

The West of England Partnership

Joint Transport Executive Committee

Held on 24 April 2009
at GOSW's Offices, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol

Present:

Cllr Charles Gerrish	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jon Rogers	Bristol City Council
Cllr Brian Allison	South Gloucestershire Council

In attendance:

Peter Dawson	Bath and North East Somerset Council
David Bishop	Bristol City Council
Karuna Tharmananthar	North Somerset Council
Peter Jackson	South Gloucestershire Council
Chris Sane	South Gloucestershire Council
Barbara Davies	West of England Partnership
Sally Gregory	West of England Partnership
Terry Wagstaff	West of England Partnership

Apologies:

Cllr Elfan Ap Rees	North Somerset Council
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1. Election of Chair

Cllr Gerrish was elected as Chair. It was agreed that the election of a Vice Chair be deferred to the Annual Meeting in July.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Annual Business

The Joint Committee noted:

- a. The provisions of the Constitution of the Joint Committee adopted by the local authorities in the West of England;
- b. The provisions of the Joint Working Agreement adopted by the local authorities;

- c. That officers and advisers to the Joint Committee would be confirmed at the Annual Meeting in July;
- d. The dates, times and venues of meetings to be proposed at the 2009/10 Annual Meeting of the Joint Transport Executive Committee.

4. Member and Public Forum

Statement

A late statement had been received from the Campaign for Better Transport.

Questions

Questions had been received from Cllrs Whittock, Watt, Macrae and Steel from Bath and North East Somerset and from Peter Goodwin. It was agreed that the prepared response be sent to Cllrs Whittock, Watt, Macrae and Steel. Peter Goodwin, who was present, was handed a response and said he had no further questions.

David Redgewell from Campaign for Better Transport expressed concern about the quality of BRT vehicles in the Bath Package. He was informed that no agreement had yet been reached on the vehicles to be used and his observations were noted.

5. Draft Joint Transport Committee Executive Forward Plan 2009/10: to be considered at the 2009/10 Annual Meeting of the Joint Committee

The committee noted the outline programme of activities for 2009/10 and recognised that this should not be a rigid programme, as more urgent items may arise.

6. Joint Transport Asset Management Plan

Bill Davies gave a short presentation (available on www.westofengland.org). He emphasised that it was a technical document which had been compiled by a joint officer working group, with representation from the Government Office, with the objective of improving value for money in directing maintenance spending.

It was agreed, because of the detail involved, that formal endorsement would be postponed until the next meeting. In the meantime any queries should be raised with officers and resolved so that, if appropriate, a sheet of amendments (rather than a revised document) could be circulated prior to the meeting.

7. RFA2 Programme: Project Management Arrangements

Pete Davis introduced the report. He said that officers were working with the Department for Transport to find a quicker and better way to get approval for schemes.

The Joint Committee:

- a. Endorsed the governance and project arrangements outlined in this report, subject to officers looking again at the make up of the Project Teams to check that these were appropriate; and
- b. Noted the intention of quarterly update reports on the major schemes development and implementation programme.

8. Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN)

Chris Sane presented the report and tabled a paper providing a financial update. He said it was a success story, since delivery had been achieved despite the delay in securing approval. It was noted that the table in the update report should read 'Feb 2009', rather than 'Feb 2008'.

In response to a question about the timescale for the M32 Corridor, Chris Sane said that comments had been received and were currently being considered by Bristol officers.

The Joint Committee:

- a. Noted the considerable progress made to date on the delivery of the GBBN scheme;
- b. Approved the suggested modifications to the project management arrangements to enable all decisions under £100,000 to be dealt with by the Programme Board, subject to the cost being within the overall GBBN scheme budget, the decision not substantially changing the scheme elements and periodic reports being provided to the Joint Committee on those aspects;
- c. Approved the proposed change in the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) position to Chris Sane, Strategic Head of Transportation & Deputy Director, South Gloucestershire Council.

9. Major Scheme Bids

Barbara Davies said that the two bids had been submitted and technical discussion with the Department for Transport was already underway. Cllr Brian Allinson welcomed this, saying that it was first class news. Members asked for future reports to include other schemes so that they had a full picture.

Cllr Jon Rogers said that aspects of the Rapid Transit bid in relation to the Prince Street Bridge had been submitted without discussion with him and emphasised the need for openness about plans in the future, aside from commercial confidentiality. Terry Wagstaff accepted that there needed to be more open reporting to the Joint Transport Committee. The Chair said that lessons had been learned and that substantial changes required in the interests of expediency needed to be referred to the four Executive Members.

The Joint Committee noted the submission of the Rapid Transit Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol city centre, and Weston Package major scheme bids.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 16 July, 10.30am at BAWA, Southmead Road, Filton.

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