

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**14 July 2020**

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**Question from Colin Gale – Pewsey Community Area Partnership about the Cabinet and Portfolio Holder Restructure**

**Agenda Items 5 – Public Participation**

**To Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications; and Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

**Statement**

The revised cabinet member and portfolio structure as announced at the last cabinet meeting has now come into effect. PCAP fully appreciate the need for Wiltshire Council to make financial savings where possible, however, it is noted that the previous portfolio holder for Transport has been axed and the portfolio responsibility has not been reassigned.

Transport should be a high profile role if the council are serious about reducing the volume of traffic from the county highways and encouraging people onto public transport. It is also essential that the council provides a high level of representation in ensuring that the counties future rail needs are fully recognised by the Department for Transport, GWR and Network Rail. Only this week it has been announced that Devizes has been awarded funding to generate a business case for a new station.

Pewsey Vale Rail User Group, Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group and Transwilts representatives regularly attend various rail forums to promote and highlight community rail needs. At the annual GWR and Network Rail Stakeholders Conference other counties attend in force with their counties Cabinet Members, Mayors (Mayor of Bristol & West of England) etc while Wiltshire at best is represented by its portfolio holder and single officer.

**Question:**

It is recognised that the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Waste already has a high level of responsibilities, will the Cabinet Member now also pick-up all of the roles and responsibilities of the portfolio holder and represent the county at all of the transport forums and ensure Wiltshire is fully represented? Please advise how Wiltshire Council will ensure the future of Transport in the county is fully addressed?

**Response:**

As cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste, I confirm that all matters relating to transport are under my responsibility as they were previously. Officers and I ensure that the Council is represented at the relevant forums if available and depending on its relevance to our transport plans. The future of transport in the county is addressed through developing a Local Transport Plan (LTP) and its related strategies. We are planning to refresh our LTP in parallel and in support of the emerging Local Plan 2016-2036.