

# The West of England Partnership

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## Joint Transport Executive Committee

**Held on 16 July 2009  
at BAWA, Southmead Road, Filton**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Peter Dawson	Bath and North East Somerset Council
David Bishop	Bristol City Council
Colin Medus	North Somerset Council
Peter Jackson	South Gloucestershire Council
Chris Sane	South Gloucestershire Council
Bill Davies	West of England Partnership
Julia Dean	West of England Partnership
Sally Gregory	West of England Partnership
Terry Wagstaff	West of England Partnership
James White	West of England Partnership

**Also present:**

Louise Harrison	Government Office for the South West
David Powell	North Bristol NHS Trust
Brian Lomas	Tram Forward Light Rail Transit Association
Ian Crawford	Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance
Pip Sheard	Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance

**Apologies:**

Karuna Tharmananthar	North Somerset Council
Peter Bartlett	Government Office for the South West
Barbara Davies	West of England Partnership

**1. Election of Chair**

Cllr Gerrish was elected as Chair for 2009/10.

**2. Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Rogers was elected as Vice Chair for 2009/10.

### **3. Other Annual Business**

Terry Wagstaff asked members to note that the Social Economic and Environmental Partners had been invited to attend the Joint Committee and, subject to the agreement of the Chair, to contribute. Cllr Gerrish said that this was helpful and suggested that he met beforehand with any regular attenders.

Cllr Rogers asked for a report on the North Fringe to Hengrove Package in October. Following discussion it was agreed that the October report on the Local Transport Act 2008 would include the scope of a review under the Act, which was a two year process.

The Joint Committee:

- Noted membership and dates & venues of future meetings
- Approved the Forward Plan, subject to the above additions.

### **4. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

### **5. Member and Public Forum: Statement**

A statement had been received from the Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance, on which Pip Sheard addressed the meeting. She focused on the setting up of an Integrated Transport Authority and welcomed the inclusion of a discussion of the Local Transport Act in the Joint Committee's Forward Plan. She thought that ideally a 'quality contract' was needed and said that her organisation was strongly in favour of the formal review process under the Local Transport Act. She thought that these avenues should be explored and that there was a public aspiration to be in the premier league, with control similar to that of the Passenger Transport Executives in Birmingham and Leeds.

Brian Lomas from the Tram Forward Light Rail Transit Association addressed the meeting saying that he had written to both Bristol City Council and the Partnership about the Bus Rapid Transit proposals but had received no reply. He thought that the current proposals were unsuitable and that money was better spent on tram trains or the rail service, making the network more visible and increasing service frequency.

Cllr Rogers asked him to submit his letter again and assured him of a response.

Cllr Gerrish asked if greater clarity had been achieved in relation to potential rail powers arising from the Local Transport Act. James White responded, saying that a response had been received but this had not clarified the matter and he was asked to chase a more satisfactory response. Louise Harrison offered to follow this up.

## **6. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April**

Terry Wagstaff reported the appointment of the following technical advisors to the Committee:

Barbara Davies, Partnership Office  
Peter Dawson, Bath & North East Somerset Council  
David Bishop, Bristol City Council  
Karuna Tharmananthar, North Somerset Council  
Chris Sane, South Gloucestershire Council

He said that the legal and financial advisors were still to be appointed.

The Joint Committee approved the minutes as a true record.

## **7. Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP)**

### **a. 2008/09 Joint Local Transport Plan Progress Review**

Bill Davies introduced the review, saying that, although it was not a formal requirement this year, it provided an opportunity to highlight and consult on progress. Most indicators were on track and in particular there had been improvements in bus patronage, road safety and cycling, although air quality was still off track. He drew attention to an error in the circulated paper: the figure of £37m in paragraph 53 (page 19) should read £35m and in figure 16 (page 20) the red block (public transport spending) should read £10.5m, rather than £12.7m.

Cllr Gerrish asked why the bus patronage figures showed an increase, whereas First's latest figures showed a decrease. There were a number of reasons for this, including: an increase in park and ride passengers; the fact that First's figures referred to the final quarter of the previous year, whereas the JLTP figures were for the full year; and also that the JLTP's figures included all buses, not just First's.

Cllr Rogers said that he was keen to see a step change in bus provision and thought the time was right to carry out a bus route review. Cllr Allinson said he supported a comprehensive review and that it would be useful to consider the levels of support that local authorities could provide. He agreed that it should be done sub-regionally because of the number of cross-boundary routes.

Cllr Ap Rees said that First had reviewed buses in Weston earlier in the year and this was not a priority for North Somerset. He agreed that it was not only about First, but other operators too. However, he did not want to do the bus and taxi operators' job for them; they should identify potential services. He did agree that it would be useful to get them together to look at the services.

Cllr Gerrish thought that a review could offer benefits for residents and may identify routes for which an operator could be sought, not necessarily First. Cllr Rogers wanted to explore ideas from other areas, eg taxis operating as buses, and to encourage operators to be more open about their views. However, the review needed to be strategic.

The Joint Committee agreed:

- That the 2008/09 review showed good progress in a lot of areas and that all involved should be congratulated;
- To endorse the publication of the Joint Local Transport Plan Progress Report 2008/09;
- Acknowledging the full Forward Plan, to ask officers to bring back proposals for a route review to the November meeting.

#### **b. Joint Local Transport Plan 3 (JLTP3)**

James White gave a presentation on the new plan, outlining the goals, structure, key work areas, governance, workstreams, resources and programme (presentation on website at <http://www.westofengland.org/meetings/joint-transport-committee/16-july-2009>).

Cllr Gerrish was concerned to ensure that consultation pro-actively engaged with hard to reach groups, such as rural communities and people for whom English is not their first language. Other members suggested presentations to the workforce of large businesses linked to travel plans, and that the need to tackle climate change and address environment issues was seen as part of the process. The challenges should be identified from the beginning and simple maps and plans should be published. There was a concern to set expectations early, eg that there would not be a dialogue in response to comments until further into the process. It was agreed that consultation had to be done in an open way and it was suggested that more thought was given to consultation with the 'silent majority', as engagement with pressure and/or special interest groups was well advanced.

Louise Harrison said that joining up with other strategies was important, as was engaging with people in the authorities, both members and officers, and it was agreed that leads from each council should do briefings to both.

David Bishop thought there was an opportunity to be a leading area nationally on environmental issues and that the Strategic Environmental Assessment should be integrated so that the thinking was at the centre of the Plan.

The Joint Committee agreed:

- To approve the outline structure, key areas of work and programme for the JLTP3;
- The resources required to produce it;
- The need for a report on consultation to their October meeting;
- That the JLTP3 needed an item on the agenda of each future meeting, reflected in the Forward Plan.

## **8. Transport Major Schemes Project Monitor**

### *Bath Package*

Peter Dawson drew attention to the public exhibition proposed for 23 – 25 July but was being rescheduled.

### *South Bristol Link*

The profile would be raised in the autumn.

### *North Fringe to Hengrove Package*

Peter Jackson reported that the Department of Transport had agreed to work with the sub-region to look at innovative and collaborative ways of getting quicker access to funding and best use of financial resources. Louise Harrison congratulated the West of England on making this happen. It would now be important to move forward on the Package in the current economic climate. Jon Rogers said that it was important to think now about involvement and engagement in the process.

### *Portishead Rail Corridor*

Cllr Ap Rees said that the Network Rail report was likely to be completed in September, rather than July. He was concerned that the Bristol City Football Club proposals suggested use of the line; however, a station at Ashton Gate was not currently proposed. He also thought that use of the Park and Ride at Long Ashton by club supporters would not be appropriate. The club had major plans and, although the Rapid Transit route would help, there was a need to seriously consider their impact on the local transport network.

Cllr Gerrish said that the authorities needed to be more joined up; a planning application in one authority may impact elsewhere and there was a need to identify issues early, so that concerns could be taken account of.

Cllr Rogers said there had been extensive discussions between officers in North Somerset and Bristol which were continuing.

### *Publicity*

Cllr Allinson said that it was important that the Partnership stepped up a cog and that they addressed the idea that it was a talking shop by highlighting the successes. The West of England Partnership should be seen as important for the region.

Terry Wagstaff said that there was an intention to build on the Transport newsletter by making a range of issues available to a wider audience within the authorities. He asked members to tell the Partnership Office if its communications were not pitching appropriately.

The Joint Committee agreed:

- To note the progress made with the West of England major schemes;
- To endorse the governance arrangements for the North Fringe to Hengrove Package and Portishead Rail Corridor.

## **9. Southmead Hospital – Future Accessibility Study**

### **a. Presentation on new hospital**

David Powell, Director of Projects at North Bristol NHS Trust gave a presentation on the layout and design of the new Southmead Hospital (presentation on website at <http://www.westofengland.org/meetings/joint-transport-committee/16-july-2009>), emphasising how the environmental issues were being addressed and how bus access would be improved by allowing for buses to enter the site.

Louise Harrison commented on the substantial amount of car parking still available on the site and asked how much sustainable travel had been factored in to their sustainable vision. David Powell said that the numbers of car parking spaces had been reduced from 4,000 to 2,700. The intention was to gradually reduce the number.

### **b. Future Accessibility Study**

James White gave a presentation with maps explaining the numbers of patients currently travelling from the sub-region and beyond to Frenchay and Southmead hospitals, their journey times and potential options to improve access to Southmead, following the relocation of facilities from Frenchay (presentation on website at <http://www.westofengland.org/meetings/joint-transport-committee/16-july-2009>).

Cllr Allinson congratulated the planners on having an adequate number of car parking spaces, which he thought was vital if the roads nearby were not to be clogged by parking. Cllr Ap Rees agreed that people would use their cars from Weston, Clevedon and Portishead because of the journey times by public transport.

Cllr Rogers thought the scheme looked good and said that it was important to take account of the times of day that staff needed to travel. He emphasised the potential for use of city car clubs.

Louise Harrison hoped that staff and regular visitors could be encouraged to cycle and said that there needed to be clear links for this.

Cllr Gerrish noted that it would be a sub-regional or regional hospital and some people would not know how to get there, so the advice in correspondence would be important. He thought that three years was too soon for the s106 money to run out; in Bath they had seen that longer term funding had been necessary for voluntary and community transport. There should be a link to proposals for park and ride to address the needs of people coming from beyond the sub-region. He also suggested that the number of people brought to A & E by car should be considered.

David Bishop said that an enormous amount of work had been done by officers with planning members and this had led to the hospital refining its proposals. A difficult balance had to be reached and this was the first time that transport needs from across the sub-region had been considered for one facility.

## **10. Joint Transport Asset Management Plan**

The Joint Committee agreed:

- To endorse the Joint Transport Asset Management Plan;
- To note that the Plan was a living document that would be updated and extended as knowledge and experience of asset management grow.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Thursday 1 October, 10am at the Campus in Weston-super-Mare

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