



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

5.1 Consultation Report and Appendices

Appendices F1 to F3: Supporting documents relating to Section 47 Stage 1 formal consultation

Planning Act 2008: Sections 37(3)

Author: North Somerset District Council

Date: November 2019

Document Index

F1	Feedback questionnaire
F2	Publicity material including leaflet, postcards, exhibition boards, posters, press release, newsletter, website screenshots, social media screenshots, and examples of partner communications (June to August 2015)
F3	Publicity postcard distribution map



MetroWest⁺

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

5.1 – Consultation Report and Appendices Appendix F1: Feedback questionnaire

Planning Act 2008: Sections 37(3)

Author: North Somerset District Council

Date: November 2019

Thanks for taking the time to let us know what you think of the proposals for re-opening the Portishead branch line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

Please do read the proposals in the leaflet first, available as a hard copy or online from www.travelwest.info/metrowest first, and then let us know what you think, by returning your completed questionnaire by Monday 3 August, to:

MetroWest Phase 1 Consultation
Engine Shed
Station Approach
Temple Meads
Bristol
BS1 6QH

MetroWest+

This consultation asks you to give comments in a structured way but there is plenty space for comment

There are only a few mandatory ('must answer') questions in the survey, marked with an asterisk (*)

If you have any questions about this consultation, visit: www.travelwest.info/metrowest
email: metrowest@westofengland.org or phone: 0117 903 6868.

Section A: General

Most of the questions in this section are *must answer, as they are the core of what we are hoping to find out

Q1

* What is your home postcode?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Q2

* Overall, how supportive of the MetroWest Phase 1 proposals are you?

- ☐ Support them entirely
- ☐ Mainly support them
- ☐ Mainly don't support them
- ☐ Don't support them at all
- ☐ No opinion

Q3

*** What, if any, are your main concerns with the scheme overall?**

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ **NONE** or
- ☐ Environmental aspects such as noise, air quality, or wildlife, etc
- ☐ Traffic or parking
- ☐ Operational e.g. cost to use, frequency, destinations
- ☐ Not a funding priority
- ☐ Other

In summary, what other concern(s)? There is more space later to explain more fully

Q4

Do you have any comments on the scheme overall?

Section B: Portishead (leaflet pages 8 -12)

Firstly, we'd like some information about how you might use a new station in Portishead.

Q5

Regarding Portishead, which of the following best describes you?

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Local business owner
- ☐ Local employee (non-resident)
- ☐ Student (non-resident)
- ☐ Regular visitor
- ☐ Other – Please say what you mean by other

Q6

How often do you think you would catch the train to or from Portishead?

- ☐ At least 3 days a week
- ☐ 1 or 2 days a week
- ☐ A few days a month
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Never (**go to Q8**)
- ☐ Don't know

Q7

Which method(s) of travel do you think you will use on a regular basis to get to or from Portishead station?

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Cycle
- ☐ Car (driver)
- ☐ Car (passenger for drop-off)
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Other – Please say what you mean by other

Next we'd like to know what you think about the proposed Portishead station design and highway changes

Q8

Overall, what do you think about the proposals for Portishead Station?

- ☐ Like them a lot
- ☐ Like them
- ☐ Dislike them
- ☐ Dislike them a lot
- ☐ No opinion

Q9

What are your thoughts on the following aspects of the station building and immediate surroundings?

	Like it a lot	Like it	Dislike it	Dislike it a lot	No opinion
Style/design of the building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount of landscaping/ open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of car/cycle/ disabled parking and car passenger drop-off	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Links with other forms of travel e.g. bus, taxi, cycle, walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10

Do you have any concerns over the following aspects of the Portishead Station proposals?

	No concerns	Not very concerned	Some concerns	Very concerned	No opinion
Environmental impacts such as noise, air quality or wildlife etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking on nearby roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrian routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycling routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possible effects on traffic flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of bus stops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11

Do you have any further comments on the above, or on any other aspects of the Portishead Station building and immediate surroundings?

Now some questions about the proposed footbridge linking to Trinity Primary School (leaflet page12)

Q12

Overall, what do you think of the bridge design proposals?

- ☐ Like them a lot
- ☐ Like them
- ☐ Dislike them
- ☐ Dislike them a lot
- ☐ No opinion

Q13

Do you have any concerns over the following aspects of the proposed bridge?

	No concerns	Not very concerned	Some concerns	Very concerned	No opinion
Visual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People using the bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14

Are you in favour of ...?

- ☐ A footbridge at this location
- ☐ Diverting and extending footpaths only
- ☐ No opinion

Q15

Do you have any further comments on the above, or on any aspects of the proposed footbridge linking Trinity Primary School?

Section C: Pill (leaflet pages 13 - 15)

Now some questions about how you might use a new station in Pill

Q16

Regarding Pill, which of the following best describes you?

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Local business owner
- ☐ Local employee (non-resident)
- ☐ Student (non-resident)
- ☐ Regular visitor
- ☐ Other – Please say what you mean by other

Q17

How often do you think you would catch the train to or from Pill?

- ☐ At least 3 days a week
- ☐ 1 or 2 days a week
- ☐ A few days a month
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Never (**go to Q19**)
- ☐ Don't know

Q18

Which method(s) of travel do you think you will use on a regular basis to get to or from Pill station?

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Cycle
- ☐ Car (as driver)
- ☐ Car (as passenger)
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Other – Please say what you mean by other

Now some questions about the design of Pill station and immediate surroundings

Q19

Overall, what do you think about the proposals for Pill Station?

- ☐ Like them a lot
- ☐ Like them
- ☐ Dislike them
- ☐ Dislike them a lot
- ☐ No opinion

Q20

What are your thoughts on the following aspects of the proposals?

	Like it a lot	Like it	Dislike it	Dislike it a lot	No opinion
Design of footbridge with ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Passenger facilities e.g. shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On-street car parking restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrian routes to and from the station entrance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q21

Do you have any concerns over the following aspects of the Pill station proposals?

	No concerns	Not very concerned	Some concerns	Very concerned	No opinion
Environmental impacts such as noise, air quality, or wildlife, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking on nearby roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrian/cycle routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possible effects on traffic flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of car passenger dropoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of cycle parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q22

Do you have any further comments on the above, or on any other aspects of the Pill station proposals and immediate surroundings?

SECTION D - OTHER SCHEME ELEMENTS

(leaflet pages 13 - 18)

Q23

What are your comments on the impacts on the National Cycle Network Route 26?

Q24

What are your comments on the double tracking and bridge widening works at Pill?

Q25

What are your comments on the access for emergency vehicles to Pill Tunnel?

Q26

What are your comments on any other scheme elements such as Ashton Gate level crossing works and closure of Barons Close pedestrian crossing?

And finally...

Q27

If you'd like to be kept updated on the MetroWest Phase 1 scheme, please leave your email address

Q28

We want to make sure you are not disadvantaged by the proposals because of your:

- age
- sex
- disability
- ethnicity...

...or other 'protected characteristic' (as defined in the Equality Act 2010)

...or other relevant characteristic like being a

- carer
- parent
- having a relevant diagnosis

Is there anything you think we should change to ensure that you are not disadvantaged because of any 'characteristic'?

Many thanks for taking time to let us know your views.

Please return your completed questionnaire in the post, to reach us by Monday 3 August to:
MetroWest Phase 1 Consultation, Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH.



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

5.1 – Consultation Report and Appendices

Appendix F2: Publicity material including leaflet, postcards, exhibition boards, posters, press release, newsletter, website screenshots, social media screenshots, and examples of partner communications

Planning Act 2008: Sections 37(3)

Author: North Somerset District Council

Date: November 2019



MetroWest 

**Consultation on re-opening
the Portishead branch line as
part of MetroWest Phase 1**

June to August 2015

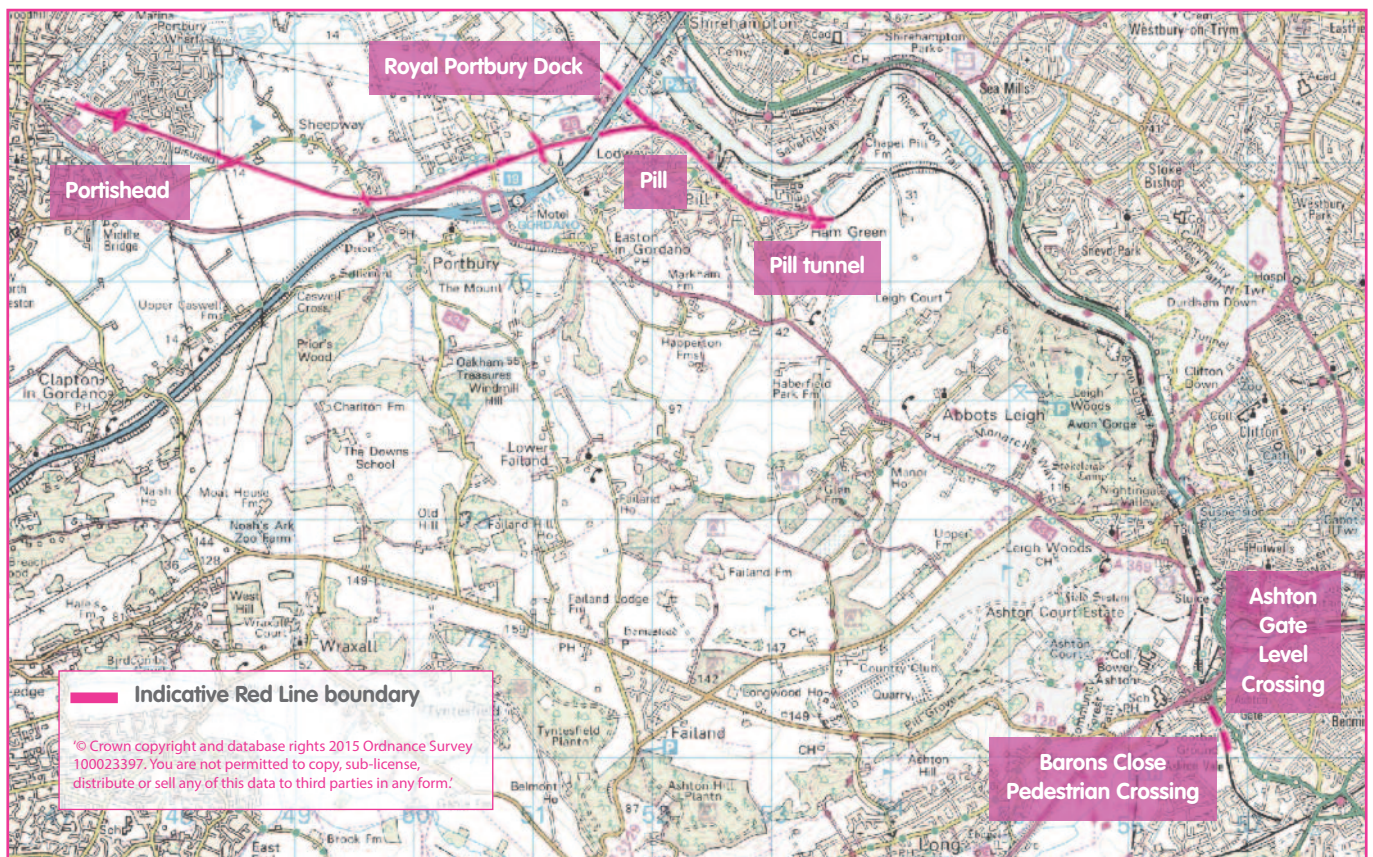
travelwest 

Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
councils working together to improve your local transport

Consultation on re-opening the Portishead branch line as part of MetroWest Phase 1 22 June to 3 August 2015

This Public Consultation

We are consulting the community, stakeholders and interested parties on our plans to re-open the Portishead line and reintroduce passenger train services, as part of a wider project known as MetroWest Phase 1. Re-opening the Portishead line requires an application for development consent to be submitted to the Secretary of State. The geographic extent of the application is shown on the plan below, this is known as the red line boundary. MetroWest Phase 1 also entails upgrading the frequency of trains for the Severn Beach line and the Bath Spa to Bristol line, however this does not require any planning consent. This consultation is about our proposals to reopen the Portishead line.



Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1) – Indicative Red Line Boundary

Indicative project timescales

Early Summer 2015	Late Summer 2015	Autumn 2015	Spring 2016	Autumn 2016	Winter 2017/18	Spring 2019
Stage 1 Consultation (this consultation)	Review consultation feedback	Stage 2 Consultation	Submit application for development consent	Examination of the application (6 months, followed by 6 month decision period)	Start of construction	Train service commences

The purpose of the stage 1 consultation is to set out in broad terms what the re-opening of the Portishead line entails and to seek views from the community and stakeholders on these works before the detailed engineering design is undertaken. We will use stage 1 consultation responses to inform the engineering design process and then proceed with stage 2 consultation, in autumn 2015. The purpose of stage 2 consultation is to seek views from the community and stakeholders on the detailed proposals (including engineering design), before they are finalised so that there is an opportunity to make final adjustments to the proposals before the application for development consent is submitted.

The MetroWest Programme

The West of England councils are working together on proposals which will deliver investment of over £100 million in improvements to our local rail network over the next five to ten years. The proposals, called MetroWest, are a series of projects including large to small scale enhancements to our local rail network. Our overall aim is to introduce fast and frequent metro rail services across the local area, by making better use of existing local passenger lines and freight lines and reopening viable disused lines.

The number of people opting to travel by train has increased dramatically over the last decade, and in fact has more than doubled in the West of England. In response to the increasing demand, Network Rail is carrying out substantial investment to update and upgrade infrastructure to enable more trains to operate through the busiest parts of the network, reduce train journey times and provide wider environmental benefits.

Our MetroWest programme, which includes enlarging the local passenger rail network,

increasing the frequency of train services and extending train routes in the West of England, will complement the investment being made by Network Rail and extend the benefits of projects such as the electrification of the Great Western main line. Our proposals are supported by the rail industry and we are working closely with First Great Western, freight train operators, the Department for Transport and Network Rail.

With so many improvements being made to the rail network over the next few years, delivering our MetroWest proposals at the same time has some challenges. We are therefore taking a phased approach through MetroWest Phase 1, MetroWest Phase 2 and specific new station projects. This consultation leaflet is about MetroWest Phase 1; however if you would like to find out more about other MetroWest projects visit www.travelwest.info/metrowest

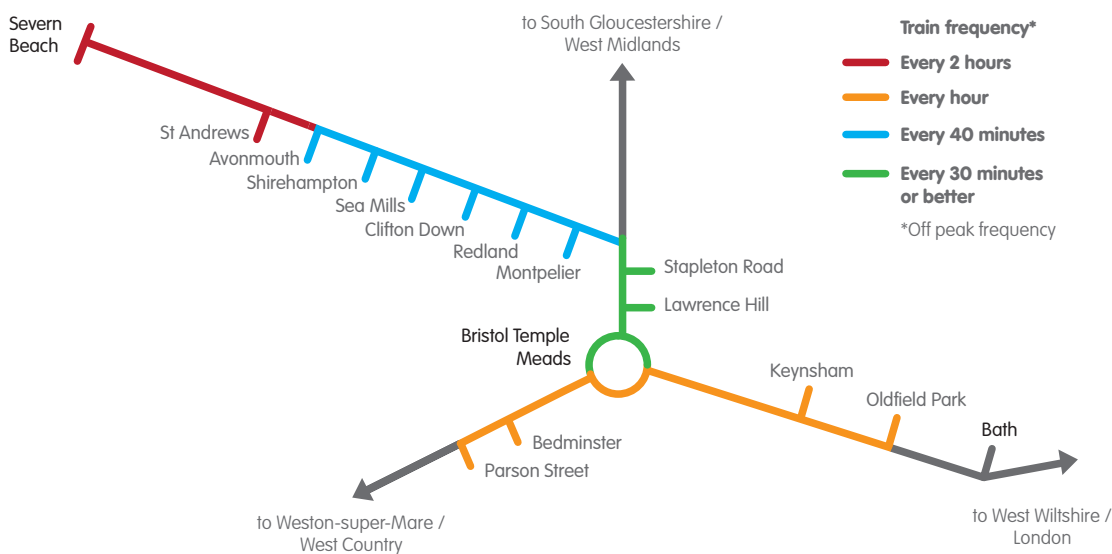


MetroWest Phase 1 – Three Local Rail Lines

MetroWest Phase 1 includes re-opening one local rail line and upgrading two existing local rail lines:

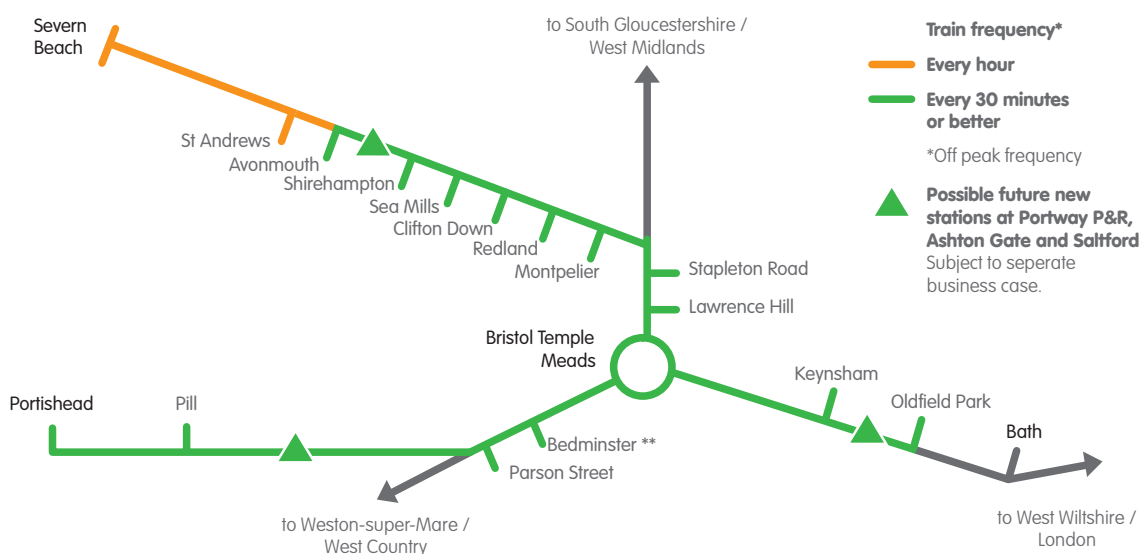
- Re-opening the Portishead branch line including stations at Portishead and Pill with a half hourly train service to Bristol,
- Upgrading the Severn Beach line with a half hourly train service for all stations to Avonmouth (hourly for St.Andrews Road and Severn Beach stations), and
- Upgrading the Bath Spa to Bristol line with a half hourly train service for Keynsham and Oldfield Park stations.

Existing MetroWest Phase 1 Network (Not currently MetroWest branded)



MetroWest Phase 1 will also link train routes together across the area. This will mean that rather than all trains terminating at Bristol Temple Meads, some will continue across Bristol reducing the need for people to change trains.

Proposed MetroWest Phase 1 Network



We haven't yet completed our technical work on which train routes can be linked together; however some of the options include linking the Portishead line with the Severn Beach line and linking the Severn Beach line with the Bath Spa to Bristol line.

** Our aspiration is for Portishead trains to call at Bedminster, however this is subject to technical work and cost implications

MetroWest Phase 1 Objectives

MetroWest Phase 1 principal business objectives are:

- To support economic growth
- To deliver a more resilient transport offer
- To improve accessibility to the rail network
- To make a positive contribution to social well-being.

MetroWest Phase 1 supporting objectives are:

- To contribute to reducing traffic congestion
- To contribute to enhancing the capacity of the local rail network
- To contribute to reducing the overall environmental impact of the transport network.



MetroWest Phase 1 Benefits

The pressures on our transport network are considerable as travel demand continues to increase year on year. With our road and motorway network becoming increasingly congested and more people using our rail network, we need to ensure our transport network doesn't constrain the movement of people and goods in the future. We therefore need to invest across all modes of transport, and particularly in modes that can help us to sustain economic growth and reduce environmental impacts.

MetroWest Phase 1 will result in significant journey time savings in the short, medium and long term. It will also increase the number of people living with 30 minutes travel time of key employment areas such as the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone and our Enterprise Areas. This will increase business confidence, assist job creation and result in wider economic benefits. MetroWest Phase 1 will also enhance the accessibility of the rail network and bring an additional 40,000 people within the catchment of the new stations at Portishead and Pill.

The new stations and the enhanced frequency for the existing stations on the Severn Beach line and the Bath Spa to Bristol line will also result in wider social benefits by increasing life opportunities, as a result of enhanced accessibility.

MetroWest Phase 1 Infrastructure Overview

The physical works (the infrastructure) to enable the MetroWest Phase 1 train services to operate on the three local rail lines, comprise:



Infrastructure Works	Development Consent
Rebuilding the 5km disused line between Portishead and Pill, double tracking works at Pill and improved access to Pill tunnel for emergency and maintenance vehicles	Consent required - works included within development red line
A new station and facilities at Portishead including highway alterations	Consent required - works included within development red line
Re-opening the former station at Pill (southern platform) including new station facilities	Consent required - works included within development red line
A new footbridge east of Portishead station and another at Pill station	Consent required - works included within development red line
Replacement of signalling approaching the entrance to Royal Portbury Dock	Consent required - works included within development red line
Upgrading the Ashton Gate level crossing and closing the Barons Close pedestrian crossing	Consent may be required subject to further investigation. These works might be undertaken using permitted development rights
An intermediate signal for trains in Avon Gorge	Works anticipated to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights
Upgrading part of the Portbury freight line including double track works from Bower Ashton to Ashton Gate level crossing and a replacement of the signalling system	Works to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights
Upgrading Parson Street Junction with additional track and signalling	Works to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights
Partial reinstatement of the Down Relief Line at Bedminster	Works to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights
An additional signal(s) at Severn Beach and or Avonmouth	Works to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights
A turnback facility at Bathampton	Works to be undertaken using Network Rail's permitted development rights

Business Case

The estimated capital cost of the project is £58.2 million, which is to be funded through the Local Growth Fund and council funding. There are other costs such as the train service subsidy during the first three years of operation. Our aspiration is also to refresh the existing 16 stations within the MetroWest Phase 1 network, subject to availability of funding. Further information about the project estimated costs and technical work undertaken on the project to date is set out in our Preliminary Business Case and is available from

www.travelwest.info/metrowest

Development Consent for Re-opening the Portishead Line

Under the Planning Act 2008 the works to re-open the Portishead line comprise a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and therefore we will have to obtain development consent from the Secretary of State for Transport. The Planning Inspectorate is the body responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs. The Planning Inspectorate examines the application and will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Trains, train operator and fares

The trains will be diesel multiple units, as used across the existing local rail network. Initially the trains are likely to operate using three carriages (units) but more carriages could be added in the future. In the longer term the local rail network may be electrified as part of the rail industry and central Government future investment plans. While the large additional capital cost of electrification is beyond our current available funding, our engineering design will make allowance for future electrification, thereby reducing some of the costs.

The train operator for MetroWest Phase 1 is yet to be determined. The existing train operator, First Great Western, has recently had its franchise extended to April 2019 and we are working closely with First Great Western on the operational arrangements. Leading up to April 2019 the Department for Transport is likely to undertake a competitive re-franchising process and we will work with the successful train operator for the franchise post April 2019, to deliver the train service.

The fares for the re-opened Portishead line are yet to be determined, but are likely to be similar to comparative fares across the rest of the local network, except the Severn Beach line which has zoned fares.



The Environment

MetroWest Phase 1 will reduce the number of vehicles on our roads, resulting in environmental benefits. It will also result in some localised environmental impacts. Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess these benefits and impacts and will identify measures to reduce these impacts. The EIA will assess the impacts of the infrastructure works that require consent and will also consider the cumulative impacts of the wider MetroWest Phase 1 project. The EIA will then form the basis for our Environmental Statement (ES) which will set out in detail how we will implement measures to reduce environmental impact. Our ES will accompany the application for development consent. A non-technical summary will also be available.

The EIA Regulations require us to produce and consult on Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI). The PEI for this stage of the consultation comprises an environmental scoping report and includes information on the approach to the EIA for the project, an indicative project description for the works and a summary of the potential impacts which will be assessed. The PEI document is available from www.travelwest.info/metrowest

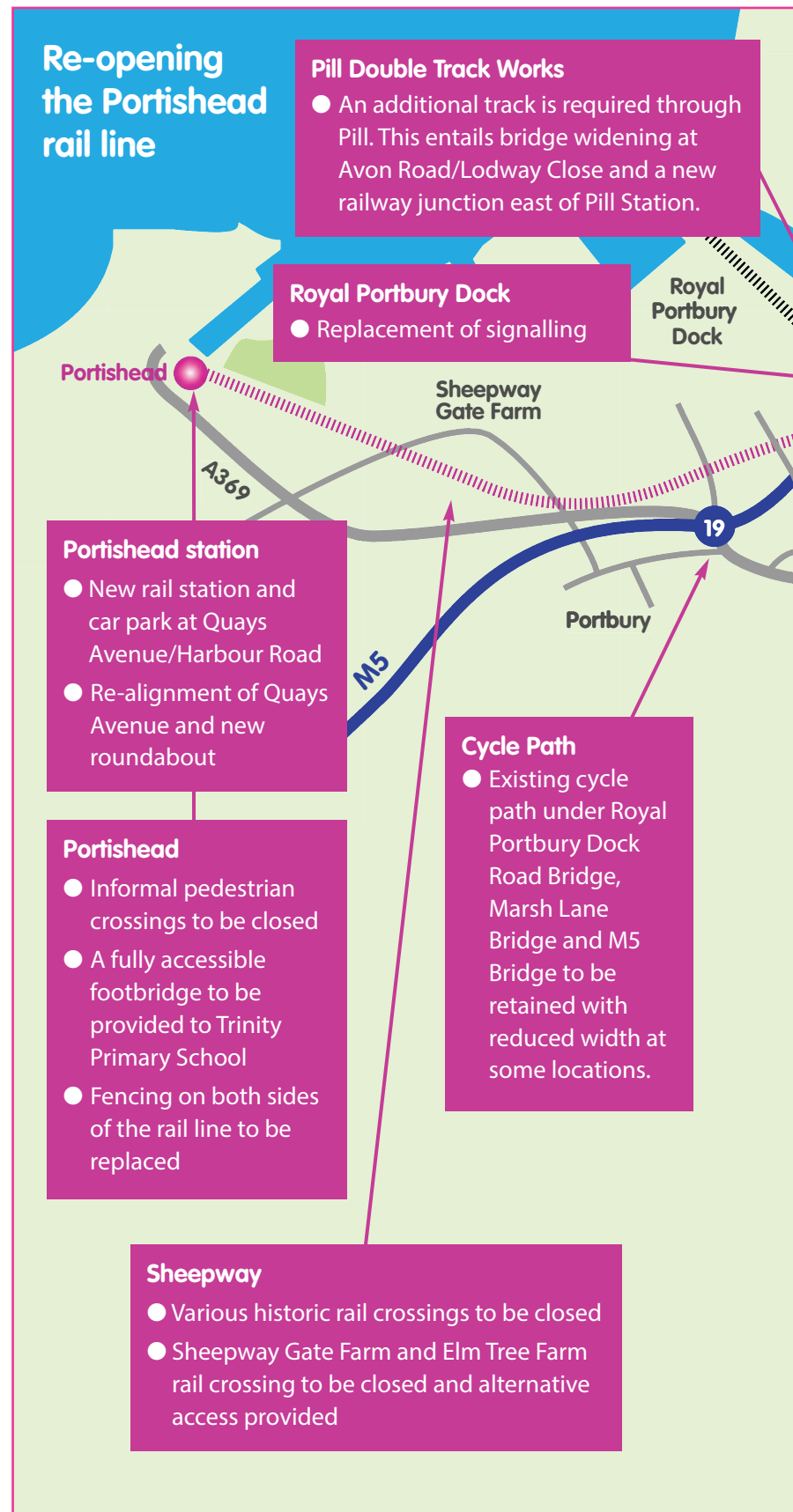
MetroWest Phase 1 Technical Work

Before construction can commence we have a great deal of technical work to undertake. In summary this entails:

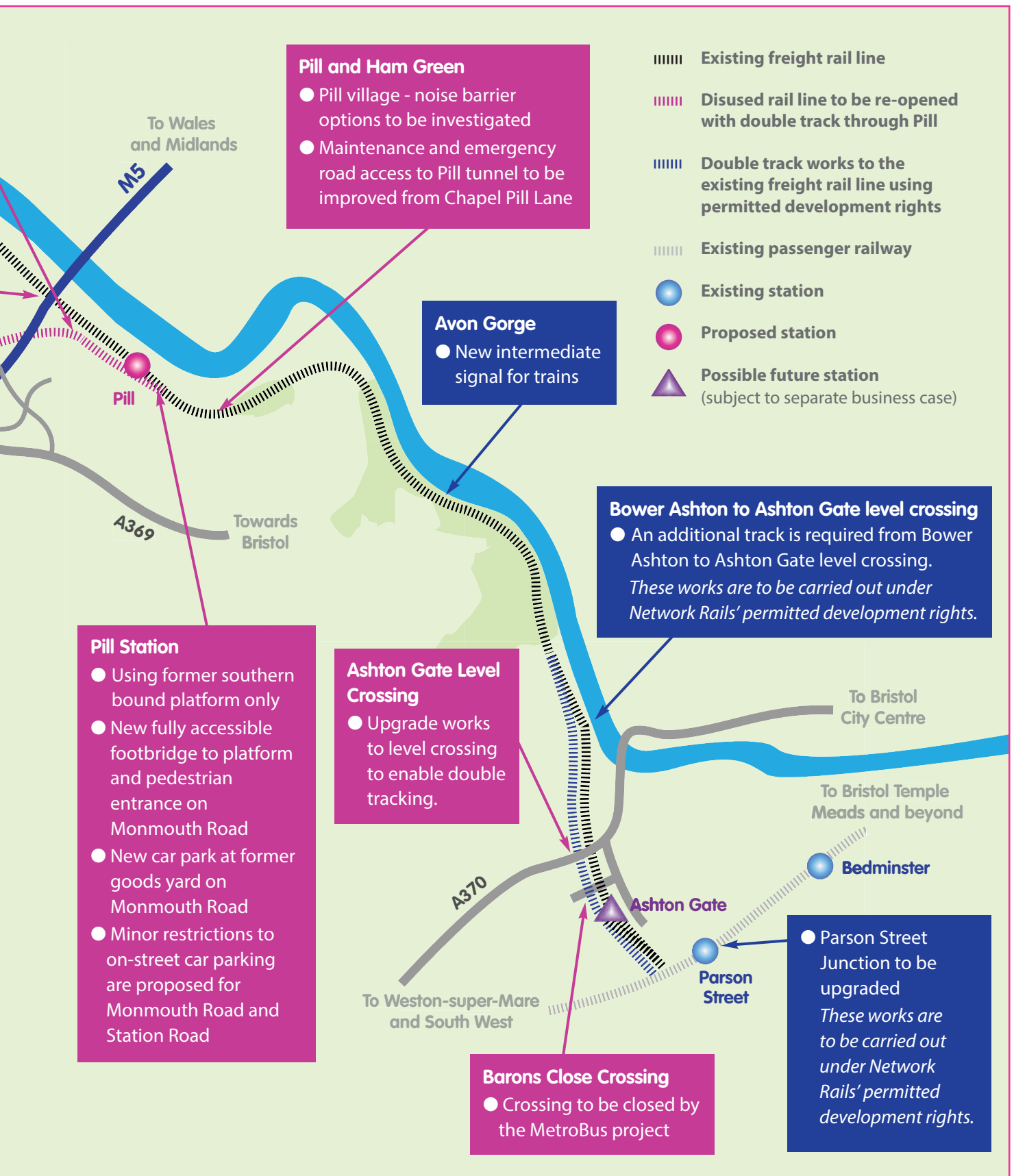
- Undertaking the engineering design through an eight stage process, known as the Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process
- Progressing our application through the six stage development consent process
- Acquiring land permanently and temporarily
- Undertaking procurement of the construction and operation of the project
- Finalising our Business Case and final funding and other approvals
- Entering into legal agreements
- Achieving technical and safety case sign-off
- Diverting utility services, and
- Fulfilling environmental obligations.

The timescales for this technical work are governed by a range of factors including meeting prescribed technical requirements, statutory processes and other factors such as the wider rail industry work programme. Our plan is to complete all these technical processes by early 2018 and then proceed with construction. The construction phase is 12 months and the train services are planned to begin in May 2019.

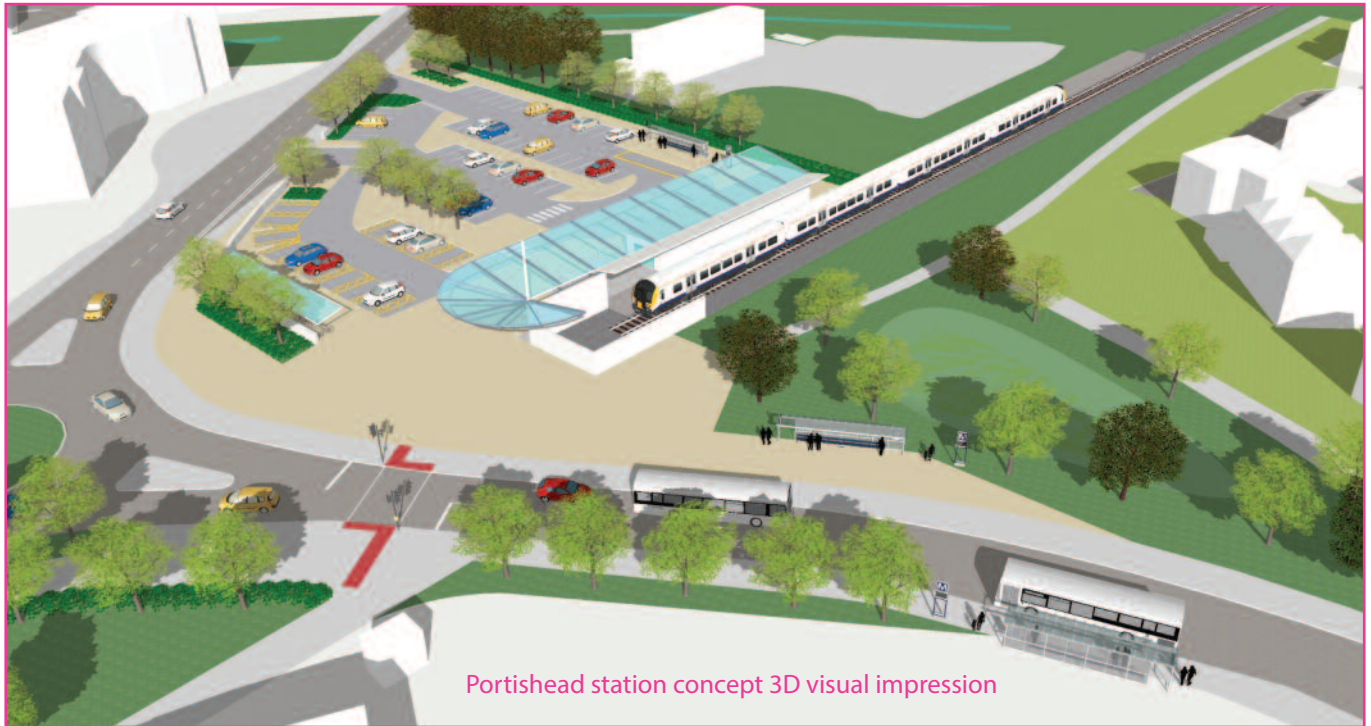
The Portishead branch line –



Our Proposals



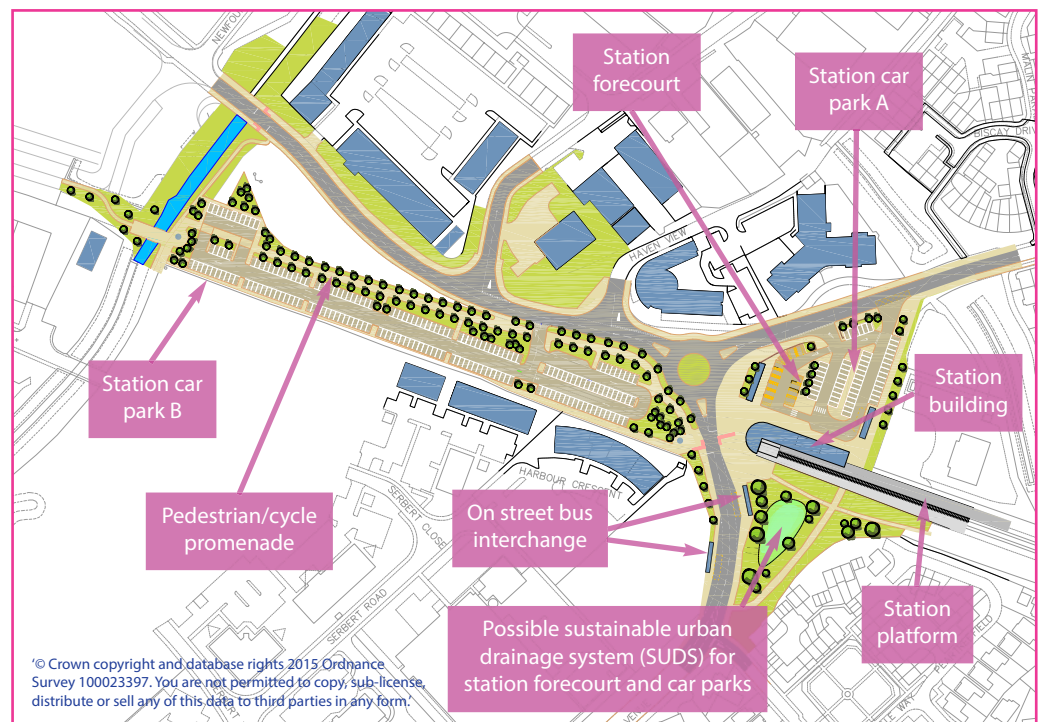
Portishead station



Following the public consultation we undertook in June and July 2014 on the location for Portishead station, our consultation report was published on www.travelwest.info/metrowest in October 2014.

During autumn 2014 we undertook further assessment of the feasibility of a level crossing at Quays Avenue and submitted this to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR). The formal response of the ORR was that “it would not contemplate a level crossing”. In light of the strong support made by the community and stakeholders for station option 2B and the response from the ORR, a decision was made in March 2015 by the North Somerset Executive to proceed with option 2B.

Since autumn 2014 we have developed the design of Portishead station as shown opposite and over the page.



Portishead station concept station layout

The new Portishead station is to include:

- re-alignment of Quays Avenue and a new roundabout
- a single platform, with an overhead canopy (over part of the platform), lighting, passenger information departure displays and audible information
- a station building with a ticket office, waiting area and toilets
- a station forecourt with seating, cycle parking, taxis rank, disabled parking and lighting
- a car park next to the station building (car park A) with lighting, and a car park on the opposite site of Quays Avenue / Harbour Road (car park B) with lighting and a pedestrian crossing on Quays Avenue
- a 300 metre pedestrian and cycle promenade with lighting linking to the town centre and various footpath improvements.
- a bus interchange facility with lighting

The re-opening of the Portishead line for passenger services will result in reduced car use from and to Portishead, but will also lead to some changes in use of local roads around the station. We will aim to reduce the impact of these changes as far as possible.

Further visual impressions of what the station could look like are available from our consultation website

www.travelwest.info/metrowest

We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you.

See section B of the consultation questionnaire.



Concept visual impression looking from Phoenix Way



Concept visual impression looking from pedestrian/cycle promenade



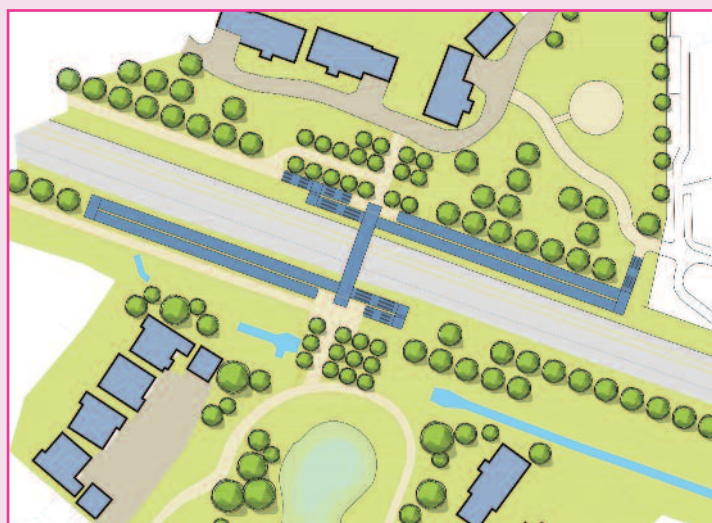
Concept visual impression looking from Quays Avenue pedestrian crossing

Footbridge linking to Trinity Primary School

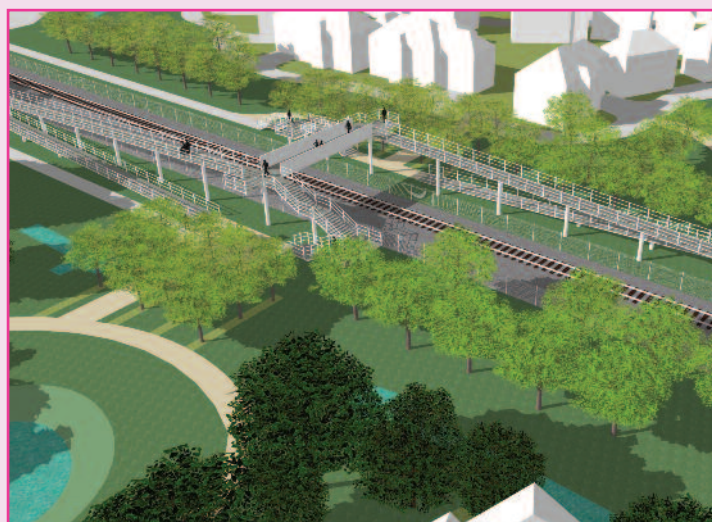
The existing path over the disused railway track to Trinity Primary School from the Galingale Way pond and the other crossings over the disused railway will have to be closed to meet safety requirements, once construction starts. The Trinity Primary School path is not a public right of way; however it is used by many parents, children and other local residents. We are therefore proposing to replace this path with a pedestrian bridge with ramps to be fully accessible for everyone. The design of the footbridge has to meet certain requirements in respect of its height clearance over the railway, gradient of the ramps and other safety related aspects. This means a relatively large space is needed to accommodate the bridge. The footbridge is proposed at the location of the existing path over the disused railway, which is the only location where there is sufficient space for the bridge. See concept design and 3d visual impressions opposite.

If the proposed footbridge is not supported by the community an alternative option is to divert and extend existing footpath links so that pedestrians are routed via Portishead station. This 'footpath only' option would increase the walking distance by 600 metres.

We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you. **See section B** of the consultation questionnaire.



Concept footbridge layout



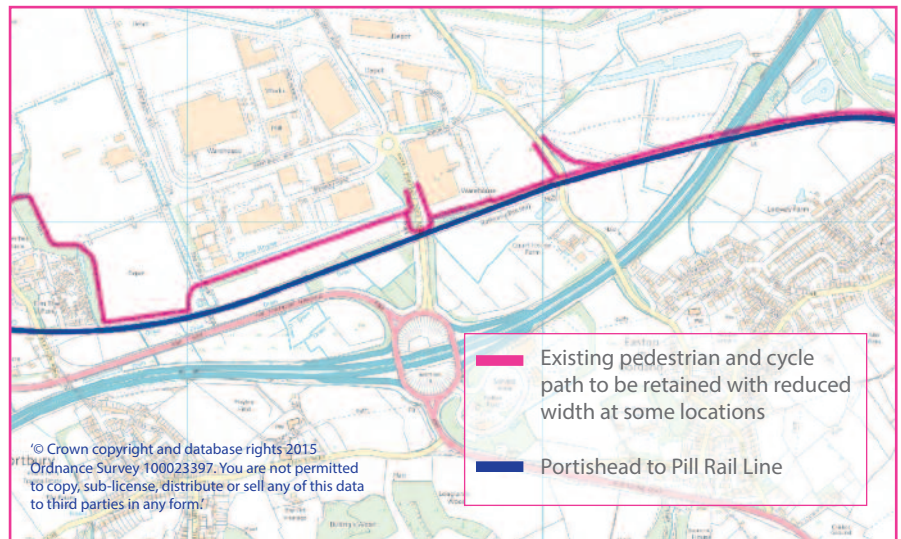
Concept visual impression looking from the South



Concept visual impression looking from the North

National Cycle Network Route 26

Some sections of the disused railway are currently part of a shared use cycle / pedestrian path which forms part of the national cycle route 26. The cycle / pedestrian path is not a public right of way but is a strategic route. Our engineering work to date indicates it should be feasible to retain the short sections of cycle / pedestrian path alongside the re-opened railway under the bridges, subject to some reductions in the width of the path and provision of appropriate fencing and other safety requirements.

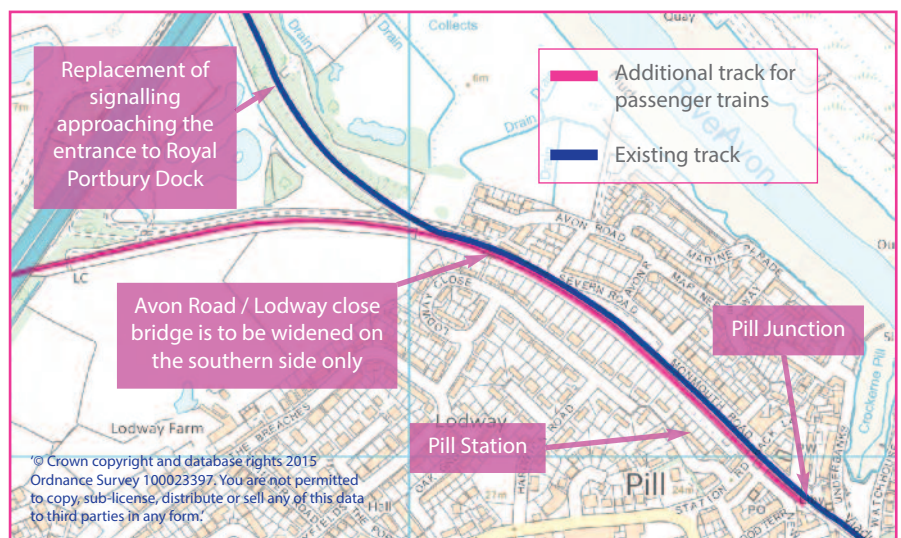


National Cycle Route 26

We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you. **See section D** of the consultation questionnaire.

Double Tracking, Bridge Widening and Signalling works at Pill

To enable both the existing freight trains to continue to operate and the introduction of the new passenger train services, sections of the railway will need to be upgraded from single track to double track at Pill. In order to provide sufficient width for the second track through Pill, the existing pedestrian / cycle



Pill double tracking

underpass bridge between at Avon Road / Lodway Close will need to be widened, on the southern side only. This will entail construction of retaining walls close to the edge of the existing railway boundary. The double track works will revert to single track between Pill station and the western end of Pill viaduct; this will be known as Pill Junction. The location of the double track work through Pill is shown above. The signalling system on the existing freight line is to be replaced. This includes the short section of line approaching the entrance to Royal Portbury Dock.

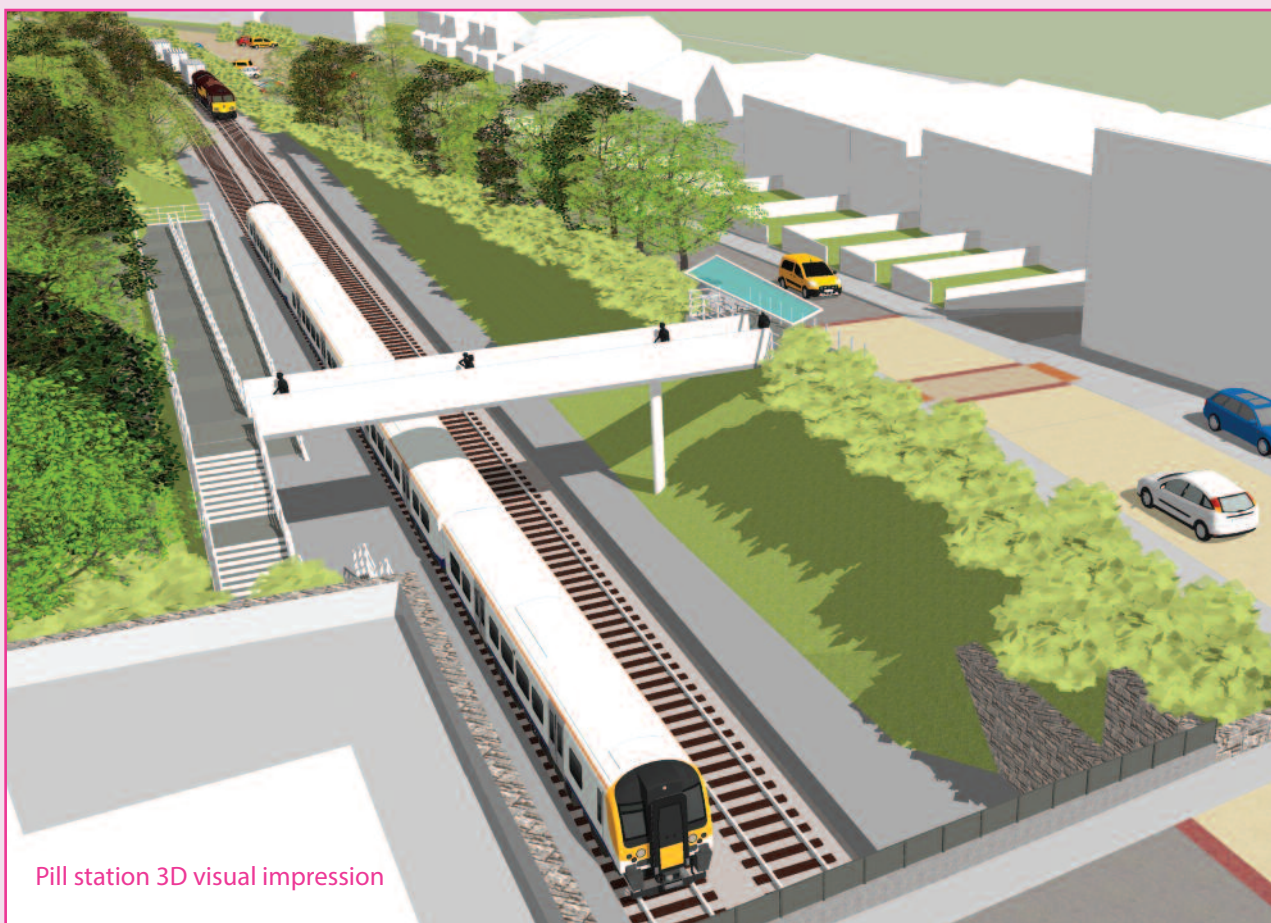
We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you. **See section D** of the consultation questionnaire.

Pill station

Our proposal is to reopen the former station at Pill, re-using the southern platform of the disused station only. In order to achieve pedestrian access to the platform, a new footbridge is required linking from Monmouth Road (opposite Crusty Lane), with steps and ramps down to the platform level. Disabled parking and cycle parking is proposed at the station entrance on Monmouth Road and a station car park is proposed on the former station goods yard on the corner of Monmouth Road and Newport Road.

The re-opened Pill station is to include:

- resurfacing and other works to the disused southern side platform
- a new platform waiting shelter, lighting, passenger information departure displays and audible information
- a new fully accessible pedestrian bridge with lighting
- a new pedestrian entrance on Monmouth Road with lighting, disabled parking, cycle parking, pedestrian crossing and improvements to footpaths
- a new 50 space car park with lighting.

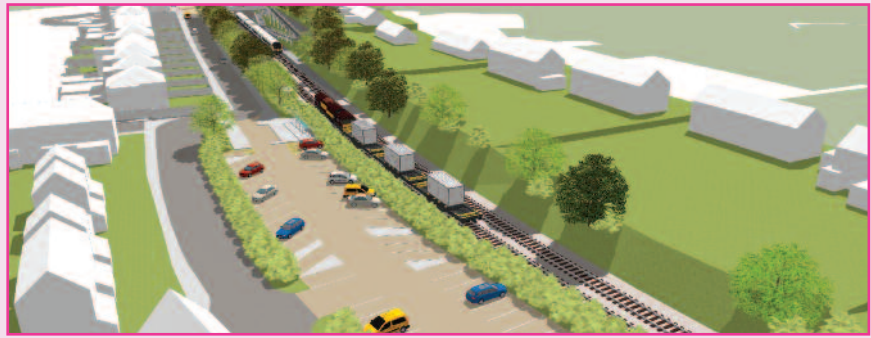


Pill station 3D visual impression

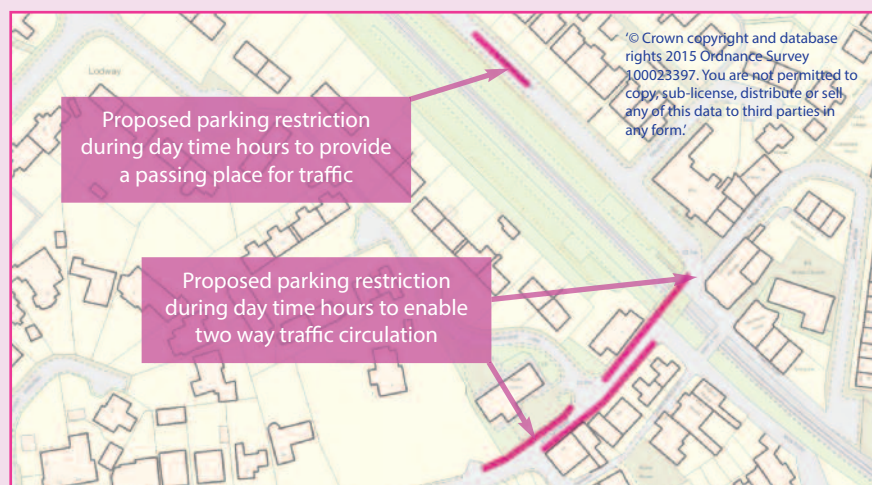
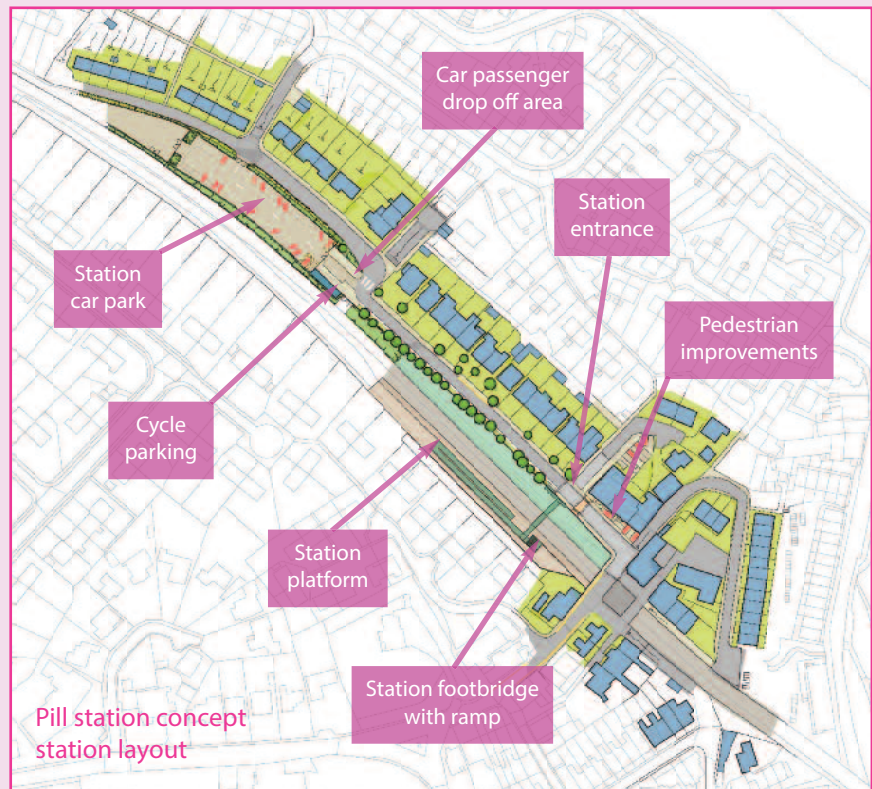
The reopened station and new train services will result in reduced car use from and to Pill and the surrounding villages. Our initial work to date indicates most users of the station will walk to and from the station, with the next largest share comprising car drivers and car passengers being dropped off, followed by cyclists and bus passengers. This will lead to some changes in the use of local roads around the station. We will aim to reduce the impact of these changes as far as practically possible; however the road layout in this part of Pill is of an historic nature with some narrow road widths and a lack of space to widen roads. We have identified two locations with limited road width where it may be necessary to introduce some parking restrictions to ensure traffic can continue to operate in both directions. The locations where these parking restrictions may be needed on Station Road and on Monmouth Road, are shown opposite.

We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you.

See section C of the consultation questionnaire.



Concept visual impression from car park



Pill possible on-street parking restrictions



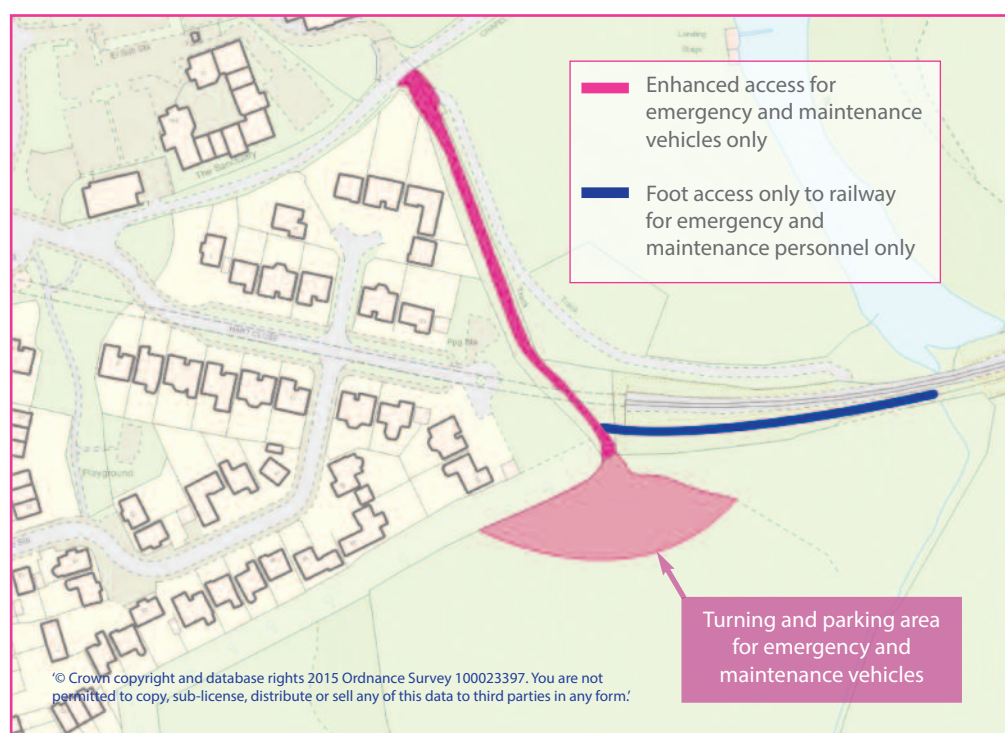
Access for Emergency Vehicles to Pill Tunnel

Pill tunnel is over 600 metres in length and we need to provide an access route for emergency vehicles to respond to any incident arising in or near the tunnel. Our proposal is to upgrade an existing bridleway and build a turning area for emergency vehicles. The bridleway will continue to be a bridleway in the future. In order to enable sufficient width for emergency vehicles some vegetation will need to be removed; however we have not at this stage identified a need to remove any mature trees. The surface of the bridleway will need to be upgraded to take the weight of emergency vehicles. It may be necessary to install some lighting along the bridleway and the vehicle turning area. The vehicle turning area will be landscaped around its perimeter to reduce its visual impact.

The only vehicles permitted to use the access route will be emergency services vehicles, Network Rail and North Somerset Council engineering maintenance vehicles.

The proposed access route is shown below.

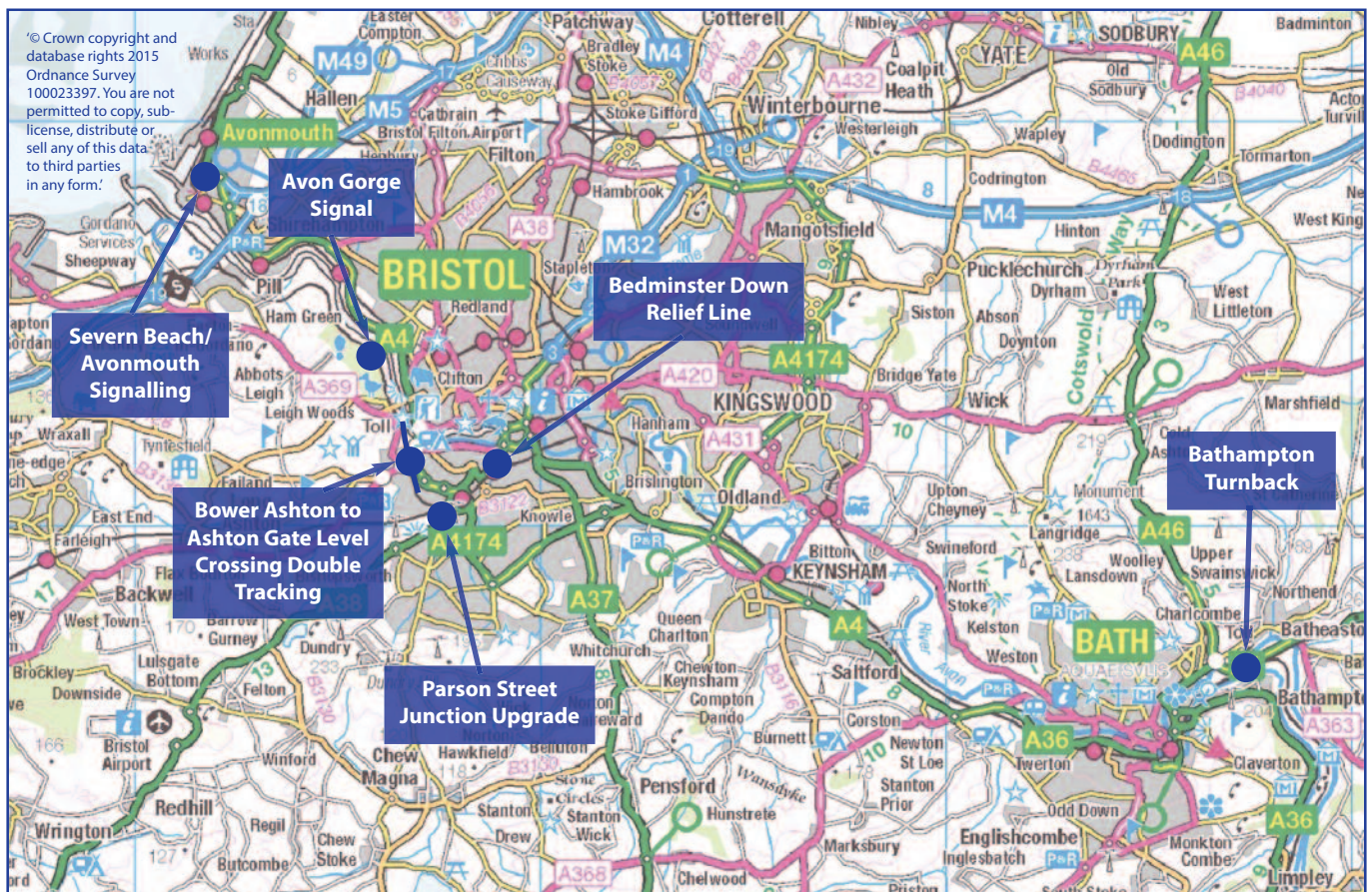
We want to hear what you think about the proposals and what aspects of the proposals are most important to you, **See section D** of the consultation questionnaire.



Pill Tunnel eastern portal access works

MetroWest Phase 1 Infrastructure permitted development

The plan below shows the location of the works described in the table on page 6, which do not require development consent. These works are routine upgrade works and can be undertaken by using 'permitted development' rights. The works are entirely within Network Rail's existing operational boundary. We therefore are not consulting on these works.



MetroWest Phase 1 location of permitted development infrastructure



- **Avon Gorge Signal**

An intermediate signal is required in Avon Gorge for freight trains and passenger trains to operate on the single track line.

- **Bower Ashton to Ashton Gate Level Crossing Double Tracking**

A section of 1.6km of existing single track is to be upgraded to double track, in order to provide sufficient capacity for both freight and passenger trains. The existing junction at Ashton Gate will be replaced with a new junction 1.6km to the north at Bower Ashton. The double tracking will not encroach into the Avon Gorge conservation area.

- **Parson Street Junction Upgrade**

Although the existing Portbury freight line has a section of double track approaching Parson Street Junction, its connection with the Bristol to Taunton main line is a single track connection. This connection will need to be doubled in order to provide sufficient capacity for both freight and passenger trains.

- **Bedminster Down Relief Line**

A section of disused railway near Bedminster station is to be re-built and brought back into use. The section of disused railway is approximately 1 km in length and is located alongside (outer edge of) the existing Bristol to Taunton main line, in the southbound direction. The works will include the reinstatement of a turnout (a section of track linking two tracks together) and associated signalling.

- **Severn Beach/Avonmouth Signalling**

An additional signal is required approaching Severn Beach station and / or Avonmouth station to facilitate the increased train service frequency and associated timetable pattern. The precise location of the signalling will depend on further work in respect of the timetable pattern.

- **Bathampton Turnback**

The turnback will comprise a new section of track (a crossover) between the existing up line to London and the down line to Bristol, and a short walkway (unsurfaced path) for train drivers to walk from one end of a train to the other end. The local train from Bristol will enter the up loop at Bathampton from the upline, the driver changes ends and via a new signal will exit the loop and use a crossover to cross to the down line and return to Bath.

Have your say on the MetroWest Phase 1 proposals

We are holding four exhibitions at:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Church Place, Pill, BS20 0AE

The station designs, highway plans and footbridge proposals for Portishead and Pill stations will be displayed at all exhibitions. The MetroWest project team will also be there to discuss the options and the project.

Following the exhibitions, the plans will go on display from:

- **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm** 100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

We will publish a summary of the consultation responses later this summer on our website:
www.travelwest.info/metrowest

North Somerset Council will use your views to inform their decisions on these important aspects of the scheme.

How to comment

Complete the online questionnaire at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

If you do not have internet access the questionnaire will be available in hard copy at the four manned exhibition events, or on request by emailing metrowest@westofengland.org

Completed hard copy questionnaires should be handed to us at one of the manned exhibition events or returned to MetroWest, Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, BS1 6QH

If you require the questionnaire in any other format, let us know at one of the manned exhibition events or email us at metrowest@westofengland.org

The consultation lasts for six weeks from 22 June and closes on 3 August 2015, so make sure you return your response to us by this date.



Working with partners

The West of England councils are working with Network Rail and First Great Western to deliver MetroWest by integrating the proposals into the national rail network.

More information

If you want to receive regular MetroWest updates email us at metrowest@westofengland.org

For further information about MetroWest Phase 1 go to:

● www.travelwest.info/metrowest

● www.n-somerset.gov.uk/prs

Contact us

MetroWest, Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
metrowest@westofengland.org

travelwest 
www.travelwest.info

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest+



Have your say

We would like to hear your views on our proposals to reopen the Portishead Branch line, as part of MetroWest Phase 1.

The consultation opens on **22 June** and lasts for **6 weeks**, closing on **3 August 2015**. Come along to one of our exhibitions:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Church Place, Pill BS20 0AE

Following the exhibitions, the plans will go on display from:

- **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm**
100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest Phase 1 will reopen the Portishead branch line with half hourly passenger train services and new / re-opened stations at Portishead and Pill. The project also entails half hourly services on the Severn Beach line (hourly service for St.Andrews Road station and Severn Beach station), and half hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, on the Bath Spa to Bristol line.

We are consulting the community, stakeholders and interested parties on our plans to re-open the Portishead branch line and reintroduce passenger train services, as part of MetroWest Phase 1. Reopening the Portishead branch line requires a major planning application through the Development Consent Order process. MetroWest Phase 1 also entails other physical works to upgrade the frequency of trains for the Severn Beach line and the Bath Spa to Bristol line, but this does not require planning consent.

You can also view our proposals and submit your comments online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

The consultation opens on 22 June and lasts for 6 weeks, closing on 3 August 2015.

Delivered by



travelwest

Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
councils working together to improve your local transport

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest



MetroWest Phase 1 will reopen the Portishead line with half hourly passenger train services and new stations at Portishead and Pill. The project also entails half-hourly services on the Severn Beach Line (hourly service for St. Andrews Road station and Severn Beach), and half hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, between Bath Spa and Bristol.

Have your say

We are holding four exhibitions and would like your views. You can view the proposals in detail, talk with the MetroWest project team and give your feedback on:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach,
Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct,
High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct,
High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH

- **Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Church Place,
Pill, BS20 0AE

Following the exhibitions, the plans will go on display from:

- **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm**
100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

You can also view the options and submit comments online at

www.travelwest.info/metrowest

The consultation starts on **Monday June 22, and runs for six weeks until 3 August 2015.**

travelwest

Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils working together to improve your local transport

Oh, we do like to be by the sea sounds

BY EMILY BEAMENT
news@westerndailypress.co.uk

The cry of seagulls, the rattle of shingle as waves break over it, children's shouts as they play on the beach and the chug of motorboats are some of the UK coast's many evocative sounds.

Now people are being asked to record the noises of sea-shores across the UK in order to build up a "sound map" of the country's coastline which will be added to the British Library's Sound Archive.

The recordings, which could range from the sounds of a working fishing village to the wind whistling over cliffs in Poldark country, will be used to create a new piece of music, inspired by the coasts, by Martyn Ware of the pop groups Human League and Heaven 17.

The scheme, by the National Trust, National Trust for Scotland and the British Library, will allow people to record and upload up to five minutes of sound onto the online map, with the organisers hoping to capture sound from across the 10,800-mile UK coastline.

The "sounds of our shores" project coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Trust's Neptune Coastline Campaign to protect the UK's coasts, with the organisation now managing 775 miles of coastline in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Cheryl Tipp, curator of wild-life and environment sounds at the British Library, said: "There is something really evocative about the sounds of our coast; they help shape our memories of the coastline and immediately transport us to a particular time or place when we hear them."

"As millions of us head to the coast this summer for holi-



People are being asked to record the sounds of the British coast, to help create a soundscape of the seaside. The project coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Trust's Neptune Coastline Campaign and is being put together by pop musician Martin Ware

days or day trips we want the public to get involved by recording the sounds of our amazing coastline and add them to the sound map.

"This could be someone wrestling with putting up a deckchair, the sounds of a fish and chip shop or a busy port.

"We'd also love to hear from people that might have historic coastal sounds, which might be stored in a box in the loft. This will help us to see how the sounds of our coast-

line have changed over the years."

The project is also encouraging people to "think outside the box" and record different sounds, such as on piers and sea-fronts, while the organisers have also recruited the Wildlife Sound Recording Society to gather sounds of wild-life around the coasts.

Sounds can be recorded on a smartphone, tablet or handheld recorder, and uploaded to the map, which will be hosted

on the British Library website, via the audioBoom free website or app.

The recordings, which need to be uploaded by Monday September 21, should be a maximum of five minutes, and images and words about the sound can be added.

They will join more than 6.5 million sounds dating back to the first recordings in the 19th century that are held in the sound archive, including natural noises ranging from storms and waves to birdsong and weather.

Mr Ware will be using the coastal sounds to create a piece of music, a 20-minute soundscape, which will be released next February.

He said: "I've had a deep connection with the coast all my life.

"As a kid growing up in Sheffield we'd go on family holidays to Scarborough or Skegness; I can still remember the sounds that filled our days at the seaside.

"There is something emotionally deep about our connection with the coast which has shaped our identity."

"I want to capture the sensory nature of the coastline."

■ For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coastal-sounds

Sister to raise money for brother she never knew

Poppy Watkins, of Cheltenham is doing a wingwalk to raise money for the Lullaby trust after her older brother died of cot death. She is also organising a fundraising event on July 4 at Dowty sports and social club, in Cheltenham. Ms Watkins never met her older brother. She says: 'I've heard from my mum how lovely he was and seen photos'



'It's over' for pensioner Orbison fans

A retired West Country couple have been threatened with an Asbo after neighbours complained they were constantly playing Roy Orbison songs too loudly.

Robert and Christine Fox, both 68, were shocked when officers turned up at their home last week to issue them with a "stage one Anti-Social Behaviour letter" for blasting out tunes by the famous musician.

The letter indicates that the

retired couple must stop playing their favourite Roy Orbison and Fleetwood Mac tracks at a loud level – after neighbour claimed they were being driven round the bend by the noise.

Council workers are now set to visit the property in Plymouth with specialist equipment to ensure music levels are maintained at the correct decibel level.

If they don't comply with the demand Mr and Mrs Fox have

been warned they could by given a Community Protection Notice or they could face possible court action.

Yesterday the grandfather-of-six Mr Fox said: "When it's nice weather, we like to play our music out in the garden.

"We've always make sure our music is turned off by 6.30pm. I can't believe this is what it's come to – it's crazy. We've never done anything wrong all our lives. Now we've got all this to deal with."

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest

MetroWest Phase 1 will reopen the Portishead line with half hourly passenger train services and new stations at Portishead and Pill. The project also entails half hourly services on the Severn Beach Line (hourly service for St.Andrews Road station and Severn Beach), and half hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, between Bath Spa and Bristol.

Have your say

We are holding four exhibitions and would like your views. You can view the proposals in detail, talk with the MetroWest project team and give your feedback on:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Church Place, Pill, BS20 0AE
- **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm**
100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

You can also view the options and submit comments online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

The consultation starts on **Monday June 22, and runs for six weeks until 3 August 2015.**

travelwest

Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils working together to improve your local transport

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest

MetroWest Phase 1 will reopen the Portishead line with half hourly passenger train services and new stations at Portishead and Pill. The project also entails half hourly services on the Severn Beach Line (hourly service for St.Andrews Road station and Severn Beach), and half hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, between Bath Spa and Bristol.

Have your say
We are holding four exhibitions and would like your views. You can view the proposals in detail, talk with the MetroWest project team and give your feedback on:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
 - **Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
 - **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Church Place, Pill, BS20 0AE
 - Following the exhibitions, the plans will go on display from:**
 - **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm**
100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

You can also view the options and submit comments online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest
The consultation starts on **Monday June 22, and runs for six weeks until 3 August 2015.**

travelwest
Both & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils working together to improve your local transport

Bristol... Post Ocean Cruising

Christmas & New Year Cruise

Sailing from Bristol on board Marco Polo, departing 22 December 2015



15 days from **£1259.00** per person

Buy One Get One FREE!*

What better way to spend the festive season than being looked after by the attentive crew onboard Marco Polo and being entertained by the team dedicated to ensuring you have a truly wonderful Christmas. Cruise south to the sun to the 'Fortunate Isles' and the glorious 'Floating Garden' of Madeira.

Our price includes

- 14 nights' full board accommodation on board MS Marco Polo based on two people sharing a twin cabin
- First-class cuisine and entertainment whilst on board
- Christmas Celebrations
- New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Night
- Ports of call: La Coruna (for Santiago de Compostella, Spain), Gibraltar, Arrecife (Lanzarote), Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Santa Cruz, La Palma (Canary Islands), Funchal (Madeira) and Lisbon (Portugal)

*Applies to bookings made by 31 July 2015 quoting promotional code WGF4A. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time.

0330 160 7806 | Quote BEP | www.newmarket.travel/bep18970

Calls are charged at a standard local rate Operated by Newmarket Promotions Ltd. ABTA V787X. Prices are per person, based on two sharing. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Fares exclude gratuities. Terms and conditions apply. These suppliers are independent of Local World. When you respond, the holiday supplier and Local World may contact you with offers/services that may be of interest. Please give your mobile or email details if you wish to receive such offers by SMS or email. We will not give your details to other companies without your permission.



insight



Follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/NSMERCURY



The best laid plans

FOR years, having chickens was mainly the staple of farmers and smallholders. But over the past few years, the practice of keeping chickens has grown in popularity, with more and more people welcoming feathered friends into their gardens and backyards.

Many see the main benefit of keeping poultry as having fresh eggs each morning.

But those who do have chickens say the birds soon find a place in your heart and, with their individual characters, become much-loved family pets.

People are now keeping chickens in all types of houses – from traditional estate homes to urban terraces with backyards to smallholdings.

Known to be one of the most robust pets, they are easy and cheap to keep and need a minimum of just one square metre of ground per bird – although more space is preferable.

July Howard, 48, kept chickens as a child and 12 years ago bought a piece of land in Yatton to turn into a smallholding. With a stressful job, she wanted to find a way to relax and started keeping chickens and a flock of sheep.

And now she is using her love of poultry

to run workshops on how to keep chickens for people interested in having birds in their own back gardens.

July said: “I have been keeping chickens since I was a teenager and come from a background where many of the family kept poultry. Now I have around 30 chickens of all different breeds. I have learnt a lot about keeping them and the course is an introduction for others into chicken-keeping.”

July also hatches a lot of the eggs her feathered friends lay.

“I have been experimenting with different breeds and hybrids,” she said. “Chickens are such characterful creatures and are fun just to sit and watch.”

July also takes her chicks into local nursing homes.

“The residents love handling them,” she said. “Many of them also used to keep chickens and when I say what breed they are I often hear that they, too, once had one the same.”

Chickens originated in the jungles of South East Asia and are still known as jungle fowl there. And rather than pecking around the ground, the birds tend to live up trees, foraging among the leaves and bark for food.

Funcky Chicken Town and other great places

- Chicken are pretty fast. The chicken can travel up to nine miles an hour when it wants to
- The largest-ever recorded chicken egg weighed nearly 12oz, and measured 12.25 inches around
- Chicken language has real meanings. The birds give different alarm calls depending on which type of predator is threatening them
- There are more chickens on Earth than there are humans
- Chickens can cross-breed with turkeys. The result is called a 'turkin'
- There are four cities in the United States that have the word 'chicken' in their name: Chicken, Alaska; Chicken Bristle, Illinois;

- Chicken Bristle, Kentucky; and Chicken Town, Pennsylvania.
- The greatest number of yolks ever found in a single chicken egg was nine
- The chicken is the closest living relative of the tyrannosaurus-rex
- In Gainesville, Georgia (the chicken capital of the world), a local ordinance makes it illegal to eat your chicken with a fork
- China has the most people in the world...and also the most chickens. There are more than three billion chickens in China (the United States has only 450 million)
- The longest recorded distance flown by any chicken was 3015 feet.

July added: “As chickens tended to live in trees, the best place you can keep them is in an orchard.

“The other day, one of mine flew into a Bramley apple tree.

“He was sitting there, pecking away at the fruit.”

July, who has an allotment and is a keen spinner, says the workshops, which last three hours, are a basic introduction to poultry-keeping.

They cover issues such as nutrition and the kind of lifestyle chickens enjoy, as well as preventative health measures to keep the

birds in tip-top condition. She also gives tips on hygiene and how to get rid of the chicken waste, as well as information about the physiology of the birds.

July talks about first aid for chickens and how to keep away pests such as rats and foxes.

“Keeping chickens is fun and it offers people a chance to have a real connection with the outdoors,” she said.

“Not only that, but they are a great source of food. They are the pet that keeps on giving.”

People keeping chickens can expect an average of 320 eggs a year – nearly one a day.

It takes 25 hours for an egg to develop inside a chicken.

Just 30 minutes after the egg is laid, the bird starts working on producing another for the following day.

The colour of the egg depends on the breed of chicken. Most are similar in colour to the ones you find in the supermarket, although some can be duck egg blue and others white or chocolate brown.

Chickens lay eggs for

up to three years and live for around four years. Many happily live out their retirement with their owners after their laying days are over.

Chickens eat most things, but generally have a diet of layers pellets. They also enjoy spaghetti and other pasta, vegetables and salad. Raw potatoes – along with rhubarb and horseradish, among other things – are poisonous to them.

They need straw to sleep on and plenty of water. Other medicines are also advised, such as a poultry tonic to relieve stress. Chickens should be wormed and kept free of mites, and vaccinated and checked for salmonella.

They can be escapologists, although they cannot fly far, so it is best to clip their wings to stop them taking flight. Chickens are quite happy spending their days scratching around in the dirt and gravel – spending hours hunting for bugs and insects.

July charges between £15 and £20 for her chicken-keeping workshops. People can find out more by calling 07500 147774 or emailing julehoward@cooptel.net.



■ July Howard has set up chicken-keeping workshops on her smallholding following a rise in interest in chicken-keeping
Pictures: Jon Kent



Wigging out at school to raise playground cash

Michael Ribbeck
Chief reporter
michael.ribbeck@b-nm.co.uk

STAFF and students at a primary school in Southmead donned wigs for a day to raise money to help rebuild the adventure playground burnt in the arson attack earlier this month.

The Ranch, a much loved adventure playground on Doncaster Road that has been widely used for 60 years, was completely destroyed in the blaze on June 8.

The arson has shocked and devastated the local community, including the staff and students at Fonhill Primary School.

A campaign has been launched to raise £10,000 towards rebuilding the playground.

Both the council and the owners of the site have pledged to rebuild the amenity as soon as possible.

To help towards the rebuild they wore wigs of all colours and styles for the day, raising £120 which was collected by a representative from The Ranch on Friday.

Jo Williams, PA at Fonhill and a former playworker at The Ranch, said: "We're all devastated, particularly with the summer holidays coming up. It's really bad timing and our students used the playground a lot."

"The children wanted to do something to help and are keen to assist in the rebuild. I think it's great

that they have such a strong sense of community spirit at a young age."

Two local bands are also holding a fundraiser for the rebuild. The concert is being organised by Michael Cox, a member of one of the bands who used the adventure playground as a child.

Mr Cox said: "The Ranch is close to our hearts and the local children are suffering because of what's happened, so we wanted to do something to help".

The concert will be held at the playground itself on Friday, September 4 with performances from local bands Rooted and Hooper.

John Savage, acting chief executive of LPW, has pledged to create an even bigger and better playground with the help of Bristol City Council and the fundraising appeal.

He said: "We have been inundated with offers of help since the fire, particularly from Southmead itself. The level of support illustrates just how important the Ranch has been to generations of Southmead people who have themselves played on the site and then become parents of children who have used the facilities."

Two 18-year-olds, both from Southmead, have been arrested on suspicion of arson by police investigating the fire.

The teenagers have been released on bail while the investigation continues and police are still keen to hear from anyone with information about the incident.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Pupils and staff at Fonhill Primary School wear wigs to raise money for the playground

Photo: Michael Lloyd



The arson-hit play area

CAMPAIGN FOLLOWED ARSON

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to raise £10,000 to help rebuild a children's adventure playground which was left a charred ruin by arsonists.

The Ranch adventure playground in Southmead was destroyed two weeks ago.

Learning Partnership West (LPW), the charity which runs the facility, says it is determined to reopen the playground as soon as possible.

The organisation says it has been inundated with offers of support and help and local residents have already raised £1,100 towards a £10,000 rebuild target. A special appeal page has been set up on the GoFundMe website and donations have been pouring in



Artist Vanessa McBride and school election winner Hugo Maindron (centre) at the art day

Photo: Dan Regan

Hugo wins art boost for school

ARTISTS were at Fair Furlong Primary School after being paid for by a pupil who won the school's own "general election" last month.

Fair Furlong held its own election on May 7, and four young candidates staged four-week campaigns to be elected as head pupil by their peers.

The 418-pupil school, in a ward with the second lowest turnout for Bristol in the 2010 general election, followed electoral procedure to engage pupils in the democratic process.

The winner was nine-year-old Hugo Maindron, and his role as head pupil involved deciding how £500 of school budget should be spent to benefit fellow pupils.

He decided to spend the funds on art in school, and his wish has been fulfilled, with pupils enjoying visits from artists throughout last week.

Artist Vanessa McBride ran print workshops with year five and six, and Becky Goddard ran stick and ink workshops with year four, and model-making with year three.

COURT

Jail for death crash driver who fell asleep at wheel

Geoff Bennett
Crown court reporter
geoff.bennett@b-nm.co.uk



A LORRY driver found by a judge to have fallen asleep at the wheel when he killed a 70-year-old Bristol man has been jailed for four and a half years.

Bristol Crown Court heard Mercedes van driver John Horton died in a crash on the M5 in October 2013.

An earlier accident caused vehicles to be filtered into lane one of the motorway, southbound between junctions 22 and 23.

It was alleged that when vehicles slowed Piotr Trojanowski, who was driving a Pallet Force truck, smashed into the van and crushed it against an Argos lorry in front, killing Mr Horton instantly.

Trojanowski, 41, of The Avenue, Yeovil, denied causing death by dangerous driving.

He also pleaded not guilty to a second charge of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving.

A jury of eight men and three women, reduced to 11 due to a juror's illness, found him guilty of causing death by dangerous driving.

Judge Richard Bromilow told him: "You, because of lack of rest, were asleep at the wheel while driving this significant vehicle along the motorway at night. The consequences have been devastating."

The judge disqualified Trojanowski from driving for seven years and ordered him to take an extended driving test. He was also told to pay a £100 victim surcharge.

After the hearing one of Mr Horton's daughters, Louise, 35, from Ashton, told the *Bristol Post*: "We are pleased justice has been done. My father was a loving, happy and caring man and his death is a great loss."

An accident witness driving a Renault estate car said he turned the Pallet Force lorry's engine off, saw the bloodied driver and put the lorry's handbrake on.

He noted how, when asked if he was ok, Trojanowski told him: "I'm ok. My boss is going to kill me."

"My boss is going to kill me. I think I fell asleep. I think I fell asleep."

A crash investigation revealed Trojanowski pulled up his lorry from 56mph to 1mph in 11 seconds, compared to the Argos lorry decelerating from 53mph to 1mph in 42 seconds.

All three vehicles in the fatal smash were in good working order.

Dr Waqar Ahmed, a consultant psychiatrist, told the jury he was asked to examine Trojanowski and saw him in May with the aid of an interpreter.

The psychiatrist said: "He had very limited recollection of the accident. "He had recollection once the paramedics attended him and he reached the hospital."

Dr Ahmed said Trojanowski did remember having two or three hours' sleep before the accident but could not recall events immediately before the accident or the accident itself.

The jury heard Trojanowski appeared to be distressed by thoughts of the victim and appeared to be sad and showing remorse.

The psychiatrist's conclusion was that, having suffered a brief loss of consciousness in the smash, Trojanowski had suffered from an "amnesic syndrome" following his head injury.

Consultation on reopening the Portishead Branch Line as part of MetroWest Phase 1

MetroWest+

MetroWest Phase 1 will reopen the Portishead line with half hourly passenger train services and new stations at Portishead and Pill. The project also entails half hourly services on the Severn Beach Line (hourly service for St.Andrews Road station and Severn Beach), and half hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, between Bath Spa and Bristol.

Have your say

We are holding four exhibitions and would like your views. You can view the proposals in detail, talk with the MetroWest project team and give your feedback on:

- Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm
Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- Monday 6 July, 2pm to 7.30pm
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- Friday 10 July, 2pm to 7.30pm
Community Centre, Church Place, Pill, BS20 0AE
- Following the exhibitions, the plans will go on display from:
Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July, 9am to 5pm
100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

You can also view the options and submit comments online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

The consultation starts on **Monday June 22, and runs for six weeks until 3 August 2015.**

travelwest+

Both & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils working together to improve your local transport

Receive up to 40% more pension income

Request your **FREE** guide

Want to get the most from your pension savings?

We may be able to **secure you up to 40% more pension income**, depending on your circumstances.*

Our friendly and helpful specialists can provide you with all of the information you need to make your own decision on how best to access your pension savings.

So if you are over 55 years old and want to calculate your pension income, visit www.pensions.agepartnership.co.uk

Call Freephone 0808 198 9113

Age Partnership Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 425432. Company address: Age Partnership Limited, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB

*Based on an enhanced lifetime annuity vs a standard lifetime annuity. Source: Money Advice Service.

Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Date of birth.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

Yes, I would like my free guide to pension income



Please return this coupon to Freepost, Age Partnership

WIN

A LUXURY LODGE ESCAPE WORTH OVER £2,000

We've teamed up with the beautiful Celtic Manor to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a luxury three-night weekend break for up to eight people in one of the new Hunter Lodges worth over £2,000!

The scandi-style lodges all have beautiful living amenities; even boasting their own saunas and outdoor hot tubs. The lucky winner will receive a delicious afternoon tea and breakfast hamper to enjoy in the fully self-catering lodges. Stay includes access to Celtic Manor's five-star amenities, as well as a complimentary round of adventure golf!

Home of the 2010 Ryder Cup, the Celtic Manor Resort features many more family activities including forest jump high rope courses, laser combat, archery and kids clubs.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win this luxury escape simply collect FOUR tokens which we will be printing in paper every day until Friday 26 June.

Once you have collected your tokens, simply attach them to a completed entry form and post them to us at: Win a Luxury Escape, Bristol Post, Promotions Department, 1 Temple Way, Bristol, BS2 0BY before noon, Friday, July 3.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name.....
Address.....
.....postcode.....
tel.....
email.....

COURTESY OF **CELTIC MANOR RESORT** **CELTIC-MANOR.COM** **Post** bristolpost.co.uk print | online | mobile

The prize is a three-night weekend stay, arriving Friday, for a maximum of eight people sharing one Hunter Lodge. Dates subject to availability. Prize is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash. Prize must be taken by August 1, 2016. Excludes additional meals, activities, all beverages and extras which must be settled upon departure. Usual Bristol Post competition rules apply. See bristolpost.co.uk/houserules for details. By responding, you agree that Local World may offer you products and services by post, email, SMS and telephone. Visit our website for details of our privacy policy. Local World would also like to allow selected third parties to contact you - if you object to receiving third party communications please tick here. ☐ LWLE01062015

Press release issued w/c 15 June 2015 for weekly papers Monday and others Wednesday

MetroWest Phase 1 DCO consultation

Re-opening the Portishead branch line - Have your say

Proposals to re-open the Portishead branch line have reached a major milestone, as statutory consultation on the plans begins.

The consultation will run for six weeks, from 22 June to 3 August. Feedback will be used to inform detailed scheme design for the Portishead branch line planning application.

The re-opening the Portishead branch line includes plans for a new Portishead railway station at Quays Avenue, the reopening of Pill railway station, the provision of new footbridges across the line, and other works including double tracking through Pill .

The planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 through the Development Consent Order process, with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting the train services in spring 2019.

A series of public exhibitions are being held, where people can view the plans and ask questions about the proposals:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm-7.30pm:** Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July, 2pm-7.30pm:** Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm-7.30pm:** Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July, 2pm-7.30pm:** Community Centre, Pill, BS20 0AE

Following the exhibitions, the plans will then go on display for a week:

- **Monday 13 July-Friday 17 July, 9am – 5pm:** 100 Temple St, Bristol, BS1 6HT

Later this year there will be another opportunity for people to comment on updated designs before the planning application is submitted in 2016.

Nigel Ashton, Leader of North Somerset Council, said:

“The project is now at an advanced stage, with detailed designs being developed for inclusion in a planning application early next year.

“We are now asking for people’s views on a range of detailed proposals including station layouts, parking provision, highway changes and how we address environmental impacts.

“This is an opportunity for people to influence the designs that go into the planning application and to help shape this hugely important project”.

Cllr Brian Allinson, Chair of the Joint Transport Board and South Gloucestershire lead member for Transport, said:

“Re-opening the Portishead branch line is part of a wider £100million in investment in local rail projects by the West of England councils. It’s great to see the project of moving forward and formal consultation for the planning process begin”.

Cllr Mark Bradshaw said:

“By pooling our resources and working together we’ve been able to make the reopening of the Portishead line for passengers a reality. This is a really exciting project for the Greater Bristol area that will make a huge difference for people wanting to use the existing and new train services, with benefits for rail freight too.”

MetroWest is a scheme to improve the local rail network. It involves the West of England councils (Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) working together to improve local transport.

What is MetroWest Phase 1?

The project involves re-opening 5km of disused railway between Portishead and Pill as well as upgrading the current Portbury freight line between Parson Street Junction and Portbury Dock Junction.

How can I comment on the plans?

You can comment:

- By going to an exhibition
- Online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest where you will find the leaflet and a link through to the questionnaire

If you can’t make it to one of the exhibitions, there is a leaflet that gives lots of detail about the project at www.travelwest.info/metrowest . You can pick up a paper copy at Portishead Library, Pill Library, Bedminster Library, Portishead Town Council, and if you are not online, all forms of correspondence will be accepted.

Ends

Further information

The Project involves the re-opening 5km of disused railway between Portishead and Pill; and upgrade works to the current Portbury freight line between Parson Street Junction and Portbury Dock Junction. The infrastructure requirements to deliver the Project include:

- Rebuilding the disused Portishead to Pill line (5km)
- New station at Portishead including car park, pedestrian and cycle link to the town centre and highway alterations to Quays Avenue/Harbour Road/Phoenix Way
- Possible provision of a fully accessible pedestrian bridge near Trinity Primary School
- Retain existing National Cycle Network routes between Pill and Portishead through minor realignment or diversion if necessary
- Double track works through Pill (including widening of the Avon Road bridge underpass) and from Bower Ashton to Ashton Gate
- Reopening of former station at Pill and new fully accessible pedestrian bridge and car park
- Improvements to highway access to Pill tunnel and other locations
- New signalling for the branch line from Parson Street junction to Portishead, including a new intermediate signal in Avon Gorge
- Enhancement of Parson Street junction

- Closure of historic and permissive crossings and where appropriate provision of alternative access arrangements locations
- Environmental mitigation measures
- Partial reinstatement of down relief line at Bedminster
- Additional signal near Avonmouth station
- Bathampton turn-back (track crossover and signalling to allow trains to turn around at Bath off the main line).

The existing Portbury freight line plays an important role for the economy through providing efficient access to markets including car import/exports, containers and coal. The volume of freight traffic is increasing and the Councils recognise the importance of the Portbury

Freight Line to Bristol Port and its contribution to the economy. The infrastructure identified for the Project, as set out above, will provide sufficient capacity for the current and future operation of both freight trains and passenger trains.

Most of the land required for the Project is within the ownership of North Somerset Council or Network Rail. Small areas of land, and construction and maintenance access routes will be required temporarily and permanently to construct the Project. Land owners will be contacted in due course to discuss individual requirements and issues. Construction will begin in early 2018, with services operating from spring 2019.

The scheme is regarded as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 and requires us to produce a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This will be made available at the start of the consultation both online and at the locations listed above.

Issued by:

Julia Dean, West of England LEP, 0117 922 4580

Coming soon - Portishead railway. People asked to have their say on rail link plans

By [hpickstock](#) | Posted: June 15, 2015



Trains will be running out of Portishead again by 2019

Comments (0)

A CONSULTATION on long awaited plans to re-open Portishead rail line is to launch this month – ahead of detailed plans for the project being submitted.

The consultation will run from June 22 to August 3 and feedback will be used to help shape the detailed scheme.

The re-opening the Portishead branch line includes plans for a new Portishead railway station at Quays Avenue, the reopening of Pill railway station, the provision of new footbridges across the line and other work including double tracking through Pill.

The planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting the train services in spring 2019.

RELATED CONTENT

New Clevedon-to-Portishead cycle path to coincide with railway station launch

Skatepark bid for former Portishead railway site

Work starts on long awaited Clevedon cycle link

A series of public exhibitions are being held, where people can view the plans and ask questions about the proposals.

There will also be an opportunity for people to comment on the updated designs later this year ahead of the application being submitted.

North Somerset Council leader Nigel Ashton said: "The project is now at an advanced stage, with detailed designs being developed for inclusion in a planning application early next year.

"We are now asking for people's views on a range of detailed proposals including station layouts, parking provision, highway changes and how we address environmental impacts. "This is an opportunity for people to influence the designs that go into the planning application and to help shape this hugely important project."

The opening of the Portishead line is a key priority of the Metrowest Phase One project being pioneered and funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is expected to cost up to £55 million.

Don't miss a story ►► sign up to the North Somerset Times FREE dai

'Major milestone' for new railway station plan

🕒 17:49 23 June 2015 | Tom Wright



An impression of what Portishead's new station will look like.

A detailed design explaining how the new Portishead to Bristol train line will look once it opens in four years' time, have been revealed.



Shares:

A six-week public consultation period will allow people to comment on the proposed siting of a new railway station in Quays Avenue and the reopening of a station in Pill.

North Somerset Council says this represents a 'major milestone' for the long-planned development and hopes to submit a planning application next spring.

Several sites in Portishead were considered before the council settled on the Harbour Road and Quays Avenue junction, after the Office of Rail Regulation ruled it would not accept a level crossing at Quays Avenue. The council hopes reopening the line will provide another route into Bristol, as well as attract more investment into the town.

The proposal includes reopening the 5km disused route between Portishead and Pill, as well as upgrading the freight line between Portbury Docks and Parson Street.

North Somerset Council leader Nigel Ashton said: "The project is now at an advanced stage, with detailed designs being developed for inclusion in a planning application early next year.

"We are now asking for people's views on a range of detailed proposals including station layouts, parking provision, highway changes and how we address environmental impacts. This is an opportunity for people to influence the designs that go into the planning application and to shape this hugely important project."

The six-week consultation will allow people to submit comments online and attend any exhibitions in North Somerset and Bristol.

Somerset Hall in Portishead will hold exhibitions on July 6 and 8 from 2-7.30pm. The public display will then be at Pill's community centre from 2-7.30pm on July 10.

Having heard the public's views, the council will update its plans if necessary, before a second round of consultation takes place later this year before applying for planning permission next year.

Construction would begin in 2017, if planning permission is granted, and the line would reopen in 2019.

The scheme is part of a £100million fund to improve transport links in the South West.

Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Bristol's assistant mayor, said: "This is an exciting project for Greater Bristol. It'll make a huge difference for people wanting to use existing and new train services with benefits for rail freight too."

Views can also be submitted until August 3 at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

Train station

Do you want Portishead to get a new train station?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't care

Submit



Chance to have say on plans to reopen rail line

Heather Pickstock
heather.pickstock@b-nm.co.uk



A CONSULTATION on long awaited plans to re-open Portishead rail line is to launch this month – ahead of detailed plans for the project being submitted.

The consultation will run from June 22 to August 3 and feedback will be used to help shape the detailed scheme.

The re-opening of the Portishead branch line includes plans for a new Portishead railway station at Quays Avenue, the reopening of Pill railway station, the provision of new footbridges across the line and other work including double tracking through Pill.

The planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting the train services in

spring 2019.

A series of public exhibitions are being held, where people can view the plans and ask questions about the proposals.

There will also be an opportunity for people to comment on the updated designs later this year ahead of the application being submitted.

North Somerset Council leader Nigel Ashton said: "The project is now at an advanced stage, with detailed designs being developed for inclusion in a planning application early next year."

"We are now asking for people's views on a range of detailed proposals including station layouts, parking provision, highway changes and how we address environmental impacts."

"This is an opportunity for people to influence the designs that go into the planning application and to help shape this hugely important project."

The opening of the Portishead line is a key priority of the Metrowest Phase One project being pioneered



"This is an opportunity for people to influence the designs that go into the planning application and to help shape this hugely important project."

and funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is expected to cost up to £55 million. North Somerset Council has already purchased the three mile section of redundant track between Portishead and Portbury to protect it from being developed and clearance work

on the line has already been carried out.

Passenger services from Portishead to Bristol were cut in 1964, although the line to Portbury Dock reopened in 2002 for freight trains only.

A study in 2010 showed that travel time from Portishead would be 17 minutes compared to an hour by road during peak times.

Councillor Mark Bradshaw, Bristol's Assistant Mayor with responsibility for Transport, said: "By pooling our resources and working together we've been able to make the reopening of the Portishead line for passengers a reality. This is a really exciting project for the Greater Bristol area that will make a huge difference for people wanting to use the existing and new train services, with

benefits for rail freight too."

Exhibitions will be held on July 2 from 2pm-7.30pm at Engine Shed, Temple Meads and on July 6 at the same time at the Somerset Hall, Portishead.

Further exhibitions will be held on July 8 at Somerset Hall from 2pm-7.30pm, on July 10 at the Community Centre, Pill from 2pm-7.30pm.

The plans will also be on display at the Engine Shed, Temple Meads from July 13-17 from 9am to 5pm.

People can also look and comment on the plans at www.travelwest.info/metrowest. Leaflets detailing the plans are also available at Portishead Library, Pill Library, Bedminster Library and at Portishead Town Council at the Folk Hall.

NEWS

[Home](#)[UK](#)[World](#)[Business](#)[Politics](#)[Tech](#)[Science](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[England](#)[Regions](#)[Bristol](#)

Portishead railway reopening consultation begins

23 June 2015 | Bristol



Reopening the Portishead line is part of the MetroWest Phase 1 project

A public consultation into plans to reopen a Bristol railway line has begun.

The Portishead branch line shut in 1964 but is now part of the MetroWest Phase 1 project which aims to reopen the line to passenger services by 2019.

Work will involve opening a new station in Portishead, reopening Pill station, building new footbridges and doubling part of the track.

A **six week consultation** will run until 3 August.

When complete the line will link Portishead with Bristol Temple Meads and the Severn Beach Line.

Nigel Ashton, leader of North Somerset Council, said it was a "fantastic opportunity".

"I've been hearing about [the plans] for 25 years... but now I really do think that we're there, and we've got the plans for the station so it's getting quite exciting.

"It'll make a huge difference to businesses and work travel, and to social life in Portishead."

The reopening the Portishead branch line is part of a wider £100m scheme investing in local rail projects by West of England councils.

It is not yet known which company will run trains on the line. **First Great Western's current franchise is due to end** in 2019.

PORTISHEAD RAILWAY PLANS SET FOR CONSULTATION

🕒 18th Jun 2015 📍 South West



Plans for the re-opening of the Portishead railway line, as part of the first phase of the MetroWest transport project, are to be put before the public.

The proposals include a new Portishead railway station at Quays Avenue and the re-opening of Pill railway station.

MetroWest phase one will also involve bringing back into use five kilometres of railway between Portishead and Pill as well as upgrading the current Portbury freight line.

A planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting the train services in spring 2019.

The consultation will run for six weeks, from 22 June to 3 August.

Nigel Ashton, leader of North Somerset Council, said: "The project is now at an advanced stage, with detailed designs being developed for inclusion in a planning application early next year.

"We are now asking for people's views on a range of detailed proposals including station layouts, parking provision, highway changes and how we address environmental impacts."

Cllr Brian Allinson, chairman of the joint transport board and South Gloucestershire lead member for transport, added: "Re-opening the Portishead branch line is part of a wider £100m in investment in local rail projects by the West of England councils.

"It's great to see the project of moving forward and formal consultation for the planning process beginning."

MetroWest is a joint project by Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils.

Highway collaboration options tested as island council pulls out

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Andrew Forster

COUNCILS IN northern Scotland have identified a range of activities in which they will collaborate under Scotland's Roads Collaboration Programme (RCP), but Shetland Council has withdrawn from the programme, saying the costs participating outweigh the benefits.

The combined road maintenance design team and collaboration on projects such as streetlighting, procurement, and traffic signal maintenance are among the ideas being considered by the North Project Group of nine councils: Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Comhairle Eilean Siar, Highland, Moray, Orkney, and Shetland.

The RCP is overseen by a programme board chaired by Scotland's Improvement Service, comprising representatives of Transport Scotland; the Society of Local Authorities (SCOTSA); and the Society of Local Authority Chief



Signals: specialist service?

Executives (SOLACE).

The first part of the programme, known as 'governance first', is developing governance models to oversee collaborative work. Four council clusters have been formed: North; Central; West; and Edinburgh, Lothians, Borders and Fife (ELBF) (see story below).

The North group is proposing setting up a joint committee model to oversee collaboration (LTT 1 May). A new paper prepared by the group identifies a range of potential areas for collaboration including:

- road maintenance design – creating a combined design team to best utilise available resource
- joint procurement – a combined approach to procurement, utilising a more local approach where appropriate, and drawing on the expertise of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils
- traffic signal maintenance – a “combined approach for the provision of a specialist service”, with joint procurement
- streetlighting – including a “combined approach for provision of a specialist service”; common standard specifications; pooling lighting designers; joint procurement; collective management of LED lighting investment
- flood risk management – including a combined approach for provision of a specialist service; sharing capacity; and joint procurement where necessary
- sharing frontline services (suggested for Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray)
- development control guidelines (a dedicated team with a single management structure)

Shetland Isles Council has just

withdrawn from the RCP.

Dave Coupe, Shetland's executive manager for roads, told councillors: “Shetland Islands Council's cost to participate in the completed project and attend the joint committee will be greater than for the other members of the group. For example, the cost of sharing a design section with other councils would be prohibitive due to the travel and accommodation required when visiting relatively small schemes in Shetland.”

“The benefits of shared procurement within the North Project Group are also difficult to identify,” said Coupe. “We already have expertise within the council and participate in the nationwide Scotland Excel procurement framework. The contracts at a more local level where we would benefit from collaboration are limited especially as the vast majority of our work is maintenance, which is done in-house.”

Shetland says it will enter into ‘memoranda of agreements’ with other councils or public bodies for specific collaborations.

Councils self-assess highways practices

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Highway authorities in Scotland are testing a self-assessment questionnaire about their maintenance practices, the version of which will be sent out by the DfT to determine allocations.

The questionnaire just sent out will be used as a dry run exercise allowing councils to assess their ratings and identify how they can improve their score. The questionnaire covers asset management; resilience; customer service; benchmarking and efficiency; and operational delivery. Results place councils into one of three bands.

The DfT has allocated £6bn for road maintenance between 2016 and 2020/21 and will allocate £578m of this to councils. All councils receive their share of the £578m in 2015/16. After, band three authorities receive 100% of their share

10% and 0% in successive years. The final version of the questionnaire will be issued in the autumn with the deadline for completion likely to be the end of November. It will inform 2016/17 allocations.

The DfT has worked with Matthew Lugg, the director of public services at Mouchel, to devise the questionnaire.

Transport minister Andrew Jones told this month's Future Highways conference organised by Landor Links: “The new incentive fund is not designed to provoke competition between highway authorities, but collaboration. If authorities are not pooling expertise, the taxpayer is not getting the best deal.”

Jones said the Department had allocated enough money to ensure that in principle every highway authority could receive the maximum level of funding. “Over time that is exactly what we want to happen.”

● Feature – pp18-19

Roads collaboration clusters revealed

ROAD MAINTENANCE

DETAILS HAVE emerged of the memberships of the four regional groups of Scottish councils taking part in the Roads Collaboration Programme (RCP).

Angus Bodie, programme manager for the RCP at the Improvement Service, told LTT the membership of the groups were as follows:

- **North:** Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland, Moray, Orkney, and Shetland
- **Central:** Dundee, Angus (also a member of the North group), Perth & Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk
- **West (now known as the Clyde Valley Roads Alliance):** Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire (this is the same set of authorities that are

part of the Glasgow City Region Road Maintenance Partnership).

The North, Central and West clusters are investigating joint committee models to oversee collaboration whereas ELBF is investigating a limited liability partnership (LTT 12 Jun).

Bodie said the three Ayrshire councils (East, South, and North Ayrshire) and neighbouring Dumfries and Galloway were not members of a group.

South and East Ayrshire formed their own Ayrshire Roads Alliance last April, and now have a combined operations unit.

The Ayrshire councils, Dumfries & Galloway and Cumbria County Council are reported to have held talks about road maintenance. Asked about this, a spokesman for Cumbria told LTT: “We’ve had some initial talks about sharing good practice, rather than sharing any formal business arrangements.”

A spokesman for Dumfries & Galloway Council said: “We are not in discussions with any of the Ayrshire councils or Cumbria

Edinburgh explores extending tram route into north of the city

TRAMS

by Andrew Forster

THE CITY of Edinburgh Council is exploring how to raise funds to extend its tram line into the north of the city.

The city's first tram line opened last May, connecting Edinburgh Airport and York Place in the city centre, a distance of about 8.7 miles. The line carried about five million passengers in the first year. The council says forecasts for 2027 suggest the line will carry ten million without any extensions.

The original plan had been to build a longer route but escalating cost forced the line to be truncated. The route opened three years late and a Scottish Government-commissioned inquiry is now investigating why the project went so badly wrong.

The Edinburgh Tram (Line One) Act gives the council the power to construct a line to Newhaven and Granton in the north of the city and then loop back to join the existing line in



Tram: longer route?

west Edinburgh via a disused railway between Granton and Roseburn. Powers to acquire land for the route expire in May 2016 and powers to commence construction expire in March 2021.

The council has no plans to pursue those sections of line between Newhaven and Granton or Granton and Roseburn. Investigations are instead focusing on four options for extending the line north from York Place to

Newhaven, Ocean Terminal, the Foot of Leith Walk, or MacDonald Road on Leith Walk.

The length of line, outturn cost estimates, forecast additional patronage, and benefit:cost ratio (BCR) of each option are:

- Newhaven: three miles, £144.7m, 8.7 million additional passengers, BCR: 1.52:1
- Ocean Terminal: 2.5 miles, £126.6m, 7.7 million additional passengers, BCR: 1.63:1
- Foot of Leith Walk: 1.2 miles, £78.7m, 3.5 million additional passengers, BCR: 1.29:1
- MacDonald Road: 0.5 miles, £47.3m, 700,000 additional passengers, BCR 0.56:1

Edinburgh's preference is for a design and build contract to deliver the chosen extension.

The council is to undertake a market consultation prior to finalising a procurement strategy this autumn. “Given the history of the tram in Edinburgh, market appetite will need to be tested,” said John Bury, Edinburgh's acting director of services for

communities.

Funding opportunities are being explored. “The Scottish Government has indicated in the past that no government funding will be made available,” said Bury. He said a range of funding opportunities were being considered including prudential borrowing, Government grants, developer contributions, private sector funding, the proposed city deal, “and other innovative funding structures”. At this stage the assessment assumes a line is delivered using prudential borrowing and developer contributions.

Commenting on the plans, council leader Andrew Burns said: “It is essential that we learn from past experience and we won't be making any snap decisions about the future of the project.”

The demand forecasts have been audited by consultant Atkins. Costs have been estimated by Turner & Townsend and audited by Faithful & Gould.

Counties block proposal for mega-West Mids CA

GOVERNANCE

THE POSSIBILITY of a huge West Midlands combined authority (CA) holding transport powers across the conurbation, Warwickshire and some parts of Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire, looks doomed after the Government said it could only happen with the consent of the shire counties.

The idea of a CA covering four million people was discussed by councillors in Coventry last month (LTT 12 Jun). Two of the area's Local Enterprise Partnerships already straddle the conurbation/shire boundaries. The Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP includes districts of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and Coventry and Warwickshire have their own LEP.

Under current legislation, either all or none of a county council and the district councils within it must be included in the area of a combined authority.

In March, however, the Gov-

council's area to join a combined authority. The Department for Communities and Local Government said any such arrangement “would need to be agreed by the county and district councils”.

A DCLG spokeswoman told LTT this week that the Government would only allow a district to join a CA with the consent of the county council.

Staffordshire and Warwickshire told LTT earlier this month they would not support part of their counties becoming part of a West Midlands CA (LTT 12 Jun). Worcestershire this week echoed that view. Its deputy leader, Simon Geraghty, told LTT: “The county council has no interest in joining a Birmingham or West Mids-led CA. We are an authority in our own right and have a very different profile to the more urbanised areas within the West Midlands.”

A CA may end up covering just the seven metropolitan districts of the West Midlands. Coventry and Solihull councils both support joining a CA with

SPT concerned by slow pace of Fastlink delivery

BUSES

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP for Transport has voiced concern about the delivery of the infrastructure improvements on the Fastlink bus priority corridor, suggesting that delays could undermine the commercial services operating on the corridor.

The Fastlink corridor connects the city centre with the newly-opened South Glasgow Hospitals to the west. The project features sections of bus-only road, bus lanes, and mixed traffic sections with bus priority at junctions.

The Scottish Government is contributing up to £40m to the project, which is promoted by SPT and delivered by Glasgow City Council.

Operators Stagecoach and McGill's began running services on the Fastlink corridor in May when the hospitals opened.

Updating councillors on bus services to the hospitals, Eric Stewart, SPT's assistant chief executive (operations) said: “Due to the ongoing risk of delays to

He added: “SPT officers continue to meet with Glasgow City Council with regard to the city centre traffic management proposals and the absence of any progress on the Fastlink city centre routes, which are fundamental to success of the project.”

Responding to the comments, a city council spokeswoman told LTT: “The works associated with Fastlink are substantially complete with more than 70% of the segregated route in use. However, there are elements of infrastructure along the Fastlink sections which have still to be done, such as the installation of bus shelters by SPT, as well as some work on Golspie Street, although this part of the route cannot be fully utilised due to SPT's renovation of the Subway at Govan.

She added: “The city centre transport strategy, approved in February, commits the council to supporting the delivery of Fastlink and delivering traffic management measures to facilitate the movement of all buses through the city centre. Measures

In Brief

Consultation on Portishead rail link

Public consultation has begun on North Somerset Council's plans to restore passenger rail services on the former Portishead branch. Passenger trains would be reintroduced over the existing freight-only Portbury branch, with the line extended by a further three miles from Pill to Portishead. A Development Consent Order application for the project will be submitted next spring and, should it be approved by ministers, the aim is for services to start in spring 2019. The project is the centrepiece of the MetroWest phase 1 programme of rail improvements. Consultation on the Portishead plans runs to 3 August.

Norfolk wins road sign removal prize

The DfT and the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) have awarded Norfolk County Council a prize for its policy of reducing road sign ‘clutter’. Norfolk's policy sees front line highways maintenance staff challenge whether old or damaged road signs are needed, together with a risk assessment, and considering local community opinions. Since the policy was introduced in 2012, the county has removed 629 signs, mainly from rural roads, and over 2,000 illuminated signs and bollards have been removed or switched off. The most signs removed of one particular type have been the ‘at any time’ parking signs in urban areas.

HGV levy exceeds expectations

The Government has raised £46.5m from foreign-registered vehicles in the first year of the HGV road user levy – more than twice the £21m projected before the scheme was launched in April 2014. The levy costs up to £10 a day or £1,000 a year, varying according to vehicle type, weight and axle configurations. Transport minister Andrew Jones said 1.9 million levies had been purchased by foreign hauliers and that, despite discounts for longer-term purchases, 91% of sales were ‘daily’ (covering one or a few days); 3% were weekly; 5% were monthly; and 1% were annual. “This predominance of more expensive daily levies is a major factor in our original estimate being exceeded,” said Jones. “Even so, in terms of revenue raised, 18% (£8.5m) came from annual



Share

Transport: Portishead rail line plans revealed

Bristol 24/7 , June 19, 2015

[< previous article](#) | [next article >](#)

Plans for the re-opening of a commuter line to Portishead will go in front of the public.

Portishead will be connected with Temple Meads and Parson Street, Bedminster, by 2019 under the plans which are being exhibited in July.

Re-opening the line will require a three-mile stretch of abandoned track to be renovated from Pill to Portishead. A new station will be built on Quays Avenue in Portishead, while Pill Station will also be re-opened.

The line was closed to passenger traffic in 1964, but due to increasing commuter demand and road traffic congestion, [campaign groups](#) have been calling for the re-opening.

The project is part of a £100 million investment in local rail services from West of England councils under the [MetroWest](#) umbrella.

A series of public exhibitions are being held at the following locations:

- Thursday July 2, 2pm-7.30pm: Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads
- Monday July 6, 2pm-7.30pm: Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead
- Wednesday July 8, 2pm-7.30pm: Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead
- Friday July 10, 2pm-7.30pm: Community Centre, Pill

Picture of the proposed new station on Quays Avenue in Portishead.



News - latest at top

[Summary of current situation >>](#)

[Contact details for protest letters.](#)

Contractor chosen for outline design of MetroWest Phase 1

29 July 2015: Arup has been chosen by Network Rail to do the outline design work for MetroWest Phase 1 which includes the Portishead line. See [railway-technology.com article](#) 29 July 2015.

PRG display at Sainsbury's Portishead

3 July 2015: Portishead Railway Group had a display in the the entrance of Sainsbury's in Portishead on Friday 3 July to inform the public of the current Public Consultation.

Public consultation announced

17 June 2015: A public consultation on the plans for reopening is to be held from 22 June to 3 August. Public exhibitions will be held at **Somerset Hall, Portishead on 6 and 8 July**, at **Pill Community Centre on 10 July**, and the Engine Shed, **Temple Meads on 2 July**, all at 2.00 pm to 7.30 pm and at the Engine Shed, Temple Meads on 13-17 July from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. The public will be invited to comment on plans for the stations at Portishead and Pill, car parking, etc. Comments may be made on line at www.travelwest.info/metrowest from 22 June. Leaflets will be available at libraries.

See [North Somerset Mercury article](#) 16 June 2015.

Track clearance complete

14 April 2015: The clearance of the trackbed which started in January is now complete. This was to enable a full topographical survey to be undertaken. See [North Somerset Times article](#) 20 April 2015.

First Great Western Franchise extended

23 March 2015: The government have announced that **First Great Western's franchise** will continue until **April 2019**. **Note** that the Portishead branch is due to open in **May 2019**, i.e under a **new** franchise. See [Bristol Post article](#) 24 March 2015.

Portishead station site decided

17 March 2015: North Somerset Council's executive have formally decided on the location for Portishead railway station. As expected Option 2B ([map](#)) has been selected. For further details see [North Somerset Council news item](#).

Portishead level crossing refused

9 March 2015: The Office of Rail Regulation have decided against a level crossing at Quays Avenue. They said that there was no case for exceptional circumstances for a level crossing; there are viable non level crossing options available; and there are significant traffic issues causing safety risks to the operation of the railway.

For further details see [Portishead Rail Services Spring 2015](#).

West of England LEP

June 2015

[View this email in your browser](#)



NEWS IN BRIEF

Business leaders on board to support West of England's growth ambitions

The LEP Board has appointed five new business representatives from key industries including aerospace, shipping, housing, construction, the creative sector and small business. They join Robert Sinclair, Kalpna Woolf and James Durie, who have been reappointed.

They will work alongside the UAs to continue to attract investment, support infrastructure development and put conditions in place to enable businesses to move to the area and expand.

Colin Skellett has been reappointed as Chair to build on the progress made by the LEP since it was set up in 2011. [more](#).

Economic boost for South Bristol as Filwood Green Business Park opens

A £12m Green Business Park designed to boost economic prosperity and create hundreds of jobs in South Bristol was officially opened by Mayor George Ferguson on 28 May who said it represented a "great vote of confidence in the future of South Bristol". Filwood Green is a flagship project of Bristol's year as European Green Capital and is a new sustainable home for SMEs. [more](#).

Business leaders address skills shortages at West of England infrastructure forum

Industry heavyweights, including EDF Energy, Bristol Airport and Network Rail, met with key representatives from the city region's colleges and universities to address future skills gaps in the construction sector, with a particular focus on the common pinch points likely to emerge as a result of the major infrastructure projects taking place over the next 3-5 years.

The LEP skills team commissioned the CITB who presented interim findings of the local labour market which forecast 550 projects within the region with investment totalling £7bn.

"Joining major projects, clients and providers together and sharing issues and opportunities is a welcome development – especially in economies as buoyant and competitive for skills as Bristol and the West of England." Guy Hazelhurst, EDF Energy

A full agenda as South Gloucestershire hold Forum to discuss growth plans

Over 80 attendees from the public and private sector attended the South Gloucestershire business forum annual breakfast on the 5 June. Topics covered the continued growth in Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing (Filton), Innovation and Science (Emerson Green) and Logistics and Manufacturing (Sevenside) as well as the Filton airfield planning application and the Yate Riverside complex.

The panel chaired by Peter Marchbank of Third Dimension, included Barbara Davies, West of England LEP, James Durie, Bristol Chamber, Chris Smith, Marshfield Bakery and Matt Cross, Invest Bristol and Bath. Discussions were based around avenues of support that businesses can access in the West of England. [more](#)

MetroWest Phase 1

Proposals to re-open the Portishead branch line have reached a major milestone, as statutory consultation begins on plans for a new Portishead railway station at Quays Avenue, the reopening of Pill railway station, the provision of new footbridges across the line, and other works including double tracking through Pill.

The planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 through the Development Consent Order process, with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting the train services in spring 2019.

The consultation will run for six weeks, from 22 June to 3 August. Feedback will be used to inform detailed scheme design for the Portishead branch line planning application. Full details of the proposals and the consultation, including the dates of public exhibitions, will be available from 22 June on the [travelwest website](#), where you will also find a link to the online questionnaire.



Winter Gardens proposals move forward

North Somerset Council and Weston College are continuing to work closely together to create a legal and professional services academy at the Winter Gardens.

Several significant milestones have been reached, including the terms of the transfer of the freehold and approval of the Secretary of State to dispose of the building.

A planning application is expected to be submitted in July with a view to substantive work beginning early in 2016, depending on when the confirmation of the 2016/17 allocation of Local Enterprise Partnership funding is made.



Healthy lifestyle support on offer



People living in central and southern parts of Weston-super-Mare can access a free service if they need support with lifestyle changes.

A 12-week programme is available to guide people through any changes they want to make, whether losing weight, cutting down on alcohol, being more active or stopping smoking.

It can be accessed through the Health Trainers service, which is based in the Town Hall, in Walliscote Grove Road, and the For All Healthy Living Centre, in Lonsdale Avenue.

People are seen on a one-to-one basis and the health trainers provide an individual plan to help achieve personal goals.



Health trainers: 01934 627 250

www.nshealthtrainers.co.uk

Facebook: NSHealthTrainer Twitter: @NSHealthTrainer

Portishead rail consultation MetroWest+

Plans to reopen the Portishead branch rail line as part of MetroWest Phase 1 are available to view in detail this month during a series of public consultations.

The project will see half hourly passenger trains from Portishead and new stations at Portishead and Pill.

The project also includes half hourly services on the Severn Beach Line (an hourly service for St Andrews Road Station and Severn Beach) and half-hourly services for Keynsham station and Oldfield Park station, between Bath Spa and Bristol.

View proposals in detail, talk with the MetroWest project team and give your feedback during four exhibitions:

Thursday 2 July - 2-7.30pm,
Engine Shed, Temple Meads, Bristol

Monday 6 July, 2-7.30pm,
Somerset Hall, High Street, Portishead

Wednesday 8 July, 2-7.30pm,
Somerset Hall, High Street, Portishead

Friday 10 July, 2-7.30pm, Community
Centre, Pill

Plans will then be on display from
9am-5pm, Monday 13 to Friday 17
July, at 100 Temple Street, Bristol.

You can also view options and
submit comments online at
www.travelwest.info/metrowest

Consultation runs until
Monday 3 August.



Hi Julia

JUNE NEWS

Council acquires derelict former sorting office site

The derelict sorting office building and site next to Temple Meads station has been acquired by Bristol City Council. The eyesore building that greets visitors to the city arriving by train has lain disused and derelict for over 17 years. The purchase of this 2.1 hectare site means that ambitious plans for Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone can now be progressed. More information



Planning permission granted for Boxworks

Bristol City Council has granted planning permission for an exciting new workspace development "Boxworks" in the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone. Twenty shipping containers will be craned into position next to Engine Shed at the end of June and transformed into custom-designed workspace for creative, digital and high-tech industries. It is anticipated that the workspace will be completed and operational by the beginning of August this year. More information



Electrification works underway – be aware of journey delays this summer

As the first step towards achieving electrification in the region, Network Rail are undertaking a large programme of works for 6 weeks this summer.

July 18 – July 31 The line between Box and Bathampton Junction will be closed. This will affect journeys between Chippenham and Bath Spa and journeys via Melksham. High speed trains to/from London Paddington will be diverted, increasing journey times by up to 30 minutes.

Aug 1 – Aug 31 All lines to the east of Bath will be closed, in addition to the continuing work on the railway between Chippenham and Bath Spa. The line will also be closed between Trowbridge and Bath Spa, and all services to/from Bath Spa will run from the West. Rail replacement coach/bus services will serve stations to the east. Visit First Great Western for amended journey details.



More than 1,200 visit enterprise zone for Venturefest Bristol and Bath

Digital and technology experts from around the world converged at Venturefest Bristol and Bath this month, a tech innovation event that took place at Engine Shed and Passenger Shed in the zone. The event showed off how the Bristol and Bath region is at the forefront of cutting-edge technology, strengthening the region's reputation as the only fast growing, globally significant tech cluster in the UK. [More information](#)



Volunteering - Young Shipwrights, Bristol Loves Tides Workshops

My Future My Choice are looking for volunteers to help at Young Shipwrights Workshops taking place at Engine Shed. The workshops involve school children working in small groups to make a cardboard boat that they will decorate, ballast and trim; and eventually sail in the Young Shipwrights Boat Race at the Bristol Harbour Festival. Volunteers are needed for whole or half days on various dates between now and 10th July. Contact [Hugh](#) for more details



Events

Small Business Saturday Information Event - 1 July

Small Business Saturday is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign which aims to highlight small business success and encourage consumers to support small businesses in their communities. Although the day itself takes place in December, the campaign is active all year round. If you would like to support the campaign, get involved or just find out further information attend the event at Engine Shed 1st July 2.30pm - 4.30pm [More information](#)



MetroWest public consultation – 2 July

A public exhibition will take place showing plans to re-open the Portishead branch line as part of MetroWest Phase 1. The project includes a new railway station at Portishead and the reopening of Pill station, with passenger services due to start in 2019. The plans will be on display at Engine Shed on 2nd July 2pm-7.30pm. The consultation runs from 22 June to 3 August. For more information and exhibition dates visit [Travel West](#)



MetroWest+ News

Issue One | June 2015

Re-opening the Portishead Branch Line: Have your say

Proposals to re-open the Portishead branch line as part of the MetroWest phase 1 rail project have reached a major milestone, as statutory consultation on the proposals begins.

The consultation will run for six weeks, from 22 June to 3 August. Feedback will be used to inform detailed scheme design for the Portishead branch line planning application.

The re-opening of the Portishead branch line includes proposals for a new railway station at Quays Avenue in Portishead, the re-opening of Pill railway station, the provision of new footbridges across the line, and other works including double tracking through Pill.

The planning application will be submitted in spring 2016 through the Development Consent Order process, with the aim of completing construction in early 2019 and starting train services in spring 2019.

A series of public exhibitions are being held, where people can view the plans and ask questions about the proposals:

- **Thursday 2 July, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Engine Shed, Station Approach,
Temple Meads, Bristol, BS1 6QH
- **Monday 6 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High
Street, Portishead, BS20 6AH
- **Wednesday 8 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High
Street, Portishead, BS20 6AH
- **Friday 10 July 2pm to 7.30pm**
Community Centre, Pill, BS20 0AE



Above: Portishead Railway Station visualisation

Welcome to the first MetroWest newsletter

Until now, all MetroWest and MetroBus news has been included in a single newsletter, to which you are a subscriber. With so much happening on both of the projects, it's now the perfect time to launch a separate MetroWest newsletter for our subscribers.

If you'd rather not receive MetroWest updates in future you can unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this newsletter. You will still receive MetroBus updates as usual.

The MetroWest Programme

Following the exhibitions, the plans will then go on display for a week:

- **Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July 9am to 5pm** 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6HT

Later this year there will be another opportunity for people to comment on updated designs before the planning application is submitted in 2016.

You can comment by going to an exhibition or online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest where you will find the consultation leaflet and a link through to the questionnaire.

Paper copies of the leaflet will be available at Portishead Library, Pill Library, Weston-Super-Mare Town Hall, Long Ashton Library, Bedminster Library, Marksbury Road Library and Bristol Central Library.



Above: Pill Railway Station visualisation

The West of England Councils are working together on proposals that will deliver over £100m of investment in our local rail network over the next five to ten years.

The proposals, called MetroWest, are a series of large and small projects that aim to introduce fast and frequent metro rail services across the local area, by making better use of existing passenger and freight lines and reopening viable disused lines.

The MetroWest programme will complement investment being made by Network Rail and extend the benefits of projects such as the electrification of the Great Western main line. Our proposals are supported by the rail industry and we are working closely with First Great Western, freight train operators, the Department for Transport and Network Rail.

MetroWest is being delivered in a phased approach through MetroWest Phase 1, MetroWest Phase 2 and specific new station projects. More information can be found online at www.travelwest.info/metrowest



Twitter



Website



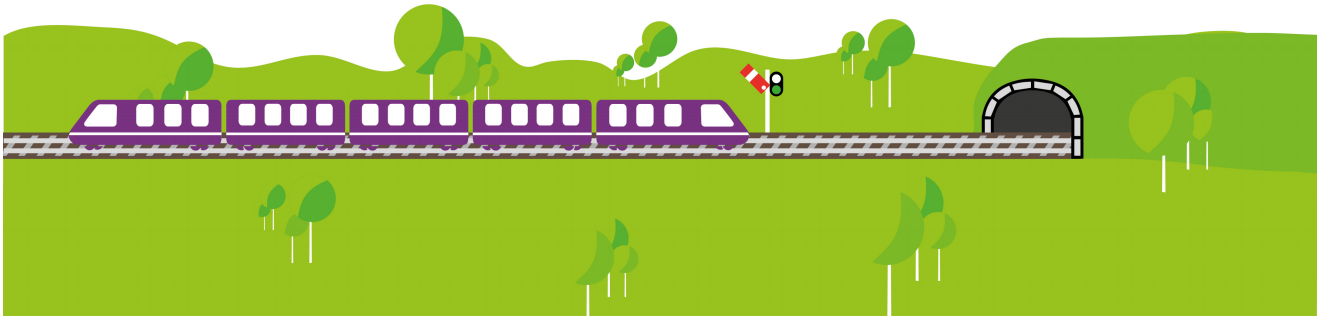
Email us



Department
for Transport

travelwest+

Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
councils working together to improve your local transport

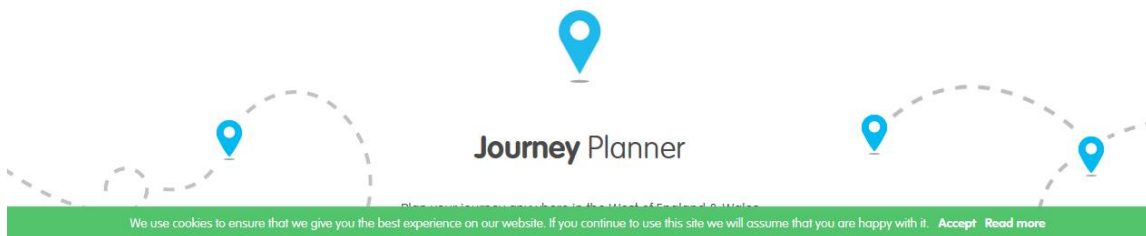
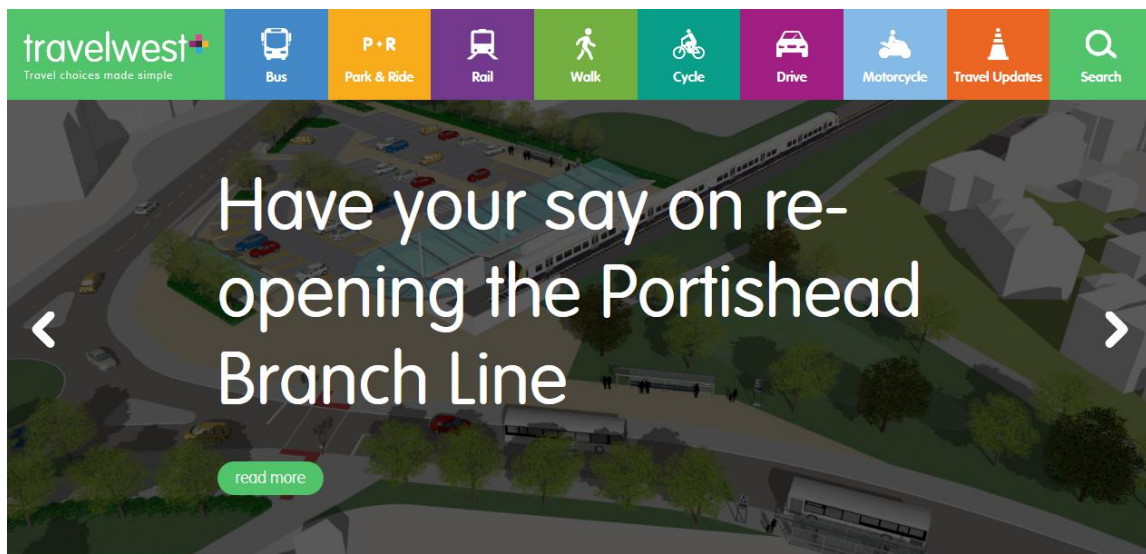


Copyright © 2015 MetroBus West of England, All rights reserved.

[subscribe to this newsletter](#) | [unsubscribe](#) | [update your subscription preferences](#)


MailChimp

Front page of Travelwest website at www.travelwest.info




Consultation page at www.travelwest.info/metrowest

- MetroBus Build
- Bath Transportation Package
- Cycle City Ambition Grant
- Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund
- Local sustainable transport fund
- Major transport schemes
- Better Bus Area
- Local pinch point fund
- JLTP – Joint Local Transport Plan
- Merchant's Dock Consultation
- MetroWest**




A phased approach to new railway lines and new services in the West of England







Consultation on re-opening the Portishead branch line

Consultation starts Monday 22 June. Click the link below to go to our consultation webpage, view the proposals and submit your comments.



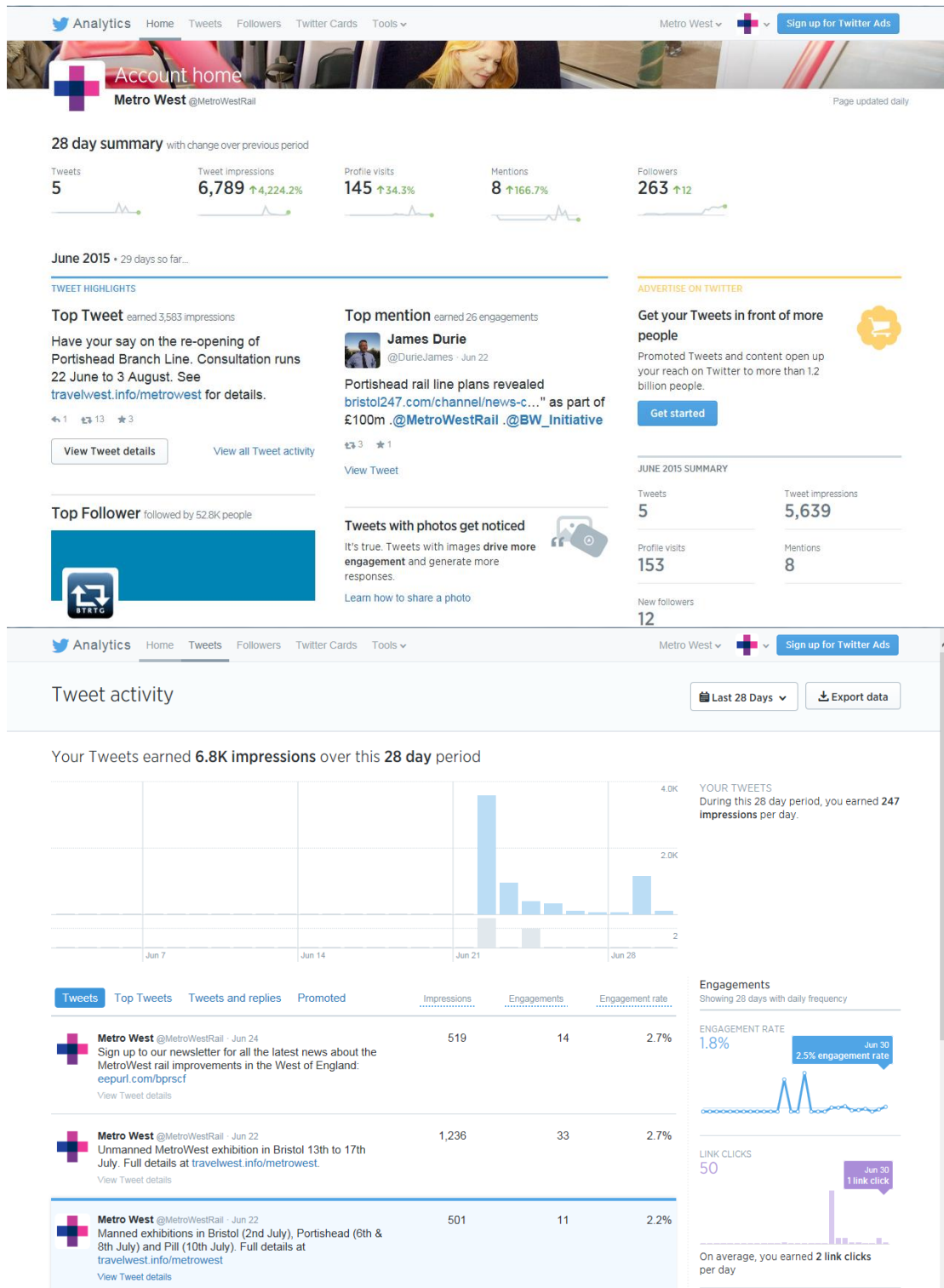
Consultation webpage

Social Media Updates

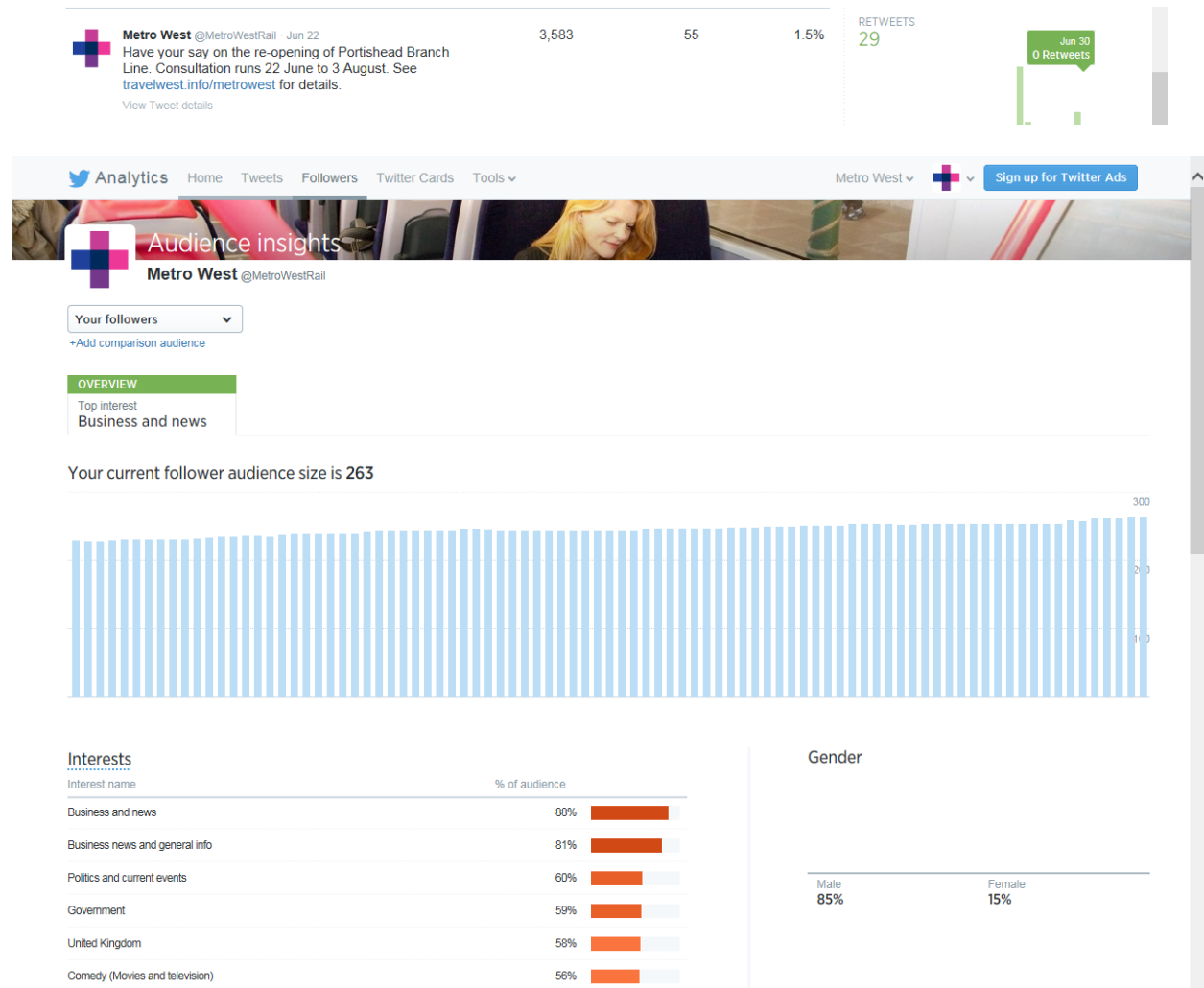
-  Metro West 10 Jul 09:58 @MetroWestRail
Don't forget - you can view our consultation plans, and submit your comments, online at <http://t.co/AeOyqv5yc> until 3 August.
-  Metro West 10 Jul 09:54 @MetroWestRail
Come see us at our consultation exhibition in Pill today, 10 July. We're at the Community Centre, Church Place, Pill from 2pm to 7.30pm.
-  Metro West 07 Jul 09:01 @MetroWestRail
Our final manned consultation exhibition is this Friday (10 July) at the Community Centre, Church Place, Pill, BS20 0AE, 2pm to 7.30pm.
-  Metro West 07 Jul 08:58 @MetroWestRail
MetroWest consultation exhibition tomorrow (8 July) at Somerset Hall, The Precinct, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6AH, from 2.00pm to 7.30pm.

Twitter report for MetroWest Phase 1 Portishead Branch Line consultation launch June 2015

Three Tweets were sent out on the morning of 22 June 2015 alerting people to the Portishead Branch Line consultation. One Tweet was sent out on 24 June asking people to sign up for the MetroWest newsletter. The results of those Tweets are summarised below.



Twitter report for MetroWest Phase 1 Portishead Branch Line consultation launch June 2015



Twitter report for MetroWest Phase 1
Portishead Branch Line consultation launch
June 2015

Government resources	52%	<div><div></div></div>
Business and finance	51%	<div><div></div></div>
Tech news	49%	<div><div></div></div>
Politics	44%	<div><div></div></div>

Country

Country name	% of audience	
United Kingdom	94%	<div><div></div></div>
Spain	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Canada	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
India	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
France	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Denmark	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Lebanon	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Germany	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Poland	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>
Qatar	< 1%	<div><div></div></div>

Region

State or region	% of audience	
England, GB	90%	<div><div></div></div>
South West England, GB	59%	<div><div></div></div>
Greater London, GB	13%	<div><div></div></div>
Wales, GB	3%	<div><div></div></div>

North Somerset Council has already purchased the three mile section of redundant track between Portishead and Portbury to protect it from being developed and clearance work on the line has already been carried out.

Passenger services from Portishead to Bristol were cut in 1964, although the line to Portbury Dock reopened in 2002 for freight trains only.

A study in 2010 showed that travel time from Portishead would be 17 minutes compared to an hour by road during peak times.

Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Bristol's Assistant Mayor with responsibility for Transport said: "By pooling our resources and working together we've been able to make the reopening of the Portishead line for passengers a reality.

"This is a really exciting project for the Greater Bristol area that will make a huge difference for people wanting to use the existing and new train services, with benefits for rail freight too."

Exhibitions will be held on July 2 from 2pm-7.30pm at Engine Shed, Temple Meads and on July 6 at the same time at the Somerset Hall, Portishead,

Further exhibitions will be held on July 8 at Somerset Hall from 2pm-7.30pm, on July 10 at the Community Centre, Pill from 2pm-7.30pm.

The plans will also be on display at the Engine Shed, Temple Meads from July 13-17 from 9am to 5pm.

People can also look and comment on the plans at www.travelwest.info/metrowest. Leaflets detailing the plans are also available at Portishead Library, Pill Library, Bedminster Library and at Portishead Town Council at the Folk Hall.

PANEL

The Project involves the re-opening 5km of disused railway between Portishead and Pill; and upgrade works to the current Portbury freight line between Parson Street Junction and Portbury Dock Junction. The infrastructure requirements to deliver the Project include:

Rebuilding the disused Portishead to Pill line (5km)

New station at Portishead including car park, pedestrian and cycle link to the town centre and highway alterations to Quays Avenue/Harbour Road/Phoenix Way

Possible provision of a fully accessible pedestrian bridge near Trinity Primary School

Retain existing National Cycle Network routes between Pill and Portishead through minor realignment or diversion if necessary

Double track works through Pill (including widening of the Avon Road bridge underpass) and from Bower Ashton to Ashton Gate

Reopening of former station at Pill and new fully accessible pedestrian bridge and car park

Improvements to highway access to Pill tunnel and other locations

New signalling for the branch line from Parson Street junction to Portishead, including a new intermediate signal in Avon Gorge

Enhancement of Parson Street junction

Closure of historic and permissive crossings and where appropriate provision of alternative access arrangements locations

Environmental mitigation measures

Partial reinstatement of down relief line at Bedminster

Additional signal near Avonmouth station

Bathampton turn-back (track crossover and signalling to allow trains to turn around at Bath off the main line).



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

5.1 – Consultation Report and Appendices

Appendix F3: Publicity postcard distribution map


Planning Act 2008: Sections 37(3)

Author: North Somerset District Council

Date: November 2019

MetroWest Phase 1 - Red Line Boundary and Consultation Area Plan

 Red Line Boundary

 Consultation Area

 Railway Station