviting the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the other Party/Parties to share in such call-in or review.*"
- So in the first instance issues and concerns could be raised through the item on the JTB agenda, views would be collated for a note to go to the JTB if members thought this would be helpful. Secondly matters could be raised through authorities own Scrutiny function.

- II. Cllr Martin Farmer, South Gloucestershire Council:
 - The Joint Scrutiny Committee should be fully briefed and be able to scrutinise the business case for the Henbury Spur versus the Loop.

- III. Cllr Donald Davies, North Somerset Council:
 - Could you ask the JTB to defer decision on Henbury Loop until the Joint Scrutiny Panel has had the opportunity at its next meeting to review the business case and receive representations (of which I have had numerous already!) in order to form a view on the Henbury Loop or Spur proposals. We are in effect only reflecting public concern on policy, which surely is our role, particularly for work that can affect the transport aspirations of our residents in four authorities. (This comment received in response to Cllr Farmer's message)

Recommendation

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

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