

The West of England Partnership

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST OF ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP
JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23rd JANUARY 2009 AT 10.00AM**

Members of the Joint Committee

Bath and North East Somerset

- P Councillor John Bull
- P Councillor Caroline Roberts
- P Councillor Martin Veal

Bristol City Council

- P Councillor Barbara Lewis – Chair
- P Councillor Gary Hopkins (substitute for Councillor Dr Jon Rogers)
- A Councillor Dr Jon Rogers
- P Councillor Colin Smith

North Somerset Council

- P Councillor Tony Moulin
- P Councillor Clive Webb
- P Councillor David Pasley

South Gloucestershire Council

- P Councillor Pat Hockey
- P Councillor Geoff King
- A Councillor Ian Smith

WEPJSC

1.1/09

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Dr Jon Rogers of Bristol City Council (substitute Councillor Gary Hopkins) Councillor Ian Smith (South Gloucestershire Council).

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2.11.09

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY PHASE 3 DRAFT OUTPUT SPECIFICATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The views of the Committee were sought on the tender evaluation criteria prior to these being considered for adoption by the Joint Waste Management Committee on 12th February 2009.

The Project Director, Waste Management introduced the report highlighting the following salient points –

- The timetable to date
- The four phases of the Joint Waste Strategy
- Key service objectives
- Stages in the Procurement of Phase 3 Longer Term Treatment Capacity
- The significance of the Evaluation Criteria
- The Evaluation Criteria Framework
- Workshop process and overview

Some Members considered that the workshop appeared to take the form of a technical presentation, and that concerns and comments raised by some stakeholders had not been taken into account. There was concern that evaluation criteria did not take account of the environmental concerns raised. It was considered also managerial, contractual and legal issues needed to be considered in the context of price.

Officers sought to reassure Members and explain how the basic evaluation criteria was determined, and what the factors were behind price, together with an explanation of the Pre-qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage.

Reference was made to the recommendations of the Partnership's financial and legal advisors in respect of the remaining Level 2 criteria within the commercial and financial, legal and contractual and overall project integrity elements of the Evaluation Criteria

Framework (Appendix E to the report refers). The Committee's discussion then focused on the incorporation of these recommendations into the framework.

Steve Moore advised that once the criteria had been set, and competitive dialogue entered into, it was important that the criteria was adhered to, in order avoid the possibility of legal challenge from unsuccessful bidders.

Members referred to the percentages at each stage of procurement and to the percentages in the Evaluation Criteria Model. Arising from discussion, the following changes to the percentages in Appendix 3 were proposed and agreed as reflecting the Committee's views –

(1) Percentages at the ISOS stage of procurement for Level 1 criteria

Service Delivery and Technical – change from 73.6% to 75%
Commercial and Financial – change from 12.2% to 15%
Legal and Contractual – change from 11.1% to 10%
Overall Integrity – change from 3.1% to 0%.

(2) Percentages at the ISOS stage of procurement for Level 2 criteria under Service Delivery and Technical

Environment and Sustainability and Targets – change from 47.9% to 50%
Combine Management with Deliverability and Flexibility – change the combined percentage from 25.7% to 25%.

(The officers to make any necessary recalculations in respect of the remaining Level 2 criteria under Commercial and Financial Legal and Contractual and Overall Integrity).

(3) Percentages at the ISDS and CFT stages for Level 1 criteria

Service Delivery and Technical - 60%
Financial and Commercial – 20%
Legal and Contractual – 15%
Overall Integrity – 5%

(The officers to make any necessary recalculations in respect of the remaining Level 2 criteria under Commercial and Financial Legal and Contractual and Overall Integrity).

Members were asked to forward any further comments direct to the meeting of the Joint Waste Committee on 12th February.

RESOLVED – that the Committee’s views on the proposed Evaluation Criteria Framework for the evaluation of Phase 3 tenders as set out in the preamble above be reported to the Joint Waste Management Committee for consideration.

WEPJSC

3.1/09

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 11th December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

WEPJSC

4.1.09

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED - that the notes of the workshop of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 12th December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment to the penultimate line of the first paragraph of Minute 67.12/08 (Member and Public Forum) –

Delete “read” and “substitute “talk to”.

WEPJSC

5.1/09

MEMBER AND PUBLIC FORUM

Mr David Redgewell, Campaign for Better Transport addressed the Panel on the following transport matters –

(1) Regional Funding Advice (RFA2)

It was important that all necessary components were in place to help ensure the success of the funding bids. The benefits of a Bristol Metro based on both suburban rail and rapid transit could not be over estimated with regard to factors such as

regeneration, urban renewal, easy access for all, safer travel and a chance to combat congestion on the roads. Reference was made to the benefits which it was considered would accrue from a Bristol Metro(as set out – in Mr Redgewell’s statement) including -

The Severn Beach Line, Portishead Line, Henbury Loop, suburban trains to tie in with regional rail, improved links at Bristol Parkway and Filton Abbeywood, Weston-super-Mare station, improvements to Bath station.

(2) Concern at bus cuts on the route 632 Bath/Bristol, through Bitton.

Councillor pat Hockey advised that officers at South Gloucestershire Council had been asked to look at possible alternatives.

(3) The Greater Bristol Authorities to have urgent discussions with DfT, First Great Western, the British Transport Police and South West Trains on staffing levels and security staff. Whilst supporting the Greater Bristol Metro, CfBT was very concerned at present lack of adequate staffing levels at both main and suburban stations. Reference was made to stations at Worle, Keynsham, Oldfield Park, and Yate.

(4) CfBT remained concerned regarding the accommodation, within the plans for the route of the Rapid Transit, of the Harbour Railway; that the tracks remained in place, with the ability for these to be connected back into Ashton Junction, or connected to the UK’s operational railway. Confirmation was requested that this would be possible.

(5) Land Sales

CfBT were concerned about the proposed sales of railway land, and in particular, the proposed sale for housing of a section line running through Greenbank.

[The Chair has had confirmation from planning officers of Bristol City Council that the development at Greenbank would not affect any plans for Rapid Transit along this route]

Members suggested that Network Rail should have a moratorium on such sales and rail corridors left intact pending discussions with the Partnership.

(6) New Booking Office at Bristol Temple Meads

This matter should have been discussed and decided at senior member level, and not delegated to officers.

(7) Rapid Transit

The need to ensure harmonisation of rapid transit vehicles specification so that buses travelling from the Bath Package route would be able to access the Bristol network when rapid transit was implemented.

Mr Redgewell was concerned that double decker buses would not be able to use the rapid transit route due to restricted headroom, and the Chair confirmed that Bristol City Council's officer would clarify this.

Mr Redgewell was thanked for his contribution and recommended to also pursue his concern with First Great Western and Network Rail.

WEPJSC 6.1.09

REGIONAL FUNDING ADVICE (RFA2) – WEST OF ENGLAND PRIORITIES

The Committee received an update by the West of England Partnership Chief Executive Officer on discussions taking place at regional level regarding Regional Funding Advice (RFA 2).

Members expressed concern that although the provision of housing was supposed to be indicative of new jobs, there was no indication as to how these jobs were to be created.

The Chief Executive of the West of England Partnership advised that officers were actively working on the economic forecasts and identifying employment locations. In order to present a convincing case to the RDA, it was important to be specific and make the case for employment and housing in the West of England.

Councillor Pat Hockey commented that it was important that the Partnership together with the four unitary authorities made all necessary representations at regional level.

Officers of the Partnership undertook to co-ordinate activity with their unitary authority colleagues.

RESOLVED – that the update on Regional Funding Advice 2 be noted.

WEPJSC

7.1.09

TRANSPORT AND AIR QUALITY

The Committee received a report and presentation in response to their request for further information on the issues of transport and air quality. The presentation highlighted the following issues as set out in the report –

- (i) Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) designated in Bristol and Bath
- (ii) Progress with Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) targets was off track
- (iii) An increase in the proportion of diesel vehicles in the overall fleet was considered by environmental monitoring staff as the most likely reason.
- (iv) Action Plans aimed at improving air quality across the West of England and specific plans directed at the two Air Quality Management Areas with reference to four themes:

Information and education – making people more aware of transport's effect on air quality;

Promotion and provision of alternatives – enabling people to choose to use more sustainable forms of transport;

Managing the road network – addressing congestion problems; and

Emissions management – promoting less polluting vehicles and driving methods.

- (v) Actions under each of the four themes.
- (vi) Future Challenges

Members expressed particular concern about the level of diesel emissions. Officers undertook to clarify existing powers regarding roadside emissions testing and potential to stop and/or report

polluting vehicles entering AQMAs. Members also queried if the 'smokey bus' hotline was still in existence.

Officers would also clarify alternative fuel sources such as 'City Diesel and Bio Diesel', the potential for lobbying central government regarding vehicle exchange opportunities and variable charging in RPZs.

It was also noted that reducing speed limits to 20 mph would have a significant effect on air pollution, and that more use should be made of the freight consolidation centres to encourage lorries off the roads.

Officers with regard to the GBBN acknowledged the need for a more joined up approach to identify the effectiveness of measures and indicators on air quality.

Councillor Veal asked that the maps produced have regard to areas adjacent to the Partnership area.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

WEPJSC

8.1.09

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE AND WEP FORWARD PLAN

The Chair tabled a draft report relating to officer support to the Joint Scrutiny Committee. Members were asked to forward comments on the draft report to Bristol City Council Scrutiny Team, pending the submission of a finalised report.

Members expressed disappointment that only the WEP Forward Plan was to hand, given that it was difficult to set a sensible work programme without a comprehensive plan.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) that the WEP Forward Plan be noted;**
- (2) that the Committee's Work Programme be updated as follows –**

- (i) MAA – Report to the Committee meeting on 13th March 2009 or if discussions on the Rural Strategy have not been completed, to the meeting in April 2009,**
- (ii) Integrated Transport – Report to be submitted to the meeting on 13th February 2009 to enable the Committee to decide whether or not to set up a task and finish working group;**
- (iii) Joint Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation – Information report to the Committee meeting on 13th February 2009;**

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9.1.09

TRANSPORT MAJOR SCHEMES BID

The Committee considered reports on the following two Transport Major Scheme Bids –

(1) Ashton Vale to Temple Meads

This scheme was presented to the Joint Transport Executive meeting on 22nd January for their views prior to consideration of the bids by Bristol City Council Cabinet and North Somerset Council Executive.

(2) Weston Package Phase 1

This scheme was presented to the Joint Transport Executive meeting on 22nd January for their views prior to consideration of the bids by North Somerset Council Executive.

Barbara Davies, West of England Partnership reported that the Executive Members were generally supportive of the bids.

Councillor Pat Hockey expressed disappointment that the bids were only being submitted to two Cabinets/Executives for endorsement and not all four, as this would show that all four Unitary Authorities were supportive.

Barbara Davies explained that the matter would have been submitted also to the West of England Joint Executive Committee if that body had been established by January 2009 as originally intended.

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11.1.09 ALLAN DAVIES

The Committee was informed of the recent sudden death of Allan Davies,

Members expressed their sadness at this news, and asked that their condolences be conveyed to Allan's family.

WEPJSC

10.1/09 JOINT DRAFT WASTE CORE STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee was informed of progress of the consultation on the Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Document. The Committee was advised also of progress in the appointment of a consultant to project manage and provide technical support to the remaining stages of the Joint Waste Core Strategy.

Councillors Gary Hopkins and Pat Hockey expressed their disappointment and dissatisfaction with the lack of clarity for consultees in the strategy document regarding what they were being asked to comment on.

The Chair acknowledged the members' dissatisfaction and undertook to ensure that their concern was drawn to the attention of the Joint Waste Committee.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

WEPJSC

11.1.09 RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS MADE AT JOINT SCRUTINY ON 12TH DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 1.50 pm

CHAIR:.....