



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire
Council

Draft minutes of meeting of the

Joint Transport Executive Committee

Friday 14 June 2013, 3.00pm – 5pm, The Guildhall, Bath

Present

Cllr Brian Allinson
Cllr Caroline Roberts
Cllr Mark Bradshaw
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees

South Gloucestershire Council (Chair)
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bristol City Council
North Somerset Council

In Attendance

Katherine Campbell	Network Rail
Peter Dawson	Bath and North East Somerset Council
David Trigwell	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Peter Mann	Bristol City Council
Alistair Cox	Bristol City Council
Colin Medus	North Somerset Council
Chris Sane	South Gloucestershire Council
Steve Evans	South Gloucestershire Council
Barbara Davies	West of England Office
John Malyckyj	West of England Office
Pete Davis	West of England Office
James White	West of England Office
Julia Dean	West of England Office

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

Cllr Allinson welcomed Cllr Roberts and Cllr Bradshaw as new members of the committee.

Cllr Allinson also welcomed two councillors from Wiltshire, Cllr Ian Cunningham from Westbury Town Council and David Jenkins, Wiltshire Councillor Westbury North Division who were observing the meeting.

2. Annual Business

- a) Election of Chair: It was proposed by Cllr Ap Rees and seconded by Cllr Bradshaw that Cllr Allinson be elected as Chair
- b) Election of Vice-Chair: It was proposed by Cllr Ap Rees and seconded by Cllr Allinson that Cllr Bradshaw be elected as Vice-Chair

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Member and public forum

Statements:

Daniel Farr regarding the campaign to reduce bus fares in the Bristol area

Duncan Hounsell expressing opposition to a bypass at Saltford

Julie Boston regarding local rail services and the importance of ensuring that fares were paid

David Redgewell

- The rail metro proposals and the importance of ensuring that the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2010 are complied with to allow access to all stations in the area.
- To extend the metro proposals beyond Bath and into Wiltshire
- Welcomed the Better Bus Area proposals
- The need for the electrification of local services

Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council

- The need to get Bristol moving to encourage economic activity
- Improved transport links could drive sub-regional growth
- That there were parts of the rail metro project that should be brought forward by simplifying aspirations
- Funding could be borrowed against the inevitable release of central government funding in order to start work early.
- Use local resources and labour to complete the project

Jenny Raggett, Campaign for Better Transport

- The importance of the 'Duty to Co-operate' between neighbouring authorities
- Recognising that there were transport needs that crossed boundaries between Bath & North East Somerset Council and Wiltshire
- That the West of England rail Metro should extend into West Wiltshire
- That there should be more meetings between neighbouring authorities and LEPs

Cllr Ian Cunningham from Westbury Town Council

- Welcomed the opportunity to address the Joint Committee
- Explained that Westbury was growing with 1200 new homes planned a rail link with Bristol and Bath was important because many people would need to commute
- He hoped that it would be possible for the Wiltshire and West of England authorities to work more closely together

5. Minutes of meeting held on 13 March 2013

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

6. Better Bus Area 2013

Alistair Cox presented the report and highlighted that the deadline for bids had been extended by 5th July 2013 therefore the recommendation needed to be changed to reflect this.

Cllr Roberts asked what the position would be if the Joint Committee could not agree a position.

Alistair Cox explained that the bid would have to be withdrawn.

Cllr Bradshaw supported the bid but asked if there was room for later flexibility in terms of the routes selected and possible interventions.

Alistair Cox felt that there would be some flexibility in terms of the schemes to take account of changing conditions and circumstances.

Cllr Allinson supported Cllr Bradshaw's comments but said that where bus gates were proposed it would be important to ensure robust enforcement of the measures.

Cllr Ap Rees expressed his support although routes in North Somerset did not currently fit the criteria.

Agreed

Members endorsed the BBA 2013 bid for submission to the Department for Transport by the extended deadline of 5th July 2013.

7. Smartcard Projects

Peter Mann updated members on progress of the various projects.

Agreed

Members noted the progress made in the implementation of the Smartcard projects

8. Avon Rider Ticket Scheme

John Burch, West of England Bus Operators' Association (WEBOA) updated members on the progress of the Avon Rider scheme.

- Since September 2012, 1724 tickets had been sold and had benefited people mainly travelling across the sub-region
- The Bristol Rider had sales of 1771 tickets since January 2013 and had been heavily promoted by ABUS who had achieved the highest sales
- Less successful had been the Weston Rider where sales had been poor, it was thought that the price of the ticket might be an issue. First Bus also offered a slightly different product which may have detracted from sales.

- The existing Bath Rider also formed part of the suite of tickets available
- A student version of the Avon Rider would be introduced at £6.20 on production of an NUS card, with the Bristol and Bath versions costing £4.
- Agreement was yet to be reached on the age cut-off point for a child's ticket but it was hoped to introduce it in time for the new academic year
- Pier Buses had now joined WEBOA
- He expressed concern about continued problems with the Real Time Information (RTI) system and all operators were frustrated at the length of time it was taking to resolve the issues.

Cllr Roberts asked for clarification on the issue of tickets for young people.

John Burch explained that the issue was deciding the age cut-off point, the probable outcome would be that the child ticket would end at the age of 16 and beyond that it would be a student ticket.

Cllr Roberts asked if it would be possible to have a combined smart card with a student card?

John Burch said that it was possible to do this and could be worked through by SWSAL (South West Smart Applications Ltd).

Alan Peters (ABus) pointed out that the more products that are loaded onto a card the harder it becomes to produce something efficient.

Cllr Bradshaw welcomed the progress that had been made but observed that it had been slow. It was important to move towards one card which could work across all operators.

Cllr Ap Rees asked what was being done in terms of pricing in terms of the day tickets that hadn't so far been successful.

John Burch said that whilst there was a clear need to look at pricing it was important to promote the products as well. There was about to be a campaign aimed at North Somerset which would include radio advertising and promotions.

Cllr Allinson welcomed Paul Matthews from First Group. The Joint Committee noted that Justin Davies had moved to a new post within the company and expressed thanks for his contributions to JTEC meetings and joint working.

9. Major Transport Projects: Progress Update

Pete Davis presented the report.

Cllr Ap Rees asked if there could be an update on the Aston Vale to Temple Meads scheme.

Cllr Bradshaw responded by saying that a report that would be updated for the Bristol City Council Cabinet to be held on 27th June was being published that afternoon for their Transport Scrutiny Commission. He had requested that JTEC members be sent copies of the report. He outlined the three options that were under consideration.

Agreed

Members noted progress with the programme of major transport schemes and other joint projects.

10. Rail Update

James White updated members on the Great Western Franchise, commenting on issues raised in the public forum he explained that the authorities were recruiting dedicated rail officers. It was suggested that the executive member with responsibility for transport from Wiltshire Council be invited to the next JTEC and this was noted.

Katherine Campbell then updated members on Network Rail issues including the four tracking of Filton Bank and Bristol Temple Meads capacity. The office for Rail Regulation is expected to publish the final determination on funding for these schemes on 31st October 2013.

Cllr Bradshaw welcomed the continuing relationship with Network Rail. He noted that no funding had yet been allocated for the metro project so it was therefore important to maintain pressure by means of lobbying, particularly the Portishead line. Collecting fares on the Severn Beach line was an issue which could possibly have an impact on recorded passenger numbers which could have a damaging impact on the business case.

Cllr Allinson agreed that it was important to maintain pressure and pointed out that the rail conference that had been held in 2011 had identified the Portishead line and four-tracking as the priorities and it was vital that these be delivered.

Cllr Ap Rees said that it was perhaps not understood just how complicated delivery of the Portishead line was, with a number of hurdles to encounter. It had been wrongly assumed by some that delivery would be earlier but it would happen. He then proposed a change of name for the rail project from Greater Bristol Metro to Metro West, all future branding and publicity would reflect this.

Cllr Allinson indicated South Gloucestershire's support for this proposal.

Cllr Bradshaw also supported the proposal.

It was agreed that this proposal be accepted.

Agreed

Members noted the report.

11. Southmead Hospital

Oliver Coltman presented the report explaining the package of public transport enhancements to be funded by the section 106 agreements from the redevelopment of Southmead Hospital.

Cllr Allinson expressed concern that elderly and sick residents travelling from outlying areas faced journeys where they had to change buses. Parking and accessibility was a problem and he felt that this had not yet been sufficiently addressed, it was an issue regularly raised by constituents. South Gloucestershire Council could not accept the recommendations of the report as more work was required (as outlined in paragraph 44) as more direct services were required.

Cllr Ap Rees agreed and said that that GPs from North Somerset referred patients to

Southmead so it was an issue that impacted across the West of England. Better accessibility for patients and visitors, who should be given priority over staff, would be required in the future.

Cllr Roberts said that it was important to get a balance between the needs of patients and staff.

Cllr Bradshaw acknowledged that it was a difficult issue given the available funding envelope. It was a good example of an issue that neighbouring authorities could work through and find a solution.

Cllr Allinson agreed and said that additional work was now required between Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council officers to resolve members concerns and assure residents that they were being listened to.

Chris Sane pointed out that decision meetings were set in the diary and suggested that officers work further with members and report back via e-mail.

This was agreed by members. The recommendations in the report were not agreed.

Date of next meeting

To be notified.