

Cabinet Member response to the recommendations of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on the Bus Service Improvement Plan

General comments

I welcome the recommendations from the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on this important matter.

I have considered each of the recommendations agreed by the committee on 12 September 2024 and my responses are as follows:

Recommendation 1

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to consider giving more priority and funding to improving bus service provision in rural areas and provision in the Rossendale district.

Cabinet Member Response

Its not possible to provide a bus service for every rural community, due to limits on funding. However, we will endeavour deliver sustainable rural service enhancements, including options for the Rossendale area, following confirmation of the future long term funding position for bus services from central government.

Recommendation 2

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to consider strengthening consultation with County Councillors on the bus service consultation process.

Cabinet Member Response

Where there are to be significant changes to local bus services we will consult on the proposed changes. In doing so we will ensure that all relevant councillors, and other stakeholders, are made aware of the consultation and have adequate chance to respond. Consultation will also be undertaken on the allocation of any future Bus Service Improvement Plan funding from central government.

Recommendation 3

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to consider reviewing and expanding the distribution list for the Enhanced Partnership Forum and to include County Councillors.

Cabinet Member Response

An invite to future Enhanced Partnership Forum meetings will be posted on C-First. The Forum stakeholder list will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.