

Scrutiny Corporate and Resources 2nd February 2024 – Public Questions

Annexe A – Public Questions	
Name	Question
<p>David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.</p>	<p>Question 1 In view of the Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper MP and the Department for Transport instructions to all local Transport Authorities in England to resubmit their bus services improvement plan by the 12th June 2024, including looking at the supported bus network of services subsidised by Somerset Council including slinky demand responsive bus services, including the bus service improvement plan support bus services Stagecoach South West, First Group plc South and Wales and West buses, Go Ahead group South West, Libra Travel, Frome bus, South West coaches, Hatch Green buses and coaches, Favesaver buses and other operators; 58 A Yeovil bus and coach station to Yeovil pen mill station Sherborne Town Sherborne Railway station Templecombe Wincanton bus and coach station, operating through Dorset Council Transport Authority area, 54 Taunton Town centre, Langport, Somerton Ilchester and Yeovil bus and coach station, Services 25 Taunton Town centre Taunton Railway station, To Wiveliscombe and Dulverton via Bampton Devon, Service 28 Taunton Town centre Taunton Railway station, Bishop Lydeard Railway Station, Watchet Railway Station, Minehead Town Centre, Bank Street Minehead Railway station and Butlins, operated by First Group plc South buses Division, under bus service plus grant which the Department for Transport funding is carrying over till 2026 Service 1 Shepton Mallet interchange, Evercreech, Castle Cary railway station Castle Cary Town, Yeovil bus and coach station, operated by South west coaches. Is this work being undertaken by the council as part of the budget proposals for public transport services?</p>
	<p>Question 2 In view of Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper instruction in the bus service improvement plan submission document about the importance of community safety partnership and Safe interchange facilities, what work is going on with Mark Shelford Police and Crime commissioner and chief constable Sarah Crew about the safety on county bus and coach stations in Somerset unitary council area and Town and city centres; Wells bus and coach station, Bridgwater bus and coach station, Wincanton bus and coach station, Yeovil bus and coach station, Shepton Mallet interchange, Chard interchange, Frome Cork Street coach station and Town centres, Minehead Town Centre, Wellington Town centre and bus railway interchanges at Taunton, Bridgwater, Highbridge and Burnham on sea, Yeovil Pen Mill , Yeovil Junction, Frome, Castle Cary Railway station, Bruton station, Templecombe station, ... in terms of improvement to facilities for passengers with reduced mobility, improvement at bus stops and shelters Interchanges, public toilets and changing places at Bus and coach stations and interchanges and information points, giving details of driver shortages engineers supervisors and cleaners to Department for Works and Pensions, work with passenger groups and community railway partnership such as South Wessex and Severnside Community Railway Partnership, including bus priority measures and new interchanges?</p>
	<p>Question 3 What evaluation is being by Somerset Council as Transport Authority with the West of England Traffic commissioner Kevin Rooney to see that First Group plc Wales and West buses Division from Bath Spa bus and coach station, Wells Bus Depot, and Weston Super Mare bus depot, on bus services failing to operate especially on services 77 Wells bus and coach station to Glastonbury, Street Glastonbury Somerton Ilchester and Yeovil bus and coach station, First Group plc South buses Service from Yeovil Depot, Taunton and Minehead and the loss mileage on local bus services due to a shortage of maintain buses by First Group plc In Somerset, and contract payment by Somerset Council withheld to the operator?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Lead officer verbal response to be given at the meeting. Full written response to be distributed within 5 working days of the meeting</p>