

Weston Package Phase 1
Major Scheme Business Case

Appendix 4.5

Public Consultation

Autumn 2008



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
Council

South Gloucestershire
Council



South West RDA

Results of Weston Package public consultation September 2008

A public consultation exercise took place during September 2008 when the opportunity to comment on the proposals was available via the council's website. This was advertised in the council's publication that is delivered to nearly all households in the district. Local businesses were also contacted via the email distribution lists maintained by the local North Somerset Enterprise Agency reaching members of all the local chambers.

The response rate was quite low with 10 participants for the online consultation and 18 emailed comments. This was felt to be due partly to the long timeframe for delivery but perhaps mainly due to the fact the scheme is not generally controversial. The feedback did contain some negative comments about topics outside the scope of this scheme but there were no objections to any of the specific elements in the package. With 67% offering support for the scheme, the comments which are summarised below offered a mix of supportive suggestions that were fed into the design process, along with wider suggestions for further work.

Emailed responses:

- There were some general comments in support but there were no specific objections to the elements of the package
- A more direct bus service to the Hospital was suggested, perhaps from Worle Station.
- More secure cycle parking is needed.
- Stop cars parking on the on-street cycle lanes
- Suggestion for a park and cycle scheme
- 3 Queries why other schemes such as Banwell Bypass are not included in the package.
- Two queries as to why WP1 not dealing with outbound traffic congestion for those commuting to work elsewhere.
- *"We would very much support the initiative, especially the works to alleviate the rush-hour congestion at the motorway junction 21, which also afflicts junction 19 (although I appreciate that's a different story!). Good luck with your bid."*
- Two suggestions of building another motorway junction to cope with increasing demand.

- Two suggestion to add extra lanes with flyovers and underpasses at J21.
- Support for improvements to traffic congestion near the town centre.
- Some general complaints about housing development coming forward without increasing road capacity.

Questionnaire responses:

Q1 – Do you support WP1?

- 67% supported the WP1 proposals

Q2– most liked aspects

- Junction 21 improvements
- Cycle & pedestrian improvements
- Park and ride
- Improvements to Worle Parkway
- Improvements to bus services
- The Cross Airfield Link [CAL]

Q3 – least liked aspects

- Concern about links/accessibility across Gateway (Marchfields Way)
- Concern about 9,000 new houses in Weston and the effect on M5 traffic

Q4 – Anything we haven't thought about

- Pier square should be pedestrianised
- J21 scheme should include safe route for cyclists
- Need cycle route along Winterstoke Road (south) from McDonalds to Walnut Tree past Commercial areas.
- Need cycle route across the airfield
- Suggest outbound improvements not just inbound
- Suggest complete cycle link to Clevedon across river

Q5 & Q6 – What next, after WP1 and, priorities for transport

- More trains at Worle and undercover waiting facilities
- Banwell Bypass
- Further improvements to J21
- More park & rides
- More cycles routes
- Cycle improvements
- Divert all traffic away from Big Lamp Corner
- Railway line to Clevedon
- Biodiversity consideration/enhancement during the build

Q7 – Contribution of WP1 toward local businesses

- J21 improvements should help
- This will make no difference, there are no well paid jobs in Weston so people will continue to out-commute if they are to afford houses.

Q8/9 – use of J21

- All respondents used J21 at least once per week and there was an even spread in terms of frequency between 1 and 10+ times per week.
- 56% of respondents use J21 to travel out of WsM in the morning and returning in the evening