

CABINET – 30 March 2022
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Questioner's name: Adrian Oldman	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>Agenda Item 10: Bus Back Better - Gloucestershire's Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>GCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which sets out its future vision for bus services across the County, has been submitted to the Department for Transport in the hope that it will receive a slice of the £1.4bn Bus Back Better funding. Early recipients of this funding have already been announced in the Government's Levelling up the United Kingdom White Paper.</p> <p>When does GCC expect to hear back on the outcome of its funding bid for this pot?</p>	<p>A funding announcement by the Department for Transport is expected imminently.</p>
2. Questioner's name: Adrian Oldman	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>Agenda Item 10: Bus Back Better - Gloucestershire's Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>At the Council's budget setting meeting, Cllr Hawthorne said he was expecting the County to receive between £30-40m - is this still likely to be the case?</p>	<p>We will not know what level of funding will be available until the Department for Transport confirms this. However, since we submitted our BSIP bid the government has explained that councils will receive a considerably lesser sum for BSIPs than the initial headline total of £3bn.</p>
3. Questioner's name: Adrian Oldman	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>Agenda Item 10: Bus Back Better - Gloucestershire's Enhanced Partnership</p>	<p>Our funding ask exceeded £30m to enable bus services to recover from the impact of Covid and to increase bus use by 10% above</p>

<p>How much money does GCC need to deliver on its BSIP?</p>	<p>pre-Covid levels by 2025 to support Gloucestershire’s sustainable growth objectives.</p> <p>This is in addition to the £10m per annum funding that the council already invests in public transport and concessionary fares and £2.6m additional capital investment in bus infrastructure in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy agreed by Council in February.</p>
<p>4. Questioner’s name: Adrian Oldman</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Philip Robinson</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Bus Back Better - Gloucestershire's Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>What plans does the Council have to finance the BSIP if it fails to receive any DfT funding?</p>	<p>It is unlikely that we will receive no DfT funding and whatever the outcome we will continue to explore opportunities to attract investment into public transport to support our levelling up and sustainable growth ambitions.</p> <p>In our base budget we will continue to invest over £10m per annum in public transport and concessionary fares. We are also making £2.6m new capital investment in bus infrastructure, in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy agreed by Council in February.</p>
<p>5. Questioner’s name: Adrian Oldman</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Philip Robinson</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Bus Back Better - Gloucestershire's Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>The BSIP states: "We firmly believe that a high functioning bus service can deliver sustainable transport choices for all residents, ensuring equity of access to education, employment and training,</p>	<p>Gloucestershire is not alone in seeing disruption caused to bus services due to the impact of Covid on staffing and bus passenger levels. To support local communities the council continues to fully fund the subsidised bus service network at the same level as before the pandemic to support bus service continuity. We are</p>

and ... a de-facto choice for all transport requirements in the county". Given the daily cancellation of huge numbers of Stagecoach buses that were put on to a reduced service in January 2022 in order to 'improve reliability' what urgent steps are being taken to bring our bus service back to even pre-pandemic levels?

also providing all bus operators with concessionary fare reimbursement far above what is required. This is in addition to the on-going DfT funding Bus Recovery Grant.

With specific regards to Stagecoach, we understand a range of factors led to recent cancellations of trips due to driver shortages. Whilst these issues are not completely resolved there has been a marked improvement in recent weeks and we are in regular contact with Stagecoach's senior management to monitor and support their efforts.