

## **DAVID REDGEWELL PUBLIC STATEMENT TO CABINET – 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

We are very concerned to see the high-risk statement in the Audit report for Public transport Network. Especially the Demand responsive bus services with bus drivers' risk.

But we would also raise the risk of the contract not being awarded to Abus or coach company for Demand responsive bus services as in Somerset Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. With Somerset County council own bus and coach company. Pulham coaches in Gloucestershire and Lydney dial ride bus services. Go ahead group South Coast bus services in Wiltshire.

But it may be that the Demand responsive bus services and via can get agency drivers for the Network in North Somerset council Banes South Gloucestershire council and part of Greater Bristol but apart from Brislington, Keynsham, Totterdown and Avonmouth this service is in Deep rural areas. It does not replace the secondary bus Network in Greater Bristol and Bath which will be withdrawn on the 1st April 2023 and June 2023. Leaving many communities without public transport in North East Somerset South and East Bristol and Towns in south Gloucestershire. Leaving major bus Network gaps. With bus Franchising as an option the issue is the timescale to set it up - 5 years. By which time the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council, which will need to be part of the Authority west of England mayoral combined transport Authority, will need to purchase bus Depots in Bath wells Hengrove and Lawrence Hill Bristol and Weston Super Mare from First Group. 700 buses Patchway Depot in Bristol from stagecoach west 150 buses and other bus Garages.

The Franchising process take 5 years to let across the Network. The west of England mayoral combined transport Authority has no precepting powers for the mayor Dan Norris and the Authority. So the council levy will have to pay the mayor for the franchise Network through council tax.

Franchising is an option to be look at by the metro mayor Dan Norris with councillor Steve Bridger from North Somerset council. But will not change the situation on the need to fund bus services in northeast Somerset council Bristol city council South Gloucestershire council area plus North Somerset council.

Mayor Andrew Burnham is proceeding over the next 4 year to Franchise Greater Manchester combined transport Authority buses. Andy Street mayor of the west Midlands combined Authority and mayor Steve Rotherham, Liverpool city region,

The mayors of the south Yorkshire combined Authority. West Yorkshire combined Authority and the New Tyne and Wear Authority are also looking at Franchising.

But remember the west of England mayoral combined Authority has no Block Grant from the Department for transport and precepting powers for public transport Network.

We welcome Banes council and Bristol city council and North Somerset council asking the metro mayor Dan Norris to looking at Franchising the bus Network, but it will not solve he bus service funding issues over the next 18 months on the west of

England mayoral combined transport Authority Network. We welcome the 7 million pounds award of a contract to enhance bus service corridor to first group plc west of England buses to enhance peak hour service on a number of routes.

North Somerset council has carried out consultation on its bus service improvements plan. And its meetings have been in public. But this is not the case at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority with the Housing and Transport Board meeting in private. The only combined transport Authority to hold its meeting in private in England.

On support services because the transport levy being frozen by South Gloucestershire council Banes and South Gloucestershire council. We have service cuts back on the 1st of April 2023 and June 2023. The poorest communities will be left without bus services.

More needs to be done on Bus service improvement plan bus services in the city region. Including equalities impact assessments.

We welcome this plan for bus and public transport corridors.

The risk here is lack of delivery by the local councils Banes South Gloucestershire council and City and county of Bristol. On bus priority and sustainable transport corridor delivery.

The high risk is transport inflation and council delivery for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority. We need to transfer Transport staff from Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire council and Banes council. Bristol city council is to transfer staff and infrastructure bus shelters and interchanges facilities.

But bus shelters and interchanges are an example of west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council do great work on designs and then build out. But the council have very little money to maintain bus shelters or clean or maintain the new shelters and interchanges.

It's important to passenger that all infrastructure is maintained by the mayor of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority jointly with North Somerset council. Value for money with one Transport Authority.

Metro west railway Network. Need strong region governance on delivery. Progress is being made on the Bristol Temple meads station to pill and Portishead line.

On Bristol to Gloucester central line New station at Charfield to get planning permission this week.

Bristol Temple meads station Ashley Down Filton North station both have planning permission but Henbury station planning permission is delayed.

Delaying this part of metro west.

The Authority committee of the mayor Dan Norris metro mayor and local authority leader need to work together and remember that they are delivering for voters and passengers.

It feels like the bus coach rail and ferry service are disjointed from their meetings. This is not the case in west Midlands combined Authority, Greater Manchester Liverpool city regions with elected mayors. Or Transport for London which appears to be west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council proposed model.

West of England joint committee meeting is very important on joint public transport Network issue with metro west railway Network and bus service improvement plan working as 2 transport Authorities. North Somerset council is much open government on public transport Network issue. Transport and housing Board meeting. Should be meeting in public as per all other mayoral combined Authorities. Must meet in public.

Bus service improvement plan. Bus service Advisory Board. And Advisory panel must meet in public online. Like Somerset County Council that works very well. And have public statements and questions times same rules as public access to west of England mayoral combined Authority committees.

The passenger bus forums by the mayor Dan Norris metro mayor and councillor Steve Hogg transport executive North Somerset council and bus operators work very well and the mayor Dan Norris and Steve Hogg transport executive councillor North Somerset council talk to passenger and is good open government.

The needs to be a lot more passenger information consultation at bus stations interchanges facilities railway stations ferry terminal talking to passengers and stakeholders. Realtime information systems need to work in bus stations such as Bath. Bus shelters clean should be a top priority.

Greater Manchester combined transport Authority metro mayor Andy Burnham is on the ground talking to passengers, is Andy Street mayor of the west Midlands combined Authority and Liverpool city region mayor Steve Rotherham and staff.

West of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council have very little staff on the public transport Network but are spending million on taxpayers' money on public transport Network services.

Complaint phone and email contact are not available and clear to the travelling public. There are numbers but with answer phones.

Bristol city council have a public transport Department but have not had responsibility for the public transport Network for years and confusing to passengers.

We welcome all the hard work by mayor Dan Norris and His team trying to set up a transport Authority, but we need real partnership with the 4 local Authorities and co-production.

5 hours to decide public transport issue in meeting does not happen in Transport for London west of England mayoral combined transport Authority role mode on buses rail trams and ferries. Except west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council are not providing universal bus services. West Midlands combined Authority meeting on public transport Network.

Greater Manchester meeting on public transport Network.

It needs to focus at meeting on public transport Network delivery. It's also unusual to see leaders of councils and chief executive officers taking decisions on public transport delivery.

Most combined transport Authorities the metro mayor or his transport Deputy mayor take decisions with Transport Executive councillors and Transport officers some meetings include public transport companies giving reports.

The public transport users group have worked so hard to see an integrated transport Authority with North Somerset council and the Local Enterprise partnership as members. We wish to see good Authority governance with co-production of public transport Network service and Delivery plans that work for voters and passengers.

Buses are buses and west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council are responsible for all services.

Support service.

Enhanced quality partnership bus services.

Demand responsive bus services

Coach services.

The issue is the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority

Transport levy has been frozen and the mayor Dan Norris unlike any other transport Authority has not precepting powers for running bus services railway services coach services ferry services and future mass transit systems.

Transport for Greater Bristol.

FOSBR.

Railfuture Severnside.

Somerset catch the bus campaign.

Somerset bus partnership.

Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign.

Bristol and Bath tram Network.

South west transport Network.

Bristol disabled equalities forum.

South Gloucester disability equalities Network.

LGBTQ community.

Want to see a well-run west of England mayoral combined transport Authority In Partnership with North Somerset council and a future full member.

Delivery for stakeholders and passengers

The risk is clear accountability for public money which is allocated by Mark Harper MP secretary of state for transport as Taxpayers money is delivery on the ground for passengers and money on consultants is fully accountable.

West of England mayoral combined transport Authority need it only professional transport staff.

The Red flags of risks on support bus services and Demand responsive bus services must be addressed, as should the city region transport plan delivery and metro west. We need clear governance review and delivery plans for Transport services delivery. Perhaps the mayor should bring in an Advisor from Greater Manchester combined transport Authority to help.

We are very concerned that we need to make progress on a mass transport system for Greater Bristol and Bath city region. But putting the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan as our top priority with Mayor Dan Norris.

And metro west railway Network. The light rail system exists in West Midlands combined Authority area. Greater Manchester. Sheffield city region. Newcastle upon Tyne. Merseyside. Blackpool.

Now being built in Cardiff and the valleys in Wales.

Edinburgh Glasgow Scotland.

Dublin Ireland.

And now in Leeds West Yorkshire.

Gloucestershire county council in Gloucester and Cheltenham.

We must not drop mass transit overground with some tunnels like on the seven Beach line railway at Clifton Down.

Mass transit system works with metro west railways and coach services ferry service.

We must make progress in Greater Bristol and Bath city region at the 17th March 2023 West of England mayoral combined Authority and joint committee meeting. Not drop a modern mass transit system in Great Bristol and Bath city region.