

Cabinet 6th December 2017 – David Redgewell

Please find our response to the following issues :-

RAIL

We wish to see a rolling programme of fully accessible stations with each Network Rail route having a budget eg the .Western Region should be able to provide full disabled access at Lawrence Hill, Stapleton Road, Patchway, Parson Street as part of Metro West, lifts at Weston-Super-Mare, Nailsea and Backwell and Cheltenham Spa. Rural stations Saltash, Crediton, Yeoford, Bruton, Dorchester West, Yeovil Pen Mill and Junction also need to be fully accessible. There should be no derogation to Network Rail under the Equalities Act.

First Group has been pushing hard for Network Rail to adhere to design standards for accessible railway stations to include fully accessible toilets and baby changing places.

The Access For All Programme is far too slow and needs speeding up on a Mayoral and regional basis especially around Temple Meads station North entrance.

We believe it is important to maintain buffets to be specified with railway branding by Network Rail and the DFT with adequate opening hours in the same way as they did with British Rail (Travellers Fayre). On train catering is very important to disabled people and should be maintained in the franchise agreements by the DFT and Welsh/Scottish Governments.

We are concerned over the move away from maintained buffet services to trolleys and no buffet/trolley service whatsoever on Chiltern Railways and Southern Railways.

Action Point 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 we want to see the delivery of fully accessible trains speeded up by 2020. The scrapping of all Pacer units in the South West, all units refurbished to PRM-TSI standards. There should be no derogation by DFT/ORR and the Welsh Government.

Action 20 all buses should be fully accessible with folding ramps including rail replacement services which should be specified by the DFT as part of franchises.

Many areas of the South West don't have fully accessible taxis and this needs to be rectified in West Dorset and Stroud.

All new franchises should have an Equalities Customer Panel including Network Rail routes and disabled mystery travellers in all franchises similar to First Group operations.

All disabled facilities should be tested.

We need to respond to the new Great Western franchise keeping it as one whole unit with Network Rail Western. We do not support a loss making West of England Seven County franchise + the line to London.

You should also respond to the South West Railways consultation Bristol - Exeter - London/Weymouth lines.

COACHES/BUSES

All coach stations should be audited and fully accessible including Megabus and National Express.

The worst examples of poor facilities are Bridgwater services, Birmingham Hill St, Newcastle library.

Coach stations and stops need improving including dropped kerbs, shelters, RTI and subsidy.

FERRIES

These should be fully accessible on estuary's and local services eg Falmouth, Bristol Harbour.

AIRPORTS

Need improvement in customer service assistance to disabled people in the Airport Master Plan.

METROBUS

It needs to be developed at Bristol Parkway with access to the station as a matter of urgency and we support the UWE - Parkway link to Cribbs Causeway.

We must not use standard wheelchair widths from the DFT as it traps my wheelchair at Temple Meads.

Thanks

DAVID REDGEWELL