

Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body

Questions received after the deadline for the Board on 24 July 2026

Rosa Kell, Somerset Bus Partnership

Question 1

Rosa Kell Somerset bus partnership

What progress is being made?

On cross boundary bus services between Western Gateway Transport Board and Peninsula Transport Board

Between Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple Meads station, Hengrove, Whitchurch Pensford Clutton Farrington Gurney, Wells bus and coach station, Glastonbury street to Taunton 374, 375 376

173, 174, 171, Wells bus and coach station Shepton Mallet interchange 174 173, Chilcompton Midsomer Norton, Westfield Radstock Peasdown St John Bath Spa bus and coach station, D2 D2x Bath Spa bus and coach station to Midford, Norton St Phillip Rode Beckington and Frome.

X3 Salisbury to Fordingbridge, Ringwood meeting house Lane bus and coach station and Bournemouth interchange.

Or x51 x53 Weymouth Dorchester South station, Bridport bus and coach station Lyme Regis and Axminster Railway station,

C6 Bridport bus and coach station to Bournemouth crewence Yeovil bus and coach station.

and National Express coaches services and Flixbus coaches network improvement across the south west from Cheltenham Spa Arles Court interchange coach station to Swindon bus and coach station to Salisbury And Bournemouth interchange or via Bristol bus and coach station, Bath Spa bus and coach station to Weymouth and Poole bus and coach station and Bournemouth interchange.

Southampton coach station to Bournemouth interchange coach station, Poole bus and coach station, Weymouth railway station, Dorchester South, Bridport bus and coach station, Lyme Regis Exeter bus and coach station and Plymouth coach station.

and Truro bus and coach station and Penzance bus and coach station.

London Victoria coach station, London Heathrow Airport, Taunton Exeter bus and coach station, Okehampton Launceston Newquay bus and coach station and Penzance bus and coach station,

Question from Rosa Kell Somerset bus partnership

Western Gateway Response:

It was part of the Western Gateway's original Business Plan for 2026/27 to undertake work on cross boundary bus and coach services. Unfortunately due to receiving less Department for Transport funding than expected and with the subsequent loss of staff all of this work has had to be put on hold. It is planned to review this with the arrival of new staff.

We note that some of the bus service issues raised above relate to the Peninsula Transport region so it is appropriate they respond on them. We do of course work closely with our neighbouring Sub-national Transport Body including running the Coach Forum which covers updates and sharing of best practice relating to coach services in the region.

As part of the Rural Mobility Pilots scheme, the Western Gateway is funding pilot projects including a night-bus service operating between Lyme Regis and Bridport in Dorset. In the first round of pilots the Western Gateway funded a Bridport to West Bay Saturday service which has since been made permanent with Bus Service Improvement Plan funding.

Question 2.

In view of UK government integrated Transport policy.

What work is Western Gateway Transport Board and Peninsula Transport Board doing on an integrated Transport policy in the Region and co-ordination of bus and coach service improvement plan and funding.

Western Gateway STB Response:

In April 2026, the Department for Transport published Better Connected report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-connected-a-strategy-for-integrated-transport>. This sets the scene for integrated transport.

In the 'light touch' refresh of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) (see Paper C to the Board on 24 June 2026) the Government's Better Connected strategy has been used to guide the weighting of key objectives in the prioritisation of proposals. As a result new schemes such as the Wiltshire Superbus have emerged as strong schemes along with continued support for ones like South East Dorset Rural Mobility. The Western Gateway is not a delivery body but through prioritising proposals which demonstrate their commitment to Better Connected and by providing early business case development funding we are encouraging integrated transport.