

**West of England Partnership
Joint Transport Executive Committee
17 September 2010**

Rail Memorandum of Understanding – draft Action Plan

Purpose of Report

1. To outline the draft Action Plan with the rail industry associated with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 2 July 2010.

Background

2. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the West of England authorities, Network Rail, First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains was signed at the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 2 July 2010. Its purpose is to promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between the organisations. It includes consultation on timetable changes, investment and planning decisions, input into the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 and co-ordinating data collection. The full MoU can be found in Appendix One.

Action Plan with Network Rail, First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains

3. In order to develop the MoU and define a set of deliverable outcomes, a draft Action Plan has been drawn up. Following discussions with the rail industry, the action plan is based around the short term (2009 – 2014: Network Rail Control Period 4), the medium term (2014 – 2019: Network Rail Control Period 5) and the long term (2019 onwards: Network Rail Control Period 6+) and is focused on evidence, impacts, options, milestones and outcomes.
4. The draft Action Plan, set out in detail in Appendix Two along with a timeline in Appendix Three, includes joint processes for:
 - Influencing Government policies on rail spending and priorities
 - Informing, contributing and influencing the next rail franchises
 - Greater understanding of and input into timetable changes
 - Making the business case for new rolling stock for West of England Services
 - Supporting the electrification proposals and opportunities for infilling gaps and providing a suburban electric train network
 - Developing a Greater Bristol Rail Plan and a clear, realistic and deliverable vision for rail in the long term.
5. There are still several sections in relation to timetable changes, franchises and train operators' business plans to complete. Once the Action Plan is complete and agreed progress towards its outcomes will be reviewed six monthly. This is in line with the invitation to the rail industry to attend meetings of this Committee.

Recommendation

That members give their views and authorise the Action Plan, subject to concluding discussions with the Rail Industry based on the current scope of the Plan.

Appendices

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

Appendix Two: Draft Action Plan with the rail industry

Appendix Three: Timeline and key milestones

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Appendix One

Rail Memorandum of Understanding



Memorandum of Understanding between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail, First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains

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 Network Rail, First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains 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 five 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** legally binding.

It is hereby agreed that

Strategy

The Memorandum of Understanding partners collaborate to develop key milestones to support achievement of 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, CrossCountry and South West Trains 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.

The Memorandum of Understanding partners align, where practicable a programme and phasing of schemes for 2011 to 2026 for inclusion in the Delivery Plan of the Joint Local Transport Plan 3.

Engagement on changes and planning decisions

First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains to provide timely consultation on timetable changes.

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, CrossCountry and South West Trains to provide timely engagement with the West of England Partnership authorities in planning for and provide advance notice on engineering works and replacement services.

Rolling Stock

First Great Western, CrossCountry and South West Trains to provide early engagement on their strategic plans for the provision of rolling stock on West of England services, with support provided by the West of England authorities in the lobbying efforts to secure additional capacity and funding.

West of England

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

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.

Support

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

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

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

Information and Data Collection

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.

Communications

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

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

Dated 2 July 2010

Network Rail

First Great Western
Philip ...
SOUTH WEST TRAINS

CrossCountry

Bath & North East Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire Council

North Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire Council

Appendix Two

West of England Authorities, First Great Western, Network Rail, Cross Country and South West Trains Memorandum of Understanding

Existing Arrangement, Process or Practice	Evidence	Impacts	Options to deliver	Links	Lead Officer (support)	Milestone*	Outcomes
Short Term 2009 to 2014 (Control Period 4)							
Key Strategic Issues							
<i>Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 to 2026 (JLTP3)</i>	Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Support for RUS.	Increased involvement of partners in the development and implementation of JLTP3.	Partners to be key members of Transport Plan Commission and relevant working groups including Rail Project Group.	RUS HLOS2 MAA Franchise SWRP	James White/UA officers (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey) (SCRIP)	March 2011 Autumn 2011 review	Develop a Greater Bristol Rail Plan.
<i>JLTP3 Delivery Plan 2011 to 2014</i>	Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Support for RUS.	Increased involvement of partners in the development and implementation of the JLTP3 Delivery Plan.	Expand the scope of the Delivery Plan to include partners' scheme programmes: Keynsham ramp, Bristol Temple Meads interchange, electrification, Reading, IEP, Birmingham Gateway, Cross Rail and new rolling stock.	RUS HLOS2 Franchise SWRP	James White/UA officers (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey) (SCRIP)	March 2011 - Interim Delivery Plan Autumn 2011 - final Delivery Plan	Common way forward on rail schemes. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.
<i>Network Rail Business Plan</i>	Network capacity and reliability. Growth in rail passengers. Core Strategies housing and employment growth.	Increase West of England involvement in development of Network Rail's Business Plan related to the West of England transport network.	Involvement in: Network Rail Route Plan Network Rail Discretionary Fund Stations RUS (in progress, Draft for Consultation 2011).	RUS HLOS2	Chris Aldridge (UA officers)	Initial Strategic Business Plan June 2011	Problems and gap based analysis. Make best use of existing infrastructure. Understand and identify schemes which require more detailed development work. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.

<i>Train Operating Companies Business Plans</i>	Network capacity and reliability. Growth in rail passengers. Core Strategies housing and employment growth.	Increase West of England involvement in development of partners' Business Plans related to the West of England transport network.	Involvement in: Relevant FGW, CC and SWT plans – to specify.	HLOS2 MAA Franchise SWRP CS	Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey (UA officers)	To add for relevant plans	Problems and gap based analysis. Make best use of existing infrastructure and services. Understand and identify schemes which require more detailed development work. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.
<i>Overcrowding</i>	Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Short formed trains.	Insufficient provision of rolling stock for West of England services.	Single focus to lobby DfT for additional rolling stock.	RUS Franchise HLOS2	UA officers (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey) (SCRIP)	Ongoing	Consistent message on rolling stock to influence Government policy. Additional rolling stock for current West of England train services.
<i>Franchises</i>	New Great Western franchise from 2016. Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Support for RUS. Reforming Rail Franchising. July 2010. CrossCountry and South West Trains franchise.	Network of future local rail services and Greater Bristol Metro.	Need for early engagement in the refranchising process setting out West of England requirements. Response to Reforming Rail Franchising consultation	Franchise RUS HLOS2	Julian Crow (UA officers) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey) (SCRIP)	To add	Inform, contribute and influence response to next franchise. Greater Bristol Rail Plan. Longer term franchises.
<i>Electrification</i>	Great Western mainline electrified to Bristol by 2016 and Cardiff by 2017.	"Sparks" effect on patronage. Additional capacity. New electric rolling stock (IEP and local trains).	Need for early involvement in electrification proposals and identify opportunities for infilling and suburban electric train services linked to rolling stock programme.	RUS HLOS2 MAA Franchise SWRP	Chris Aldridge (UA officers) (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey)	GRIP Stage 2 Completion Sept 2010	Consistent message on need for electrification. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.

<i>Lobbying</i>	West of England voice not being heard in Government.	Not securing new infrastructure, rolling stock and services.	Single focus to lobby DfT on rail issues. West of England House of Commons events.	RUS HLOS2 JLTP3 MAA Franchise SWRP	Julia Dean Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey	Ongoing	Raise profile of the West of England. Influence Government policies and spending priorities.
<i>Local Enterprise Partnership</i>	Coalition Government proposal	Greater voice for business on transport issues	Government invitation to set up a LEP. LEP Project Board	RUS HLOS2 JLTP3 Franchise	Terry Wagstaff (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey)	Sept 10	Common way forward and support for rail schemes and services.
Other Issues							
<i>Timetable changes</i>	Mechanism needed to inform Members of changes and how to influence them.	Lack of awareness and understanding of changes by Members and public.	Timely engagement on proposed timetable changes. Sevenside Rail Partnership JTEC updates twice a year.	RUS HLOS2 Franchise	Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey (UA officers) (SCRP)	JTEC September 2010 JTEC March 2011	Greater understanding of and input into timetable changes.
<i>Severn Beach line services</i>	Growth in rail passengers.	Overcrowding. Revenue protection.	New contract between FGW/BCC/SGC. Ticket examiners appointed by FGW.	RUS JLTP3 Franchise	Julian Crow Peter Mann (BCC) Chris Sane (SGC) SCRP	May 2011	Continued growth in Severn Beach line passengers.
<i>Information on engineering work, replacement services, station management and publicity</i>	Mechanism needed to keep WEP councils informed and involved earlier.	Lack of awareness and misunderstanding by WEP councils.	Set out clear timescales for earlier involvement when planning for and advance notice on engineering works and replacement services, station management and publicity.		Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey (UA officers) (SCRP)	Ongoing	Greater awareness by and earlier involvement of WEP councils in planned changes.
<i>Data collection (non commercial/confidential)</i>	Data collected separately by partners.	Not making best use of and co-ordinating data collection and exchange.	Produce data sharing agreement. Co-ordination of data collection programmes to ensure value is maximised.	JLTP3 RUS HLOS2 Franchise	UA officers Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey	Agreement March 2011. Ongoing.	Single focus for data collection and robust evidence to support Greater Bristol Rail Plan.

<i>Significant planning applications</i>	Core Strategies housing and employment growth. Network Rail development land.	Not maximising potential for rail linked development.	Early engagement on planning applications through Rail Project Group.	RUS CS Franchise HLOS2	UA officers Chris Aldridge (Julian Crow) (Richard Gibson) (Phil Dominey)	Ongoing.	Maximise the role of rail in serving new developments.
<i>Freight</i>	Rail freight carried. Future forecasts. Port of Bristol expansion.	Network capacity.	Early engagement with rail freight companies and Port of Bristol on future plans. Freight RUS, March 2007 Strategic Freight Network April 2008	RUS HLOS2 JLTP3	Chris Aldridge (James Willcock, NSC) Andy Davies, BCC)		Maximise the level of freight carried by rail without reducing passenger train capacity.
<i>Security</i>	Crime figures provided by British Transport Police	Discourage people from using rail services.	Sevenside Community Rail Partnership to raise issues with British Transport Police.	JLTP3 Franchise	British Transport Police Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey (SCRIP)	Sept 2010	Ensure a safe and secure rail network.
<i>Media Relations and communication Plans</i>	Lack of a joined up approach.	Partners not consulted or informed before press statements.	Ensure details of all press offices are exchanged – including out of hours contact information. Project communication plans and project overviews to be shared by all partners to keep them informed about projects.		Julia Dean Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey	Ongoing	Consistent approach on rail stories.

Medium Term 2014 to 2019 (Control Period 5)							
<i>Rolling Stock</i>	No new rolling stock for the South West. Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Support for RUS.	Overcrowded trains. Potential of rail's contribution to development and sustainable travel not maximised.	Joint working on bids for new/replacement rolling stock for validation by DfT. Lobby for electric rolling stock for local services.	RUS HLOS2 MAA Franchise SWRP	UA officers Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey SCRP	To add	Single focus to influence Government policy. Make the business case for new rolling stock for West of England services.
<i>Route Utilisation Strategy</i>	RUS programme of schemes.	Major improvements to network capacity and services.	Need for early WEP councils engagement and input into plans to implement the RUS.	RUS HLOS2 JLTP3 SWRP	Chris Aldridge (UA officers/ James White) (SCRP)	Ongoing	Implementation of RUS programme of schemes.
<i>High Level Output Specification (HLOS2) for Control Period 5 2014 to 2019</i>	Growth in rail passengers. Forecast growth. Support for RUS.	Future network capacity and services.	Need for early engagement and input into HLOS2 process. Develop strong evidence base. Political buy in.	HLOS2 RUS JLTP3 SWRP MAA	UA officers Chris Aldridge Julian Crow Richard Gibson Phil Dominey	2012	Long term improvements to local rail network. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.
<i>JLTP3 Major Schemes – Portishead</i>	Major scheme to reopen Portishead line.	New local train services.	Continued work and support for proposals to re-open the Portishead line.	RUS HLOS JLTP3 MAA	James Willcock (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow)	2012 GRIP Stage 4	Re-opened Portishead line.
<i>JLTP3 Major Schemes – Greater Bristol Metro</i>	Major scheme to enhance local rail services.	Enhanced half hourly cross Bristol train services.	Continued work and support for proposals for the Greater Bristol Metro major scheme.	RUS HLOS JLTP3 MAA	UA officers/ James White (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow)	2015	Greater Bristol Rail Plan.
<i>West of England growth in homes, jobs and communities</i>	Core Strategies housing and employment growth. Forecast growth in passengers.	Maximise the potential for rail served development.	Provision for early information and joint working on growth levels and delivery plans, supported by quarterly meetings programme.	RUS HLOS JLTP3 MAA CS DIIP	UA officers (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow)	Ongoing	Single focus for development of rail schemes to serve growth in jobs and homes. Greater Bristol Rail Plan.

Long Term 2019+ (Control Period 6+)							
<i>Vision for the future</i>	Core Strategies housing and employment growth. Forecast growth in passengers. High Speed Rail (HSR).	Maximise the potential for travel by rail including expanding the network.	Delivered through HLOS2 and RUS. Need for continued engagement and input into HLOS2 and plans to implement the RUS. Support development of next generation RUS and HLOS2. Inform work of the Great Western Partnership on HSR.	RUS HLOS JLTP3 MAA CS DIIP	UA officers (Chris Aldridge) (Julian Crow)		Ensure a clear, realistic and deliverable vision for rail. Common way forward. South West England and South Wales included in plans for a High Speed Rail Network.

Notes

* See Key Milestones chart in Appendix Three

CS = emerging Core Strategies for West of England unitary authorities

DIIP = Delivery and Infrastructure Investment Plan

HLOS2 = High Level Output Specification

JLTP3 = Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 to 2026

Lead officers = Chris Aldridge (Network Rail), Julian Crow (First Great Western), Richard Gibson (CrossCountry), Phil Dominey (South West Trains), James White (West of England Partnership)

MAA = West of England Multi Area Agreement, 2009

RUS = Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy, March 2010

SCRP = Severnside Community Rail Partnership

SWRP = South West Rail Prospectus, July 2010

UA = unitary authorities

UA officers (Rail Project Group) = Andy Strong (B&NES), Andy Davies (BCC), James Willcock (NSC), Helen Young/Richard Kemble (SGC)

Appendix Three: draft Rail Action Plan Timeline and Key Milestones

Task Name	Start	Finish	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019+	
JLTP3	2011	2026	█	◆ (2) █ (3)	█									
JLTP3 Delivery Plan (3 year rolling)	2011	2014	█	◆ (2) █ (3)	█			◆ (6)	█		◆ (6)	█		
Network Rail Route Plan K West of England	2010	2014	█	◆ (1) █ (7a)	█	◆ (7b)	█	◆ (7c)						
Network Rail Control Period 5	2014	2019	█		◆ (8a)	█	◆ (8b)	█	◆ (8c)	◆ (8d, e, f) ◆ (8g)				
Network Rail Discretionary Fund	2009	2014	█		◆ (9)									
Other plans - to add with dates														
FGW Franchise - to add key dates													◆	
Electrification Great Western Mainline			█	◆ (1)	█									◆
Timetable changes - to add														
Rolling stock - to add														
Route Utilisation Strategy 2010	2009	2019	█	◆ (1)										
HLOS2 to complete			█				◆							
Portishead	2014	2017	█			◆ (4)	█		◆ (5)	█				◆
Greater Bristol Metro	2015	2020				◆	█		◆ (4)	█		◆ (5)	█	
Core Strategies	2010	2012	◆ (10b) ◆ (10a, c, d) ◆ (10c) ◆ (10d)											
Vision for the future - to add dates	2011	2026												

Notes

◆ = key milestone

(1) Comprehensive Spending Review Oct 2010

(2) JLTP3 publication deadline March 2011

(3) JLTP3 possible review autumn 2011

(4) Submission of major scheme bid

(5) Implementation

(6) Delivery Plan review

Network Rail Route Plan K April 2010

(7a) Track renewals Stoke Gifford Junction

(7b) Track renewals Bathampton crossover, Dr Days Junction

(7c) Westerleigh Junction - Barnt Green line speed upgrade

Control Period 5 2014 to 2019 preparation

(8a) Initial Strategic Business Plan June 2011

(8b) High Level Output Specifications July 2012

(8c) Strategic Business Plan January 2013

(8d) Draft determination July 2013

(8e) Response to draft determination September 2013

(8f) Final Determination November 2013

(8g) CP5 Delivery Plan March 2014

Network Rail Discretionary Fund March 2010 update

(9) Bristol to Bath signalling enhancement

Core Strategies

(10a) Bath and North East Somerset draft end 2010

(10b) Bristol examination June 2010

(10c) North Somerset consultation October 2010, examination November 2011

(10d) South Gloucestershire draft August 2010, examination 2012