

Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee 19 December 2023 – Public Questions

Name of person submitting	Question
David Redgewell	<p>Question 1</p> <p>What progress is being made with City, Town and Parish Councils on bus shelters transfer of maintenance and cleaning across Somerset Unity Council bus and coach station cleaning could be subcontracted by not. Ownership of the county bus coach stations and interchanges. And the city Parish and Town Councils. Supporting bus and community transport services.</p> <p>Question 2</p> <p>What is the proposal to reduce the cost of running the county bus coach and railway network in the proposed this year 2024 ,2025 budget, Somerset Council budget.</p> <p>Question 3</p> <p>Why is English Heritage now delaying the Re opening and modernisation of Taunton bus and coach station, Now the Transport hub the cost of opening the station should be met by access charges from First Group plc bus services National Express coaches limited, Flixbus coaches Berry's coaches.</p> <p>Income from Catering services has this issue been discussed with Taunton Town Council.</p> <p>Can you Explain the delay and in the local Plan the site is allocated as bus and coach station and need limited planning permission.</p> <p>Can we see a King QC planning advice on this and please publish.</p> <p>What consultation has taken place with passenger's groups Transport focus about the delay or First Group plc, National Express coaches Berry's coaches Flixbus go South west and other bus operators about the Delays,</p> <p>And there a strong risk of the Department for Transport withdrawing the funding with a change of government.</p> <p>David Redgewell South West transport Network. Railfuture Severnside.</p>

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Response	<p>Question 1: The work to consider a future operating model for bus shelter maintenance and cleaning has not started yet, and we are continuing with the arrangements put in place by the former district councils in the meantime. This is also an area of activity that is being considered within conversations with localities about devolution of services. The Council has a wide range of competing duties and responsibilities that the transport team are discharging, and this transformational activity will take place during the coming year when there is appropriate capacity to do so.</p> <p>Question 2: There is no specific proposal at the moment to reduce the cost of running the county bus network. The council is not responsible for running the rail or coach network.</p> <p>For <u>school</u> transport, we are undertaking a range of activity to seek to deliver cost efficiencies, including reviewing how services are tendered, through an initial pilot that we are developing.</p> <p>For <u>public</u> transport, we will continue our ongoing review of supported public transport services to take account of any commercial changes that may take place in the coming year; reviewing how successful our ‘Bus It’ campaign has been in driving demand for services; reviewing availability of transport options to our local communities; and considering available resources to meet the range of competing duties and responsibilities that we have.</p> <p>Question 3: There is no particular issue delaying the re-opening of Taunton Bus station as a mobility hub. The project is progressing well through due processes and it is unfortunately taking longer than we originally anticipated when we bid for the funds, given the complexity of the project. English Heritage are supportive of the scheme and are working with us to progress it. We have ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and operators regarding income generation opportunities and whether access charges will apply. We do not consider there to be any risk to funding, and are regularly updating the DfT on progress and any changes to predicted delivery timescales.</p> <p>Response from: Lead Member: Cllr Mike Rigby</p>

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Roger Foxwell	<p>Roger Foxwell was on the Cutcombe Parish Council and on the Exmoor LCN which was a Highways Pilot Scheme. He queried the process to be followed for the Local Transport Plan consultation and whether the Local Community Networks would be involved.</p> <p>The Highways Pilot Scheme in Exmoor had learnt a lot and could be a good consultee to include in the process.</p> <p>Response from: Lead Member: Cllr Ros Wyke</p> <p>Cllr Wyke thanked Mr Foxwell for attending and would look to include LCNs in the consultation process.</p>
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