

## Public questions to the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body Board

### Board Meeting 28 June 2023

#### Agenda Item 4 - Public Participation

- Statements from members of the public in line with the Board's Public Participation Scheme, statements/questions and responses are provided below.
- A question was received from:
  - o **David Redgewell, South West Transport Network & Railfuture Severnside**

#### Questions from David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

Question 2 was updated on 11 July 2023

##### *Questions 1*

*What progress is being made? On the Regional coach and Bus study Between Cheltenham spa Royal well bus and coach station and Arles court coach station and Bournemouth interchanges and poole coach station via stroud merry walk bus and coach station swindon bus and coach station Salisbury coach station At what points will the service connect with Region bus Network service's and local Trains .*

*Will their be improvement in coach connections Between Swindon bus and coach stations new build under construction and Salisbury castle street coach station and Bournemouth Transport interchange and poole coach station .*

*Will their be improvement Between Southampton coach station Ringwood meeting house lane .Bournemouth interchanges Poole Bus and coach stations Dorchester South interchange Weymouth Bridport Lyme regis Axminster Exeter bus and coach station Torquay coach station Paignton bus and coach station and Plymouth coach station and Newquay bus and coach stations and Penzance bus and coach station*

*The coach link from Plymouth coach station Totnes Paignton bus and coach stations Torquay coach station, Exeter bus and coach station yeovil bus and coach stations, wincanton bus and coach stations Zeal, Gillingham, Salisbury coach station Southampton coach station Basingstoke bus station London Heathrow Airport and London Victoria. Be discussed.*

*What discussion are on going about Express coaches services Network in western Gateway transport Board and Peninsula transport Board area and National Express coaches megabus Falcon part of Scottish city link and Flixbus and the Department of transport About funding such Regionally important coach services And bus and coach stations and stop improvements*

*And what do discussion are happening about the present National Express coaches megabus Falcon Scottish city link and Flixbus Network improvement this summer and winter services.*

## Response

The Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body Coach Strategy is the subject of Item 7 and Paper A of the Board's meeting on 28 June 2023. The Paper recommends that the Western Gateway's work programme for 2023/24 to 2024/25 should focus on:

- 1) Data collection – further research and data gathering undertaken
- 2) Passenger awareness campaign for coach users
- 3) Set up a South West Coach Sector Steering Group – to follow a similar format to the successful South West Freight Forum
- 4) Explore in more detail the potential for the three new coach routes as set out in Appendix One

Question 2 .

*What progress is being made?*

*On access for scheme to the Regional Railway station and interchanges for passengers for Reduced mobility.*

## Response in blue.

*At Cheltenham spa .*

Work is due to start on installing lifts at Cheltenham Spa station in September 2023 subject to Network Rail signing a lease with Western Power Distribution to enable the relocation of their substation. The Access for All (AfA) scheme has been in the pipeline for a number of years and work is likely to take nine months.

*Weston super mare General.*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Trowbridge.*

There has been no AfA bid for Trowbridge. The station has some of the required characteristics, such as step-free access and tactile paving. Its main deficiency is the lack of a wheelchair-accessible footbridge (although it's possible to change platforms via a circuitous route involving the local highway).

*Keynsham.*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Oidfiled park.*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Nalisea and Backwell.*

No current AfA bid. Longstanding issue regarding step free access to platforms remains.

*Parson street.*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Bedminster*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Bristol Lawrence hill.*

Work is underway to develop and design proposals for accessibility improvements at Lawrence Hill station as part of the West of England Combined Authority's Step-Free Stations project. This will provide step-free access from street to both platforms. Construction of accessibility improvements is expected to start in 2025, using a combination of local funding and Government grant funding.

*Bristol Stapleton road*

No current proposals or AfA bid.

*Castle cary.*

Currently two footbridges at Castle Cary. One (at the western end) is a temporary scaffold bridge, which has been in place whilst the other, permanent, footbridge (at the eastern end) was being refurbished. The refurbishment of the original bridge was completed in time for Glastonbury Festival this year. The scaffold bridge will shortly be dismantled and removed. Network Rail are working with GWR on designs for an accessible footbridge at the station, but funding has not yet been identified for this to be delivered.

*Yeovil junction.*

Access for All bid submitted. In addition there is a piece of work going on at the moment with Network Rail, looking at Yeovil Junction facilities and accessibility as part of wider Strategic Station Plan for the station.

*Dorchester South.*

For Dorchester South Station, an AfA bid was made by South Western Railway (SWR) to install lifts to enable step free access between platforms. The outcome of the bid is awaited. The Western Gateway STB wrote a letter of support for the bid.

*Bournemouth central*

The response for Bournemouth station is similar to Dorchester South – SWR submitted proposals for accessibility improvements as part of AfA – an announcement from the DfT is not expected until the end of the year. The Western Gateway STB wrote a letter of support for the bid.

*These stations are important Region interchanges and hubs and require access for passenger with reduced mobility to access the Railway and public transport Network.*

*Question 3*

*with the bus service improvement plans money begin allocated by the Department for transport for bus service and the extension of the fare cap .*

*Will western gateway transport Board and Peninsula transport Board.*

*Co ordination the cross boundary services bus and coach stations across West of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council Swindon and Wiltshire*

*Dorset Bournemouth poole and Christchurch. Gloucestershire Devon and Cornwall Torquay and Plymouth.*

*To make sure the Region has going intergrated bus coach rail and ferry Network .*

**Response**

The Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body is not currently involved in any work relating to the Bus Service Improvement Plans. Work on coaches has been covered under the response to Question 1.

Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body

28 June 2023

Updated 11 July 2023