

*Statement from South West Transport Network  
for the next BANES Cabinet, PTSE and full Council meetings  
for South Gloucestershire next PTSE, full Council and Cabinet  
meetings  
West of England Partnership Scrutiny and Transport Board  
meetings*

## Duty to develop and maintain a Regional Transport Strategy

*We are extremely concerned about the implications which arise from recent developments in Somerset which have called into question the future of the Severnside Rail Partnership and the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership. The loss of these Community Rail Partnerships through withdrawal of funding would be extremely damaging to future development of rail services in the Severnside area. We must ensure that funding for Community Rail projects is maintained and that all the regional Councils lend their full support to developing the potential of existing as well as proposed new lines in the region. Allowing these partnerships to fail would make a mockery of localism.*

*These partnerships have also been a catalyst for bus/rail integration such as the Taunton-Minehead bus/rail link, the Highbridge to Burnham, Brean and Weston link and the WsM station to Cheddar and Wells link and WsM station to Bristol Airport. (The last two of these are about to be withdrawn, which marks a significant step backwards).*

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