

West of England
Planning, Housing and Communities Board
18 December 2014

Member & Public Forum

Notice has been given for the following representations:

Statements

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| Items 1: | David Redgewell on behalf of South West Transport Network on progress on the Transport Study and the Bristol plus Bath City Region Housing and Economic Plan | 1 |
| Item 3: | Shelly Dewhurst on behalf of the Local nature Partnership on membership of the Local Nature partnership Board. | 3 |

Daniel Moore
LEP Secretary

PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM SOUTH WEST TRANSPORT NETWORK

We welcome the progress on the Transport Study and the Bristol plus Bath City Region Housing and Economic Plan. The Transport Study should look at MetroBus extensions to Yate, Chipping Sodbury, Thornbury, Clevedon, Keynsham and Bath. MetroWest extensions to Yate, Thornbury/Berkeley/Sharpness, Gloucester, Charfield and Stonehouse, Taunton, West Wiltshire and Frome. Emphasis to be on economic development and housing in South Bristol to create a growth area with a new enterprise zone and improvements to Imperial Park.

Closer working relationships need to be developed with Mendip, Sedgemoor, Cotswold, Stroud and Swindon Borough Councils, Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire County Councils.

Partnership working over the new Cribbs Causeway shopping centre and transport access by bus and rail via Henbury or a station in the Charlton Hayes area.

The effects of this development on Broadmead, Kingswood, Weston-super-Mare, Bath and Gloucester.

Duty to co-operate on Patchway-Cribbs Causeway New Neighbourhood and transport access, public realm and neighbourhood facilities including health centres, schools, community facilities and employment land as well as MetroBus and the Henbury loop. The development will need a focus based around a public square, shopping centre and railway station with transport interchange and ancillary facilities such as library and perhaps a hotel.

The North Somerset Local Plan. Housing growth needs to be centred on public transport corridors and around Weston-super-Mare, including higher densities in the town centre and a bus-rail interchange at Weston station. Portishead, Pill, Yatton, Backwell, Nailsea and Flax Bourton (where a park and ride scheme has been discussed). Churchill? Linked to the Airport?

South Gloucestershire and Bristol need to work closer together on planning the new communities such as Patchway-Cribbs Causeway, East of Harry Stoke, Creswicke Village, Frenchay, Southmead/Henbury. We have three areas where we at present have concerns because new development has gone ahead without the opening of the Romney Avenue Bus Gate, without the bus lanes between Horfield and Aztec West on the A38 having been created and the MetroBus extension from Bristol Parkway to Filton North station and Henbury station.

Keynsham area transport strategy needs to fit in with the housing and employment strategies of South East Bristol and South Gloucestershire (Kingswood).

The housing growth around Keynsham and Saltford means that we need to ensure that Keynsham station is retained in its present place and that Saltford station be reopened with a carpark and bus interchange.

There is a real and pressing need to turn the West of England Partnership into a Combined Authority to deal with planning, waste and housing as well as transport for which a Transport Authority becomes the operational and delivery arm.

There is an opportunity to move the West of England Partnership to Keynsham Town Hall with its fully accessible public spaces, committee rooms and offices.

South West Transport Network

David Redgewell

Request for a West of England councillor to be nominated to join the West of England Nature Partnership board

My name is Shelly Dewhurst and I am employed by the West of England Nature Partnership to co-ordinate its activities. I have been asked by the Partnership to come to this meeting of the Planning Housing and Communities Board, to ask for your help in securing the nomination of a councillor from the West of England to join the partnership board.

Request:

We ask you to instruct officers to bring a report back to your next meeting setting out and seeking your confirmation of a joint process for nominations by the four UAs and in addition for a decision to be made on the nomination, at that meeting, if appropriate.

Background:

The West of England Nature Partnership gained formal recognition in July 2012 and covers the four Unitary Authority areas of the West of England. Its vision is to:

Create and coordinate a plan for the restoration of the natural environment within the West of England region, and to integrate that plan into strategies for spatial planning, economic development and public health.

The engagement of the four UAs in the activities of the Nature Partnership is vital to its success and we want to build on the relationship we currently have.

Next Steps:

The West of England Nature Partnership seeks to formalise current Board representation through a nominated West of England councillor. The board only has 6 members, and we do not have the scope to replicate the wider governance arrangements of the LEP, so we are only seeking one councillor to represent the whole of the West of England.

The nominated councillor will help set and deliver the strategic priorities of the WENP.

The WENP has secured core funding for 3 years to deliver its activities and to enable projects. It has a governance structure consisting of a Board, Steering Group, working groups and stakeholder forum. The Board are responsible for developing the strategy, by setting objectives and monitoring progress.

While it is a matter for the four UAs to decide, the WENP suggestion is that any such nomination could best be managed by the Planning Housing and Communities Board (Committee) on behalf of the four UAs, and that reporting arrangements and officer support for the nominated councillor would also be overseen by this body.

Ideally we would wish to complete the process of nomination and board acceptance, by the date of our next board meeting, which is currently planned for February 2015.

Current Board membership

Dominic Hogg	Chair, Eunomia Research & Consulting	Chair and Steering group Liaison
Barbara Davies	CEO, West of England LEP	LEP representation and communication
Bevis Watts	CEO, Avon Wildlife Trust	eNGO representative
Brian Glasson	Head of Strategic Planning, South Gloucestershire Council	Representation and communication for 4 Unitary Authorities (to be replaced by nominated councillor)
Bruce Laurence	Director of Public Health, B&NES	Representation and communication for 4 Health & Wellbeing Boards
Matthew Heard	Area Manager, Natural England	Government environmental policy representation

Upcoming dates

- Feb 2015 Board meeting (date tbc)
- 10th March am WENP Annual Conference

Shelly Dewhurst

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