

Written Answers for Executive Director Report Member Questions not answered in the meeting

Cllr Chloe Turner

Question:

'Unresolved' DMMOs are now sitting at 210, up from 180 in 2022 (and 2021), despite new staff resources having been in place a little while now. The activity within the year to date suggests that little progress is being made (1 resolution, 0 routes added to the Definitive Map by other means). Given that Defra have recently indicated that they plan to proceed with a new cut-off date of 2031 for registering historic rights of way (of which these DMMOs are only a fraction), what is the plan for accelerating progress?

Response:

Additional one-off revenue for 1.5 FTE was secured in the 22/23 budget for two years and staff appointed in summer 2022. With no pool of skilled workers from which to recruit we have to train new starters from scratch, which takes time. However in the past year we have determined more applications and are working on a larger programme of DMMO applications; progress is not always visible as the lengthy statutory process and opportunities for objections mean that it can take a long time to reach a conclusion. Cabinet members and CLT are aware of the challenges and longer term capacity to tackle this backlog is dependent on Council agreeing to prioritise further funding in its budget next year.

Cllr Paul McCloskey

Question:

Stagecoach terminating contracts in Cirencester: What impact will this have on students' ability to get to and from the Agricultural University?

Response:

There are no planned changes or withdrawal to any bus service in the Cirencester area in May. Discussions with Stagecoach about the long-term strategy for bus services in the area are on-going.