

Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways (FoSBR)

Statement to West of England Combined Authority Extraordinary Meeting
Thursday 26 May 2022



Transport Levy

FoSBR notes with grave concern that the constituent authorities of the West of England are proposing to scrap the Transport Levy.

We understand that existing funding direct to WECA is solely Investment funding, which is capital funding which must be demonstrated to return a profit and cannot be used as a revenue funding stream to deliver public transport services. Even if WECA have now secured revenue streams for Socially Necessary services, subsidy is needed to increase frequency and reduce fares across the West of England area.

Bus and train services are vital if car use is to be cut back. In many areas of the West of England, bus and rail service is only hourly or half-hourly and this frequency should be enhanced to incentivise modal shift away from the car.

FoSBR calls on the constituent authorities to continue the Transport Levy as otherwise this will mean that bus services are cut at a time when they are urgently needed.

In particular, FoSBR seeks assurance that the train-set hire for the Portishead Line will be provided.

FoSBR appeals to the four West of England authorities to work together to deliver a public transport system that can address the climate and ecological emergency.

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Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways
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