

David Redgewell statement – BANES Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

SWTN believe that with the rise in Covid 19 rates in the Bristol and Bath city region it is very important to retain the active travel fund scheme in Bath and North east Somerset. especially in Bath city centre, Oldfield Park, Peasdown St John and Keynsham town centre.

We are still concerned about social distancing at the Bath Spa bus and rail station interchange.

There is still a need to keep top of cleaning in and around the public transport interchange in Dorchester Street and Manvers Street and public toilets. The issue of public toilets needs to be addressed by opening public toilets at Avon Street coach station.

We need journey makers and social distancing marshals in BANES like those in Bristol and South Gloucestershire Council and parts of the WECA mayoral combined authority area. Sight and Sound guards are used in South Gloucestershire and covid marshals are also in Gloucester. The covid marshals in the main Bath shopping centres, Keynsham, Oldfield Park, Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Paulton help to social distance shoppers and visitors and could be used at bus stops and interchanges throughout BANES.

The Avon and Somerset police and crime commissioner have been given money for social distancing and enforcement but we still have passengers on the public transport network not wearing face covering (apart from those who are exempt).

The Directors for public health for Bath, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset council's should be asking the Avon and Somerset police commissioner, PCC Sue Montsteven and the British Transport Police for more enforcement action.

With regards to Christmas in BANES there is a need for a tourist information centres. First Group have the Travel centre which needs reopening along with the one at Wells bus station.

First Group and the WECA mayoral transport authority are looking at a book a bus scheme on the Wells bus station, Shepton Mallet, Paulton, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Peasdown St John and Bath Spa bus station corridor together with a travel centre is required. A joint arrangement could be looked similar to Penzance, St Austell and the Isle of Wight. They should be looked after by Destination Bristol, Visit Bath and North East Somerset town councils.

In view of the latest lockdown there is a need for Bath and Bristol as part of the 4 unity authorities of the WECA mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council to form a city region.

We hope that the WECA mayor will make sure that a financial package is negotiated with central government.

We still need to see close monitoring of the university bus services after the 10 o'clock closure of bars and restaurants after the new lockdown is lifted in December.

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On buses we still need more services on route 37 to Weston for the RuH, Kelston, Bitton, Longwell Green, Hanham, St George, Lawrence Hill station and Bristol bus station.

There should also be later bus services on route 174 between Bath Spa bus and coach station to Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Shepton Mallet and Wells bus station.

There needs to be progress on North Somerset Council joining the WECA mayoral transport and planning authority and on The Somerset and Mendip District Council regional local government reorganisation.

We need a strong city regional authority but of course Bath needs to work closely with Wiltshire County Council, Swindon and Mendip district council in North Somerset.

More public transport staff should be moving to WECA to assist in setting up of a railway Executive like Greater Manchester with mayor Andy Burnham or the West Midlands Combined Authority with mayor Andy Street. There should be an interface

with Network Rail and First Group bus and rail divisions. To improve the public transport network WECA needs to make progress on the light rail system for the 4 lines for the Bristol and Bath city region with details of the work being carried out by WSP..

Please submit our statement to the above cabinet meetings.

David Redgewell South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.