

## **STATEMENT FROM DAVID REDGEWELL ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST TRANSPORT NETWORK**

From reading the background papers, it would seem that youth, and the importance of equality of opportunity, are key to this agenda item. Better public transport provision is especially important to young people whose movements are often disregarded when consultants are appointed to study particular aspects of transport provision. Those living in a household without access to a car are hugely disadvantaged when it comes to choice of school or access to after school activities if frequent bus and rail provision is unavailable compared to those whose parents may add considerably to city centre congestion by undertaking pdj's - "parent double journeys".

I would particularly draw the attention of members to the following matters :

- 1) Service Delivery: All nine lines out of Bristol/Bath should remain at present levels at least.
- 2) Level of Rolling Stock: Six extra trains is insufficient
- 3) Modern Depot: There is a need for a modern depot in either the Ashton Gate area or Westbury, Wiltshire.
- 4) New Local Service: A local electric service from Swindon to Cardiff, to serve new stations at Wootton Bassett, Corsham, Saltford and Ashley Down
- 5) Revenue Protection: Emphasis to be given to revenue protection issues with installation of gatelines at Weston, Trowbridge and Chippenham. Cuts to numbers of Revenue Protection Officers should be resisted both for the protection of the travelling public and to guard against vandalism, graffiti, etc., and support present levels of British Transport Police in the Bristol area.
- 6) Accessibility Issues: In Merseyside they have recently successfully introduced the concept of a "café/corner shop" within stations. These not only sell rail tickets, but act as an information point, serving a variety of goods plus hot/cold drinks and refreshments. These are linked to accessible toilets and waiting area.
- 7) Integration: Ensure integration of rail services with bus and ferry services at Bristol and with bus services in other areas.
- 8) Bus Grant: With the recent cutting of bus operators' grant, operators have delayed purchase of the accessible vehicles specified across the Greater Bristol and Wiltshire areas.

I also wish to draw Members' attention to the £5m fund presently available, announced by Norman Baker, to be used in the procurement of low-floor vehicles and interchanges. He feels it may be possible for the Council to make a bid for funding in relation to both Filton and Dolphin Square.