

Chairman's Announcements

events will be organised for the region's councillors, which MPs will also be invited to attend. Further details will follow.

Talking about the consultation, Paul Matthews, Managing Director for First in West of England, says: "We need to better understand how people use our buses, how frequently they travel and for what purpose. We would also like to know what type of tickets they're buying at present and how they rate them in terms of value for money. All this data will then help us, and our transport consultants, determine the way forward. This is a mammoth task but it is an important one to enable us to provide the bus services that local people want."

Brian Allinson, Chair of the West of England Joint Transport Executive Committee, commented: "This is excellent news, buses play a vital role moving people around the area, and we need to make them as affordable as possible – the councils will be working with First to spread the word and encourage people to take part in this consultation. It is really important that as many people as possible take part in the consultation so we can be sure that people from more rural areas as well as villages, towns and edge of the city have their say."

The online questionnaire will be found at www.firstgroup.com/fairerfaresforall from 1 February and the consultation will run from then until 16 March 2014.

More information about the consultation can be found at www.fairerfaresforall.co.uk (this website includes details of the process, the location of roadshow events, links to the online survey and a list of frequently asked questions. Email queries regarding the consultation process can be sent to: fairerfaresforall@firstgroup.com.

For more information about First West of England, contact Karen Baxter, PR Manager, First on 0117 373 6470. Email: Karen.baxter@firstgroup.com