WiFi Password:

Winter@2023!



TravelWatch SouthWest

Autumn General Meeting

11th October 2024

New website in progress:

https://travelwatchsouthwest-org.stackstaging.com/

Agenda

- 11:00 Welcome & Overview David Northey & Bryony Chetwode
- 11:10 Keynote Speaker Mel Watson
- 11:45 Dan Okey: New timetables and Changing Services
- 12:30 Just a Minute
- 12:40 Lunch & Networking
- 13:20 Giles Fearnley: To Franchise or Not to Franchise?
- 13:55 Nigel Blackler: Why did Pubic Transport work better for the passengers in Cornwall?
- 14:30 All Speaker Panel: Government changes to transport: what's in it for the passenger?
- 15:20 Summary David Northey
- 15:30 Close

Welcome & Overview

TravelWatch SouthWest's Chair David Northey and Secretary Bryony Chetwode







A NEW ERA FOR BUS USERS?

MELANIE WATSON - Director

The Challenges

How to make buses desirable How to exceed customer expectations How do we change the narrative around bus?





The steps to consider....



Who is the customer and what do they want?



Getting the basics right



Joining things up



Consider the bigger picture



Who makes it happen?

Who is the customer & what do they want?

Buses offer a lifeline to many, but for others, lives are planned around car ownership – bus is simply not on the radar

Transport Focus provide valuable insight into public transport users priorities

Cornwall prioritised customer research to better understand their needs and inform priorities for future investment



Accountability to Customers

Role of BSIPs

- Should be driving improved engagement locally
- Greater levels of transparenc

Bus Franchising

- In making the case
- Managing the network
- When evolving the network

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Case Study: Young Person

What the changes mean for customers



I'm 17 and I use the bus to travel to college. Before I started college, it was easy to understand which bus ticket is best for me based on how often I travel and which services I use.

I spotted that I was eligible for the young person's discount; it's great that I can take advantage of the half price fares as it makes it much more affordable, especially as I use two different services.

After college, I'm hoping to start working fulltime. I noticed that people aged 20-25 also get a one-third discount on all bus tickets, so I'll continue to use the bus once I've started working too. These young person's discounts mean I don't have to learn to drive and get a car to have my independence.

66

...it's great that I can take advantage of the **half price fares**

Case Study: Commuter (Shift Worker)

I work shifts at a hotel and despite having to start and finish early in the morning and late at night, I can still use my local bus service to commute to work without any problems. On my return journey I catch the bus from the nearby bus station, which is modern and clean, including good lighting, seating, and shelter, so it makes waiting for the bus a pleasant experience, even late in the evening.

...it makes waiting for the bus a **pleasant experience**, even late in the evening.



Delivering the basics well - consistently

The right routes – where do people need to go? Prioritise core flows to build patronage and confidence

The right frequency and timetable – that can be delivered reliably every day

A high-quality fleet – with the right capacity and comfort for customers

Supporting infrastructure, that is well maintained and welcoming – bus stations, bus stops, hubs and bus priority / traffic management to support on time operation

The right staff - a welcoming and friendly bus driver, station supervisor!

Joining things up – Integration (1)

Branding of the network as a whole

- One network presented as a whole
- One timetable integrated with other modes
- One map showing all routes
- One website / app with everything the customer requires
- One Ticket to use on any bus, and wider if possible!









Remove Barriers for Customers

Does a customer need to know who operates the service to access information? Do they care who operates the bus?

What is the value of operator specific branding today?

Should operators consider the "network as a whole" within a given area – not just their own services?

One map, one timetable, one website, one app..... Not multiple!

Joining things up – Integration (2)

Ticketing is key – simple and affordable for the customer, sustainable for the

operator





User and non-user feedback in Cornwall saw interoperability as a gamechanger – others thought that was just how it should be.

Transparency for the Customer

How does a customer find the price for the journey they wish to make?

- Child age ranges differ across operators
- How long does a month ticket last 28 or 31 days?
- When does a day ticket expire 2am, 3am, 4am?
- How many names exist for a day ticket? Does a customer understand what to buy?
- How many single ticket bandings does an operator really need?

Are we over complicating the need to drive revenue?

Customers now like flat fares, growth is being achieved so what next?

Consider the bigger picture

Wider support for the role of bus is essential to make the step change in the UK....

Placemaking Incentives

Developments

Behaviour Change

Parking provision & pricing Engagement Community

But also advocates – political, business leaders, other sectors – NHS,

MW Associates PTS Ltd – Independent Public Transport

Specialist

Who makes it happen?



The vision





The delivery



To conclude (1)

Lots of pockets of best practice around the UK

National Bus Strategy has brought public and private sectors together and provided a boost to funding

The building blocks are in place but a lot more work needs to be done – lots of improvement can be made with better collaboration – needs driving through and commitment from all parties

Funding will help but you need the vision, the leadership and the delivery capability to use it wisely

To conclude

Bus Industry is at a pivotal point of change

We need more voices to back the bus – advocates willing to lead the way

- Great work by CPT on economic impact of bus
- Need to develop new ways of engaging and getting people on side –
 particularly the young who have different perspectives, but also better
 embed buses within local communities all year round.

We need to integrate and make bus a bigger part of the climate agenda, the health agenda, the growth agenda etc..

The narrative of bus needs to change. Customers have a greater opportunity to be heard and new voices need to be found to broaden the narrative around bus.

MW Associates PTS Ltd – Independent Public Transport Specialist

Thank you

Melanie Watson Director

MW Associates PTS Ltd mwassociatespts@gmail.com



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Regional update
- Performance on the Western Route
- Timetable planning
- HS2 and upcoming possessions
- Any Other Questions



Regional Update

Tom Lydon

Public Affairs Manager, GWR

Daniel Round

Industry Programme Director, Network Rail





Business Update

- Annual Business Plan approved for 2024/25
- Industrial relations: ASLEF (the train drivers union) has accepted the Government's offer of a pay deal, and this will bring to an end the industrial dispute that has been running since 2022. The offer made by the DfT did not include any changes to terms and conditions.
- Public Ownership Bill has completed all legislative stages in the Commons – now before House of Lords
- GWR's contract can be terminated from June 2025; expires in full June 2028



Business update: Journeys

- In May 2024 we celebrated a year of the enhanced West of England Combined Authority funded services across Bristol.
- The Combined Authority supports extra trains on Severn Beach Line, Bristol – Gloucester and Bristol – Westbury routes as part of Metro West
- 27% increase in journeys on these routes between May 2023 and May 2024
- Bristol Oxford service via Bath Spa, Chippenham and Swindon
- Trial Saturday service launched 14 September with two journeys each way



Metro Mayor Dan Norris, with Daniel Round (NR) and Tom Pierpoint (GWR)







Business update – local fleet

- Refurbishment of local train fleet recently completed (class 165 and 166 train interiors)
- 57 trains have been refurbished, through a partnership with Angel Trains and Gemini Rail Services
- Trains serve routes across the network including:
- Gloucester to Frome and on to Weymouth or Portsmouth
- Bristol local services (including Weston-super-Mare)
- Cardiff Portsmouth (including Westbury)





Swindon & Wiltshire



Wiltshire Strategic Study



Swindon Station Masterplan



Chippenham





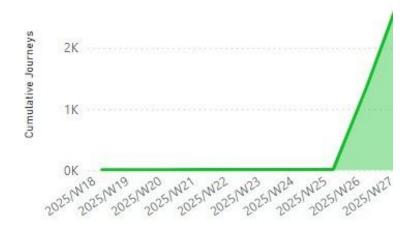


Mayoral Combined Authority Area

Ashley Down opens!

- Station promoted and funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, Bristol City Council, and delivered by NR
- Opened to public on Saturday
 18 September 2024
- 3,000 journeys in the first weekend!
- Great location for County Ground and Memorial Stadium

Cumulative Journeys

















Mayoral Combined Authority Area (continued)







Bristol Temple Meads Eastern Entrance Decarbonisation study, including Filton Bank

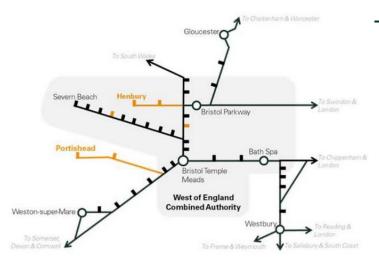
MetroWest 2 new stations: Henbury, North Filton and Charfield







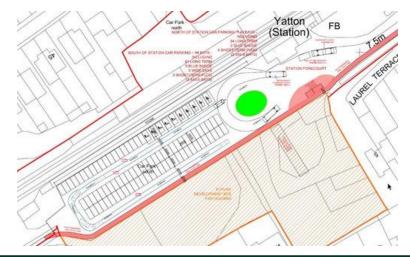
North Somerset



MetroWest 1b - Portishead line



Weston-super-Mare AfA



Yatton



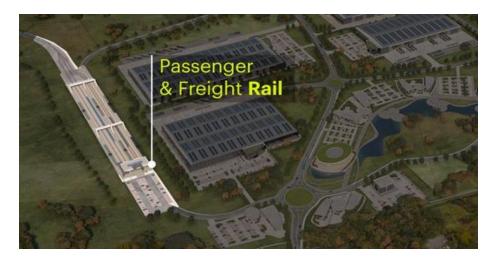




Somerset



Castle Cary accessible footbridge



Gravity rail link







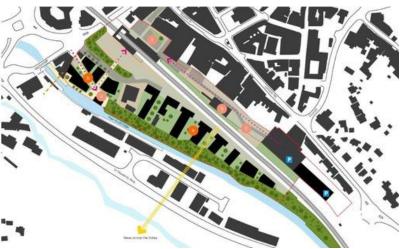
Gloucestershire







Cheltenham Spa Access for All



Stroud







What's next: Great British Railways

- Rail reform, with legislation going through Parliament. Note: from next June GWR's National Rail Contract moves on to a 3 month break clause
- Bring track and train together
- GWR has always acted as a custodian of the railway and we continue to think about and plan for the long term future of our services and stations
- Customers and communities have always been at the heart of what we do and we are working to preserve our community links







Any Questions?







Performance on the Western Route

Toby Elliott, Head of Communications, Network Rail Western





For a Greater Railway

Historical Context





Since 2018/19:



running

+14%

additional station stops



increase in tonnage



Stockley flyover



Acton diveunder



Great Western Electrification



HS2 Old Oak Common



Reliability improvement in three phases

Objective: Improve Performance











Our 10-point improvement plan



1. Track	2. Detection	3. Points	4. Overhead cables	5. Operations
6. Access	7. Training	8. Comms	9. 3rd Party Delivery	10. Safety, assurance & finance



Timetable Planning

Mark Utley

Long Term Planning Manager GWR





All days December 2024

Transport for Wales timetable change



- Services in Wales have changed due to Transport for Wales changes as part of the 2018 'Wales and Borders' franchise award, now directly operated by Welsh Government
- Generally minor timing changes to ensure GWR services continue to fit with other operators. Services retimed by up to 11 minutes arriving into Cardiff
- Performance will be monitored as timetable starts and reviewed for future timetable changes
- SX GWR services on average will be slightly quicker Paddington-Cardiff but slightly slower Cardiff-Paddington (approx. 1 minute change either way).
- SX Cardiff-Taunton/Penzance and Penzance/Taunton services largely improved by 1-3 minutes on average
- SX Portsmouth services on average retain the same journey time.

Weekdays December 2024

Minor changes

- 1C30 19.02 Paddington-Bristol—severely overcrowded service on a daily basis. Amended to be pick up only at Reading, and changes to platforms at Paddington to separate it from the 19.06 service.
- 1G29 19.33 Paddington-Worcester becomes pick up only at Reading and no longer calls at Didcot Parkway, service is retimed to depart Paddington at 19.36. Didcot stop transfers to 1C31 19.30 Paddington-Weston service.
- 2E14 17.04 Didcot Parkway-Moreton in Marsh runs through to Evesham
- Until 31 March 1B27 17.48 Paddington-Carmarthen terminates at Swansea Monday-Thursday. This is to allow increased
 access for Network Rail resignalling work from Llanelli to Carmarthen. Passengers will have an onward connection on a
 new TfW service.
- Changes to Sectional Running Times to rebalance timings between Newbury and Exeter. Will improve accuracy of reporting and performance.
- Minor changes to dwells at Clifton Down and Stapleton Road on the Severn Beach line to aid performance.

Saturdays December 2024

Minor changes

- Additional service 08.46 1K00 Cheltenham Spa-Bristol Temple Meads via Swindon.
 - Provides relief for 08.59 Cheltenham-Paddington as far as Swindon and for 09.00 Paddington-Bristol from Swindon
 - Service does not call at Gloucester
 - Introduces a new direct service between Stonehouse/Stroud/Kemble and Chippenham/Bath/Bristol
- 1C02 06.30 Paddington-Bristol departs at 06.00 to arrive earlier at Bristol Temple Meads. Provides additional connection to Portsmouth Harbour at Bath, and additional connections to Penzance, Cardiff, Manchester and Gloucester from Bristol Temple Meads.
- 1A06 Weston-Paddington now runs as 10 car throughout, removing the need for an attachment at Bristol
- 1W43 21.53 Paddington-Worcester Shrub Hill is 9 cars to allow for Sunday strengthening
- Additional CrossCountry journey from Cardiff to Bristol, late evening

Saturdays December 2024

Additional services between Bristol and Oxford

- Trial service started in September 2024 will be continued into the December TT
- An additional two round trips between Bristol and Oxford have been added,
 - 10.18 and 15.18 from Bristol calling at Bath, Chippenham,
 Swindon and Oxford
 - 12.02 and 17.12 from Oxford calling at Swindon, Chippenham, Bath and Bristol Temple Meads
- These have been agreed with the DfT as a trial service to explore the customer demand on this corridor
- Formed of 5 car IET which is used during the Summer period; therefore this service can only run in the nonsummer timetable.



Sundays December 2024

Minor changes

- 1F39 23.30 Bristol TM-Warminster now terminates at Westbury. Reduces impact of engineering works on services.
- Several retimings to improve journey times on Weymouth services:
 - 2074 09.29 Bristol-Weymouth departs earlier at 09.08
 - 2M09 10.58 Weymouth-Swindon departs earlier at 10.38 (8 minutes quicker)
 - 2V83 14.15 Weymouth-Bristol Temple Meads departs earlier at 14.05 (7 minutes quicker)
 - 2091 13.42 Swindon-Weymouth departs earlier at 13.32
 - Also allows significant improvement to 1F24 14.09 Portsmouth Harbour-Cardiff Central. Service departs same time from Portsmouth and arrives at Cardiff 17 minutes earlier as it has a better path between Westbury and Bristol.
- Additional CrossCountry journey from Bristol to Cardiff, mid morning

Fleet changes



- No major changes in fleet
- 387 fleet reduces to 26 sets in traffic (from 27)
- 2+4 fleet remains as 3 in traffic, limited to Exeter-Penzance
- Total of 80 IET diagrams with traffic work.

May 2025 look-ahead

- Usual suite of Summer enhancements May-September
 - Additional 12.05 Pad-Penzance service
 - Additional Newquay services
 - Tenby & Pembroke dock extensions on Saturdays
- Timetable starts 18 May 2025
- DfT permission given for discussion on fleet changes more detail when known

HS2 and upcoming possessions

Andy McRae

Senior Programme Interface Manager

GWR





HS2 update

- 2024-2031 Christmas 2025; a good year to travel
- Business-wide impacting project
- Sunday 17 November and 27-29 December 2024
- 1 x West of England and 1 x South Wales to EUS
- Up and Down Night Riviera
- GBRf pilot working
- 90 GWR colleagues per day will work at EUS
- PAD-EUS colleague shuttle

- 120 customer assists estimated per day
- Fares & ticketing easements with other operators
- Communications are live
- Customer proposition consistency
- Mystery shopping underway
- SWR aspirations
- Mind the gap at Ealing Broadway!
- Overlap with Westbury

Westbury: 23:45 Tuesday 24 December to 04:00 Friday 24 January

- Renewal of 30 x point ends.
- Repairs to Sherrington viaduct. (between Warminster and Salisbury).
- · Removes speed restrictions.
- Support the project; enjoy the legacy.
- Acknowledge the length and impact.
- Provide journey opportunities by train wherever possible.
- A deliverable and reliable rail replacement service.
- Base the plan on insight and feedback.
- Identify opportunities presented by local bus routes.
- Minimise industry costs.
- Manage the clash with Christmas closure of Paddington.

- No trains calling at Westbury for 30 days.
- Only 4 x stations wholly reliant on RRS:.
- London Paddington to WofE to use Westbury avoider.
 Stoppers to call Frome vice Westbury.
- Cardiff to Portsmouth trains terminate at Trowbridge and start up again at Salisbury.
- · Weymouths reverse at Heywood Road Jct and run through.
- Swindon to Westbury trains replaced by RRS.
 - Parking at Frome.
 - HS2.
 - RRS procurement.
 - Salisbury forecourt scheme.



Engineering work 2025 – a look ahead

When	Where	Duration
February	Portsmouth	7 days
March	Castle Cary to Weymouth	8 days
March	Barnstaple/Okehampton branches	7 days
April	Marlow branch	9 days
June	Severn Tunnel	16 days
July	Henley branch	16 days
July/August	Gloucester to Severn Tunnel Jct	21 days
August	Moreton-in-Marsh to Evesham	16 days
August	Stoke Gifford to Hallen Marsh Jn	22 days
September	Reigate to Shalford	11 days

KEY CHALLENGES
Accommodating the access
Responding to the access
Unforeseen events
Rail replacement
Maintaining customer confidence

HS₂

1620 individual possessions through 2025

Any Questions?





Just a Minute

Lunch & Networking

Back at 13:20

Giles Fearnley

To Franchise or Not to Franchise?





Delivering One Public Transport System for the Peninsula

Nigel Blackler

I I October 2024













A Single Voice for Regional Transport

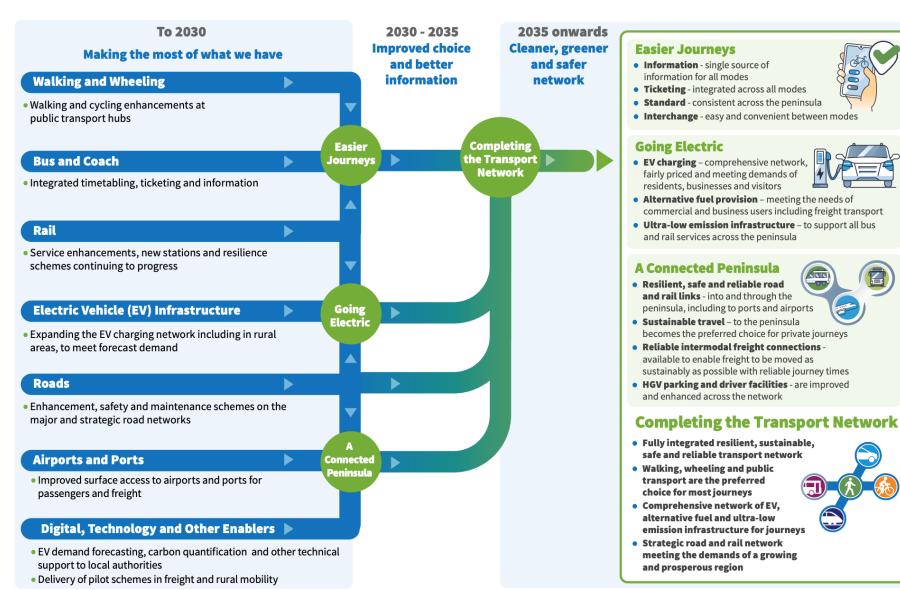
- Peninsula Transport is one of seven STBs in England created by the Department for Transport
- Core functions:
 - Develop and maintain a transport strategy for the region
 - Provide advice to Ministers on strategic transport investment priorities
 - Support Local Authorities in the region and work in partnership with strategic transport providers and operators















Peninsula | Sub-National Transport Body - Short term strategic transport short term, strategic transport priorities



Department for Transport **Strategic Priorities**



*All schemes currently in MRN programme but subject to review



TORBAY COUNCIL



M5 Junction 28



Improving and Mitigation Plan - develop a plan to address the adverse impacts of Old Oak Common development on south west peninsula services maintaining • Rail reform - develop a plan with DfT and rail industry to address current issues around poor service performance, high levels of 'Delay Repay' claims in the region and general reliability issues. performance on the Ensuring Resilience of South West rail infrastructure - including completion of Phase V of Dawlish railways and driving West of England Line Upgrade -Improvement of resilience and reliability alongside service improvement between Exeter and Honiton / Axminster forward rail reform Mobile Connectivity - improve coverage on mainline, branch lines and adjoining rural communities Improving and Better Buses for the Peninsula maintaining bus services Extension of Cornwall's 'Any Ticket, Any Bus' scheme to cover whole peninsula region, continuation of funding for bus service enhancements through BSIP and growing usage Bus Fare Cap Continuation of capped single fares across the country • Rail Freight - Construct Intermodal Rail Freight Interchange in the South West - potential freight terminal sites at Mid Cornwall, Plymouth, Exeter and Bridgwater (Gravity/Agratas) Better integrating Rural Mobility - support for pilot interventions and rollout of SW Rural Mobility Strategy transport networks Rail Access - Deliver identified 'Access for All' schemes followed by wider programme of rail accessibility improvements **Delivering greener** EV Infrastructure – SW EV Forum and Action Plan Deliver non-diesel rolling stock across the Peninsula - Deliver infrastructure to support replacement of aging diesel trains with battery trains across the Peninsula Peninsula Metro Networks - Continued expansion of successful Devon Metro concept of service frequency improvements allied to station improvements and new stations Mid Cornwall Metro - Improved . Devon Metro - New stations at Edginswell, Okehampton and service improvements on North Devon Line north-south links fully operational by Summer 2026 Wellington and Cullompton - new stations Plymouth Metro - Frequent rail service for Plymouth travel to work area, Plym lympton, station access enhancements, Plymouth-Tavi Somerset Metro - Bishops Lydeard **Transforming** St Ives branch line improvements - track and Langport/Somerton stations infrastructure to work and signalling upgrades, St Ives station improvements, delivering 3 or 4 tph (vice 2) for the whole country, and direct services to Penzance. mobility and tackling A38/M5 corridor funding for maintenance and renewal regional inequality A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and A30/A358 – second strategic route A38 Tamar Bridge - Annual contribution to bridge maintenance costs M5 Bridgwater A358 Taunton to Southfields A38 Trerulefoot to Carkeel A30 Plusha Junction MRN/LLM Schemes* A39 Atlantic Highway A374/A386/A364 Plymouth MRN A382 Drumbridges to Newton Abbot A38 North Somerset (Camelford Bypass) (Bristol Airport Access) A379 Bridge Road A38 Manadon Interchange





One Public Transport System for Cornwall

Cornwall Devolution Deal 2015

Government agrees to grant bus franchising powers to Cornwall Council to deliver the bus element of the plans to create an integrated public transport system for Cornwall.

Customer focused

- Design/operation of system reflects customer needs
- Intuitive use and design of the network
- · Consistent and reliable, instilling confidence in users
- · Network and services based on new survey data

One network

- · Designed for when, where and why customers are travelling
- One network of coordinated services.
- Key corridors between towns.
- Feeder network and services.
- A stable network.

One timetable

- One integrated timetable
- Coordination of different services and modes
- Available in a range of formats to meet customer needs
- Simple, easy to understand format and presentation

One ticket

- New single ticket structure.
- Simpler fares and ticketing.
- Affordable and value for money.
- Capped fare levels.
- Integrated smart ticketing between bus, rail and ferry

One standard

- · A consistent level of accessibility, capacity, comfort and reliability
- · Interchange and waiting facilities consistent standard.
- · Unified journey-based time tabling and real time info.
- Robust, transparent and accountable Governance
- Published performance against standards

One brand

- One identifiable brand across the network.
- Branded services and corridors.
- Branded information
- High profile marketing campaign





Customer Outcomes

- Cornwall passenger satisfaction
 - Overall journey 85% (England 80%)
 - Value for money 75% (67%)
 - Punctuality 75% (70%)
 - Bus driver 90% (85%)
 - Length of time of bus journey 83% (81%)
 - Length of time waited for bus 71% (68%)
- 13% increase in passenger journeys since 2019









One Public Transport System for the Peninsula

Better Buses Bill 2025

Government has announced primary legislation to reform the bus system, franchise local bus services and lift the restriction on new publicly owned bus operators.

- Government focus on buses creates the opportunity to seek support to create a single integrated bus system across the Peninsula
- Experience in Cornwall provides the approach and learning to allow improvements to be delivered more quickly
- Key principles remain the same a customer focused system based on:
 - One network
 - One timetable
 - One ticket
 - One standard



One Public Transport System for the Peninsula

- Delivery support in principle from local transport authorities and main bus operators
- Department for Transport in discussions on the proposed approach and support required

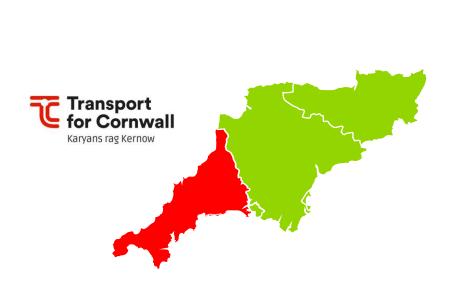
Benefits

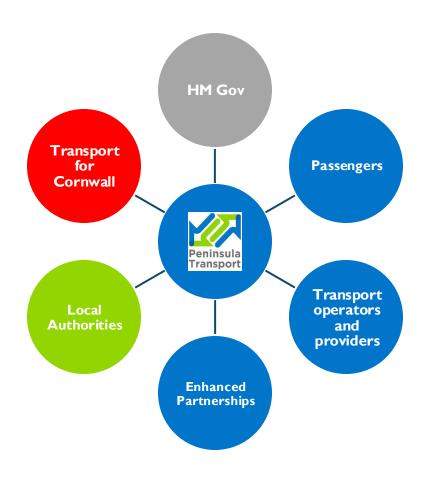
- Experience in Cornwall provides a good guide to customer response
- Peninsula approach would extend improvements to over 2.3m residents
- Increased bus patronage growth achieved in Cornwall would generate up to 6m additional bus journeys a year
- Helps safeguard local bus networks which are currently under pressure
- Delivers improvements for customers earlier than would otherwise be the case



One Public Transport System for the Peninsula

A great opportunity to create a single integrated bus system for the benefit of customers across the Peninsula







Questions?





All Speaker Panel

Are Government changes to the Public Transport Framework going to serve Passenger Interests better?

Summary

David Northey, Chair TravelWatch SouthWest



Close

Thank you for joining us