

Item 6 – Items from the public or Councillors

Statements

- David Redgewell – Transport Devolution (**statement attached**)
- Susan Charles (WWISE) – warm water exercise – swimming in Bath
- Councillor Alison Millar – East of Bath Transport
- Mr Tsang – 17A Bus Service

Question

- Rachel Willis – Question regarding Waste. Not attending (**question and answer attached**)

Statement from David Redgewell

Whilst we welcome the Devolution deal the issues about transport powers are a concern on how it will be possible to operate and franchise a bus network that does not cover the four unitary authorities in terms of a franchise or a quality partnership where buses operate between UWE - Portishead and Clevedon would be outside the agreement. Similarly bus services through Hotwells, Clevedon and Weston would have to operate under the permit system under the Buses Bill or would require a separate quality partnership covering North Somerset by the new combined authority to cover North Somerset either as an advanced quality partnership or an enhanced quality partnership. It would also require a different agreement for a multi-journey, multi-operator and multi-modal ticketing scheme and North Somerset would still require referral to the Traffic Commissioner for services whereas the Metro-Mayor would have full control over the bus services through contracts or partnerships. Of course this would also apply to a Planning or Transport Commissioner. With the new Government we could proceed with a Combined Authority and drop the Metro-Mayor proposal and still have the planning and transport powers with North Somerset Council joining in the authority.

On rail it would be very difficult to arrange improvements to services without the full Portishead line being in the deal and the line from Gloucester to Weston-Super-Mare. This would make station improvements very difficult or to seek rail powers for MetroWest with the franchise and Network Rail. The recent works to Keynsham while they are welcomed require the contract to be brought back to make them DDA compliant.

Of course the Bristol Port and airport remain outside of the combined authority.

With regards to bus powers under the Buses Bill whilst the First depots in Lawrence Hill, Hengrove, Muller Road, Bath Weston Island and the Wessex depots at Avonmouth and Keynsham and HCT's depot at Parson Street would be in the combined authority area, Weston and Wells depots would remain

outside the area in North Somerset and Mendip making bus operations very difficult without North Somerset being in the transport authority area.

We still have concerns over cleaning and facilities at Bath bus station.

Arrangements would have to be made with Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset to procure bus services which needs further consultation with those councils.

With the vote to leave the EU we are concerned with the potential loss of the £284 million infrastructure money for MetroWest and the Great Western electrification which was signed off in 2014 under the TENS and IEP programme. We are also concerned about MetroBus contract at RATP (part of Paris Metro) which could pull out of the agreement. First are still a bidder.

We are concerned about bus services changes in September include service 37 rerouted via Keynsham, changes to the service 178 Bristol-Bath via Radstock and the 620 network Bath-Tetbury. With the withdrawal of service 37 from the RUH, this requires a change on service 19 at Cadbury Heath for Hanham and Bristol.

David Redgewell SWTN/TSSA

Question from Rachel Willis

I believe the proposed changes to non-recyclable waste collections are fine, so long as residents are provided with adequate food waste bins and wheelie bins. Some residents currently have no wheelie bins or food boxes, (and too many green boxes). This means that seagulls, foxes or cats can often get into bin bags at night, and this leaves a mess on our streets. How will residents be notified of the changes, and what mechanism will the council use in order to find out the needs of individual residents, to ensure the new collection schedule runs smoothly?

Answer:

The vast majority of properties throughout the district will be provided with a 140litre wheeled bin to store their rubbish. Where wheeled bins are simply not possible due to the location, then reusable rubbish bags will be given.

All residents have been issued with food waste containers and green boxes already. If yours has been lost or stolen, or you simply need another to store more material, then please contact Council Connect on 01225 394041 or email councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk and request another. There is no need to wait until the new service next year to order more recycling containers. You can have these now.

A comprehensive communication campaign will begin in 2017, well in advance of the new service implementation. This will include press releases, door knocking, roadshows, residents group presentations, posters, leaflets, social media etc. Full detail of how we will communicate with individual residents with specific needs then.