

**West of England Partnership  
Joint Transport Executive Committee  
18 March 2010**

## **Multi-Area Agreement: Rail Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To review progress and future plans with Network Rail and the rail operators and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Background**

2. The Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) is an agreement between the West of England Partnership, Government and its agencies about key commitments in the sub-region to deliver the Partnership vision for 2026.
3. A report on the MAA's three transport related asks to accelerate the delivery and reduce the cost of major transport schemes, improve rail services and complementary working with the Highways Agency was presented to the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 01 October 2009.
4. An update on progress was presented to the Joint Transport executive on 12 November 2009.

### **Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country Memorandum of Understanding**

5. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country. It promotes effective co-ordination and co-operation between the four organisations. It includes consultation on timetable changes, investment and planning decisions, input into the Joint Local Transport Plan and co-ordinating data collection. The text of the MoU is set out in Appendix One.
6. The next step will be to draw up an action plan, based on the one with the Highway Agency (see Agenda Item 5). It will set out a programme to reduce overcrowding, increase patronage and capacity through short, medium and long term proposals for new and enhanced services, rolling stock and infrastructure including the Regional Funding Allocation 2 schemes for Portishead, Greater Bristol Metro and Rapid Transit. Responsibilities, timescales, lead in times and evidence requirements will be built into the plan.
7. We will look at bringing other train operators into the MoU at a later date.
8. As an indication of all partners' commitment to the MoU it is requested that copies of the signed document are displayed at Bath Spa, Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and Weston-super-Mare stations.

## **Recommendation**

That Members sign the MoU with the rail industry.

## **Appendices**

Appendix One: Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail and First Great Western

Officer presenting the report:

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## **Memorandum of Understanding between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country**

### **Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the local authorities of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City Council, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire who together make up the West of England Partnership (WEP), Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country referred to as 'Memorandum of Understanding partners'. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between the four organisations.

The key principles are of openness, explanation and discussion together with shared responsibility and ownership of problems and solutions.

The Memorandum of Understanding is a supporting document of the West of England's Multi Area Agreement.

It is not intended to be legally binding.

### **Agreement**

It is hereby agreed that:

The Memorandum of Understanding partners collaborate to develop key milestones to achieve the Delivering a Sustainable Transport System goal to support national economic competitiveness and growth by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks, including Strategic National Corridors 6 London to the South West and South Wales and 7 Bristol to the Midlands.

Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country will be key stakeholders in the production of the four West of England authorities Joint Local Transport Plan 3 and will provide input, expertise and feedback as required.

A programme and phasing of Memorandum of Understanding partners schemes for 2011–2016 is agreed for inclusion in the Delivery Plan of Joint Local Transport Plan 3.

First Great Western and Cross Country to provide full, timely and comprehensive consultation on timetable changes.

First Great Western and Cross Country to provide early engagement on planned changes to the provision of rolling stock on West of England services.

First Great Western to inform the West of England Partnership of proposed changes to station management and publicity.

Network Rail to provide full and timely consultation on investment and planning decisions including the Network Rail Business Plan, Network Rail Discretionary Fund and other smaller schemes.

Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country to provide full and timely and comprehensive engagement with the West of England Partnership authorities in planning for and provide advance notice on engineering works and replacement services.

The West of England Partnership to provide full and timely and comprehensive engagement on its RFA2 programme of transport major schemes.

Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country officers to provide updates for and attend meetings of the Joint Transport Executive Committee on a twice-yearly basis.

Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country to attend and provide technical support and advice to the West of England Rail Project Group.

The West of England Partnership authorities to provide evidence information on planned future sub-regional housing and economic growth and other planned investment and priorities.

The Memorandum of Understanding partners will identify a senior contact officer with lead responsibility for the Memorandum of Understanding

Information requests between Memorandum of Understanding partners will be managed as quickly as is reasonable depending on the complexity of the request and information available. Requests are to be as specific as possible.

Where appropriate data collection is to be co-ordinated between the Memorandum of Understanding partners to maximise the use of data and enable cost sharing. Any costs will be mutually agreed by partners as per the appropriate contractual arrangement.

A joint framework on communications will be established in order to promote levels of engagement and partnership working between the Memorandum of Understanding partners.

### **Timescale and review**

The Memorandum of Understanding shall come into immediate effect. The West of England Partnership authorities, Network Rail, First Great Western and Cross Country will jointly review the arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Understanding at two yearly intervals.

Date

Signed on behalf of Network Rail

Signed on behalf of First Great Western

Signed on behalf of Cross Country

Signed on behalf of Bath & North East Somerset Council

Signed on behalf of Bristol City Council

Signed on behalf of North Somerset Council

Signed on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council