

Questions to Cabinet

Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on **11 April 2024**

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Scott Smith	Respondent: County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick
	<p>Item 5 - Procurement Report</p> <p>To ask the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to elaborate on the Procurement Report's proposal relating to Real Time Passenger Information, with particular reference to its expected impact on bus users in East Lancashire.</p>	<p>Under this procurement, the most immediate visible benefit to the bus user will be new electronic displays at bus stops to let people know when buses are due to arrive.</p> <p>Part of Lancashire's Levelling Up Fund proposal for East Lancashire includes the provision Real Time Passenger Information across 80 bus stops to improve the experience of catching the bus and entice new bus users.</p> <p>To make an obvious comparison, people who use trains always expect to see information of when the next train is due to arrive. The aim of this system is to work towards that same level of service for bus users.</p> <p>Officers have developed the specification of the system after learning from the market and best practice in other areas of the country.</p> <p>This technology dovetails with two other enhancements we're delivering to improve the experience of the bus user.</p>



		<p>Real time information on the whereabouts of buses on the network allows the technology to improve journey time reliability by moving buses through travel signal junctions more efficiently. Engineers call it Intelligent Bus Priority.</p> <p>Alongside these improvements that fall under this procurement, we're also improving the same bus stops, and others, to make sure the accessibility for those with mobility impairment and those say using prams are better catered for. This may include raising kerbs for instance, possibly at up to 200 bus stops in our current funded plans.</p>
2.	Questioner: County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite	Respondent: County Councillor Michael Green
	<p>Item 6 - Household Support Fund</p> <p>How is this Council using the Household Support Fund to support people in Hyndburn through the cost of living situation?</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council has previously received Household Support Funding from the Department for Work and Pensions, allocated to target groups according to varying criteria.</p> <p>Household Support Fund 5 (April – September 2024)</p> <p>Allocation to Lancashire County Council: £9,678,235</p> <p>The guidance continues to give authorities the flexibility to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility.</p>



		<p>Authorities should ensure that they consider the needs of various households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.</p> <p>The Cabinet report sets out the overall amount and principles of allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, taking into account a wide range of information. • Use the funding to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. Authorities can also use the funding to support households which are struggling to afford wider essentials including housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need. • Work together with district councils and third parties including, where necessary and appropriate, other local services. This may include social workers, housing and family support services and local charities. <p>The guidance has identified the following appropriate types of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and water, as well as essentials linked to energy and water • Food
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