

Statement from David Redgewell -Bus Users South West & SW Transport Network

Public Funding for Bus Services

We are very concerned over the lack of agreed funding and commissioning of bus services that required by the local communities that are not commercially viable. These lack of services are now severe hardship and isolation. WECA have a duty to provide a bus strategy and then to commission such services. This is a particular issue in rural communities such as the 179 which runs from Bath to Midsummer Norton which have no evening, Saturday or Sunday services. In Bristol the 36 and 96 have no evening or Sunday services. Also there are still gaps in provision that need addressing.

Since the creation of the Combined Authority the powers and duties have transferred so we need to see adequate provision of services by the Combined Authority and the budget spent. There are also duties to work closely on cross boundary services especially with North Somerset. We also wish to see a prompt resolution to the MetroBus provision on the South Bristol loop. We welcome the T3 service at Bristol Parkway but the MetroBus infrastructure needs to be built rapidly as the service has started running.

We wish to see budget include the provision for officers to carry out bus and rail services and infrastructure and want to see revenue support for MetroWest rail services.

We welcome the service between Severn Beach and Westbury and the light rail study between Bristol and Bath together with Bristol to Whitchurch (light rail/Metrobus).

We welcome the review of the services 11, 11a and 508 with a view to extending them to Parkway, we need to know which route will be taken either via Patchway Station, UWE or Sainsbury's Filton.

We also wish to see provision from Parkway to UWE – Fishponds and Kingswood and also Parkway – to Lyde Green via Stapleton and Downend.

We strongly support MetroBus Park and Ride at Parkway and would also support a new Park and Ride from Harry Stoke.

We are very concerned at the errors in the printed publicity material and this needs correcting quickly.

RTI is crucial and must be maintained and work well. We note that the system is still failing when it snows.

We support maintaining the service 19 Bath to Parkway and Cribbs Causeway.

We feel the 178 needs improving in the evenings and Sundays with subsidy and provision needs to be made around the estates in Keynsham in the mornings evenings and Sundays.

BANES also need to work with First to improve the bus station owned by Aviva and British Land to deal with doors and signage.

There is a need to promote public transport in the Visit Somerset guide.