

## **Statement from David Redgewell to CTE Panel – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**

**This statement is for the following meetings BANES Transport Committee 22nd January 2018 to add my booked in verbal statement**

### **Light Rail around Bath and East Bristol**

We would like to support the principles of light rail around Bath especially from Lambridge across the City to Newbridge which could then make use of the light rail corridor to Bristol through Bitton, Saltford, Kelston, Warmley to Yate and East Bristol via Mangotsfield, Staple Hill and Fishponds as well as linking into the RUH at Weston and Park & Ride sites which need to be co-ordinated with the Bristol Mayor's rapid transit project. The two schemes must link to Warmley and Emersons Green. Retention of Avon Valley Railway steam services at weekends. Provision should be made for a continuous cycle/walkway between Bristol and Bath.

The corridor to Odd Down is welcomed however the majority of the traffic is to the Somer Valley at Peasedown, Radstock and Mid Somer Norton and therefore an extension of a rapid transit system to this area would be beneficial. What evaluation of the Somerset and Dorset railway corridor has been carried out as Norton Radstock is an enterprise zone and needs public transport improvement.

The route to Bath University seems to have gradient constraints and requires considerable engineering works and it should also be noted that all LRT schemes approved in the UK have been conurbation wide eg Midland Metro (Birmingham - Wolverhampton), Greater Manchester, Nottingham and Croydon and will require DFT funding and approvals in the long term and in the short term to be in the Metro Mayors joint transport plan.

### **Bus/Rail integration**

This is required at Bath Spa station and a number of sites where light rail connects with bus. Across Europe and Greater Manchester/London rapid transit is fully integrated into the bus network.

Light rail in Bath must not be used as an excuse in the short term not to invest in MetroWest between Westbury, Bath and Bristol out for consultation with the DFT at present as part of the GWR franchise consultation with First Group as the operator to 2022 and BANES/WECA need to have their comments in by 21st February 2018. This could include a business unit for Bristol and Bath, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire & Greater Bristol.

Bus proposals can be included as can future schemes eg light rail integration and the Overground rail project in Bristol but the DFT needs WECA's immediate rail plans for the next 10 years.

With the Bus Summit in London on 8th February 2018 the Minister Jesse Norman expects BANES to invest in the local bus network with the Metro Mayor and these issues must be addressed alongside any light rail proposals in Bristol and Bath.

We urgently request that updates on the Bath and Bristol rapid transit project are presented to the WECA board on 2nd February 2018 and Scrutiny on 31st January 2018.

With regards to buses we would recommend the retention of services 20A/C Bath circuit, 82-82A Paulton - Radstock, 172 Bath - Paulton - Wells via Peasedown and Mid Somer Norton, 179 Bath - Writhlington via Timsbury/Paulton, 672 Blagdon - Bristol, 768 Clutton - Bath via Clandown and A4 Chandag Road - Bath (early morning journeys).

Bath City services 2, 6A, 8/9 and 265 evening services to Bathampton/Trowbridge.

### **Bath bus station issues**

The issues are broken doors, pidgeon invasion, deep cleaning of platform area of pidgeon droppings, signage covered in pidgeon droppings, broken lighting, bus departure signs removed, clear signage to the station removed.

As this is a gateway to Bath, Wiltshire and Somerset it is important that BANES lead with WECA and the Mayor to restore the high quality public transport interchange with First Bus and Rail and the shopping centre developer.

The station was well managed on bus/rail replacement by First Group but the passenger image was poor. An urgent meeting of interested parties is required to address this problem.

Regards  
DAVID R