



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire
Council

Minutes of meeting of the

Joint Transport Executive Committee

Thursday 4 February 2010, 10.30am, Fry Club, Keynsham

Present

Cllr Charles Gerrish	Bath and North East Somerset Council (Chair)
Cllr Jon Rogers	Bristol City Council
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees	North Somerset Council
Cllr Brian Allinson	South Gloucestershire Council

In Attendance

Adrian Clarke	Bath & North East Somerset Council
David Bishop	Bristol City Council
Mike Sweet	Bristol City Council
Alun Owen	Bristol City Council
Geoff Mills	Bristol City Council
Karuna Tharmananthar	North Somerset Council
Colin Medus	North Somerset Council
Chris Sane	South Gloucestershire Council
Terry Wagstaff	West of England Partnership
Barbara Davies	West of England Partnership
Pete Davis	West of England Partnership
Penny Bell	West of England Partnership

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John Savage.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Member and Public Forum

A total of 38 statements had been received from members of the public. The majority of statements related to the South Bristol Link item on the agenda, with a few additional

statements concerning cycling, rail and bus services.

Due to the number of people present at the meeting to speak against their statements, Councillor Gerrish announced that the public forum item would be extended from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Copies of all of the public statements are available by following the link below:
<http://www.westofengland.org/media/175022/all%20public%20statements.pdf>

To assist consideration of the points raised in the public statements regarding South Bristol Link, officers had put together a summary of issues raised, with brief responses regarding the main issues of concern. A copy of this summary is available by following the link below:

<http://www.westofengland.org/meetings/joint-transport-executive-committee/04-february-2010>

Councillor Gerrish thanked everyone for their statements and commented that the issues would be considered under the relevant items on the agenda. However, the final decision on the South Bristol Link remained with the Cabinets of Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 12 November 2009

The minutes were agreed a true record of the meeting by the Joint Committee and signed by the Chair.

7. South Bristol Link Major Transport Scheme Bid

Karuna Tharmananthar, Senior Responsible Owner for the project, gave a presentation to members that can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.westofengland.org/media/175040/combined%20presentation%20040210.ppt>

Councillor Gerrish sought clarification on a few issues particularly the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of the scheme, and also how this scheme fits with others such as the Portishead Rail Line and the Callington Road Link as these issues had been raised by the public speakers.

Karuna Tharmananthar referred to page 6 of the report, which picked up some of the fundamental principles of the BCR. Latest modelling suggested a BCR of 4.0 for this scheme. Work on optimising this was continuing and progress would be reported to members prior to bid submission. He also informed members that Network Rail had commissioned a 'thorough deliverability assessment' of the Portishead Rail Line, and the scheme was at the 'preferred option' stage. However, the cost implications were higher than anticipated due to a number of infrastructure requirements, such as rail-bed and signal upgrading.

David Bishop informed members that the Callington Road Link formed part of the overall West of England programme, but that it came later in the regional programme due to the need to deliver the schemes over a reasonable period of time.

Councillor Rogers enquired as to why no predictions were available for peak inbound journey times. Karuna Tharmananthar informed members that paragraph 40 of the report referred to bus journey time reductions.

Councillor Rogers summarised the information that had been presented to members, which included a persuasive business case from officers, statements from businesses and residents in favour of the scheme, and statements from residents and local interest groups opposed to the scheme. He commented on the unbalanced nature of the City, with better road links in the North, and steps were needed to address this and create balance. He was also concerned that the Partnership should be cautious not to falter from its programme, or it may be at risk. Councillor Rogers went on to pay tribute to the officer team that had worked hard on this scheme, and stated that he was in support of it.

Councillor Allinson agreed with Councillor Rogers and stated that he was also in support of the scheme. He enquired whether rumours that a contract to run the Rapid Transit had been awarded and that the Partnership had agreed to purchase London bendy-buses were true. Officers provided assurance that these 2 rumours were not true and work was not at this stage yet.

Councillor Ap-Rees also gave his support to the scheme and said that North Somerset Council viewed the South Bristol Link as an opportunity to restrict development creeping into the greenbelt. It would also benefit residents of North Somerset that work in Bristol and would eventually provide improved access to Bristol International Airport.

Councillor Rogers proposed to accept the recommendations in the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Ap Rees. Members agreed.

Resolved:

To endorse the South Bristol Link major transport scheme and recommend the bid to the meetings of the North Somerset Council Executive on 23 March 2010 and the Bristol City Council Cabinet on 25 March 2010.

8. North Fringe to Hengrove Package - Major Scheme Bid Submission

Barbara Davies gave a presentation to members that can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.westofengland.org/media/175040/combined%20presentation%20040210.ppt>

Councillor Gerrish referred to the artist's impressions of the Rapid Transit carriageways and asked why the bus lanes ran on the inner lanes in some drawings and the outer lanes in others. David Bishop informed members that it largely depended on the nature of the area, as the residential areas tended to have the bus lanes as the inner lanes, which made it easier to access properties. However, this concern would be fed back to officers and would be borne in mind for future presentations.

Barbara Davies informed members that the figure in paragraph 14 of the report should now read £19 million for RFA scheme cost in 2013/14, with a compensating increase over the remaining construction period.

Members agreed that this scheme was a very good example of the unitary authorities working in cooperation and felt that this scheme would lead to significant improvements in the area. It also showed how the Partnership was responding to public consultation by extending the scheme to Cribbs Causeway.

Thanks were expressed to Barbara Davies and the officer team for their hard work on this scheme.

Councillor Allinson proposed to accept the recommendations in the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Rogers. Members agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

To endorse the North Fringe to Hengrove Package major transport scheme bid and recommend it for consideration by the Cabinets of South Gloucestershire and Bristol City Councils on 1 March 2010 and 25 March 2010 respectively.

5. Developing ITSO Smartcard use in the West of England area and the South West region

Geoff Mills presented the report, which informed the Committee of the Department for Transport's (DfT) notification of the availability of funding to develop an Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation (ITSO) scheme.

Developments had taken place over the past month; with a finalised 2009/10 spending plan and an outline 2010/11 spending plan being submitted to DfT on 29 January 2010. The procurement process for the Host Operator Processing System (HOPS) had also been entered into, with an advert placed in the European Journal.

The submission of the funding bid did not commit the authorities to take the project any further. Further work was planned and would be brought back to this Committee for approval at its meeting on 18 March 2010.

Members endorsed the work that had been done to date and welcomed the further work planned. Members commended the officers that had been working on this project and commented on the value it would bring to the public and to local bus services.

Resolved:

To endorse the work undertaken to date and proposed, and to receive a further report at the meeting on 18 March 2010.

6. Bristol Area Bus Network Review

Geoff Mills presented the report, which informed members of plans to review the Bristol area bus network.

First Group was planning to undertake a review of its commercial bus services operated as part of the Bristol area network, and this coincided with Bristol City Council reviewing

its own tendered services. Both Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council had particular interests in the review due to the support they provided for bus services. Bath & North East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council were affected to a lesser extent, but were still being engaged as part of the review.

The objectives of the review were to:

- Increase patronage and improve the bus network's share of passenger journeys
- Improve the profitability of the network and reduce the level of public financial support required
- Improve customer satisfaction.

Members were presented with a proposed timetable for the review to be carried out, with new contracted services proposed to commence in September 2011.

Councillor Gerrish commented on the importance for the authorities to work closely on the significant cross-boundary routes, and enquired if community transport was being considered as part of the review. Geoff Mills stated the review would be allowing for consideration of flexible and demand-responsive transport where appropriate.

Councillor Rogers welcomed the review and enquired whether the review was just for First services, or if it included other operators also. Geoff Mills informed members that the review coincided with the termination/renewal date of the University of the West of England's network of services and this presented an opportunity for potential coordination of services.

Councillor Ap Rees commented that North Somerset Council was also talking to First Group and applying local knowledge to changes on the network. North Somerset Council was also cooperating with the other authorities where services linked into the area, including services from Somerset.

Councillor Gerrish highlighted the need to consider services that originated from all areas bordering the West of England, such as Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire.

Resolved:

That the proposed objectives and timetable be agreed.

9. Transport Schemes Monitoring Framework

Pete Davis presented the report that provided members with high-level performance monitoring information for all active major transport schemes. Such information had been requested by Leaders and Chief Executives as part of enhancing the sub-regional governance arrangements.

There were 2 key issues arising. The first being that delays in securing programme entry for Ashton Vale to City Centre Rapid Transit and Weston Package schemes had

started to impact on costs, and the second being a change to the GBBN scheme which reached thresholds that meant it needed to be reported to this Committee. A request would be brought to the meeting on 18 March 2010 with regards to this change.

Members felt that the format of the reports was clear and concise and that they were a useful monitoring tool.

10. Next meeting

Thursday 18 March 2010, 10.30am, The Campus, Weston-super-Mare.