

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

3 November 2020

From Andrew Nicolson

To Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste

Item 5 – Public Participation

Question 1

As Wiltshire Council is a member of the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body, a formal partnership to produce a Strategic Transport Plan, and its Draft Strategic Transport Plan 2020-2025, says members are “committed to... providing a single voice to Government on strategic transport investment and prioritisation.” and refers to a single plan, "Our plan", which is to be "approved by its members",

(i) Does this mean that the plan is a single unit, with its priorities, objectives, strategies and schemes in the Plan collectively approved and supported by the Body's board members jointly and severally, in a similar way to decisions of Wiltshire Council's Cabinet, and not a collection of separately decided more local priorities, schemes etc.?

(ii) Which of the Sub-national Transport Body's members have, and which of them have not, given their unqualified support to these schemes in Wiltshire - all for spending on roads: A350-M4 Junction 17 Improvement, A350 Chippenham Bypass Improvements, A338 Southern Salisbury Improvements and the A350 Melksham Bypass scheme?

Response

Questions relating to decisions taken by the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body (STB) should be referred to their board for response.

Question 2

The STB says it will be "Taking responsibility with Transport and Highway authorities, alongside transport operators for the decarbonisation of the strategic transport network", and in an earlier answer to Mr & Mrs Fish's question, you claimed that A350 improvements will contribute the Government's decarbonisation targets, and gave details, effectively saying that building fast new major roads will lead to modal shift towards Active Travel (cycling and walking) and that improving north-south road travel and transport connectivity will reduce the demand for travel by bringing about "agglomeration" in towns along the A350, so

(i) Can you please define "agglomeration" as used in that context and indicate the source of this notion?

(ii) Can you please explain the contradiction between your earlier claim, and the fact that on page 74 of the Draft Plan, (in Table 9 "Future schemes and associate objectives for the Missing Link Strategic Corridor V2 – Midlands to South Coast"), the boxes showing whether "Short term - A350 capacity improvements" meet the Environmental objectives of "Decarbonisation" and "Adoption of fossil fuel-free transport" are not ticked but left blank?

Response

Questions relating to decisions taken by the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body (STB) should be referred to their board for response.