

Wiltshire Council

Calne Area Board

6 December 2016

Question from Mr John Boaler

I should like to ask Calne's County Councillors, about the Impact of £500k cut to local bus service provision.

I concerned about several aspects of this:

1. Lack of information from WCC
2. The evening 55A service connecting Calne with Chippenham & Swindon is currently subsidised; and I should like reassurance that this will not be cut. It is the town's link with Rail services – and running at only 1 hourly intervals already discourages many potential users.
3. Will the daytime 33 service to Devizes, via Bromham be affected?
4. Cuts to bus services inevitably lead to more car journeys – yet the AQMP aims to reduce road traffic.
5. It is often the less well-off who depend on bus services. We must not forget that many bus users *depend* on good services for getting to and from work, including evening jobs; visiting friends and family; leisure opportunities etc.

This question has been referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene, Councillor Phillip Whitehead, for a response.

Response

Wiltshire Council are working on the detailed proposals for the forthcoming service changes and therefore it is not appropriate to comment on any specific services at this stage. A communications message for all changes will be produced and distributed prior to any action and some of these changes will require a further, service specific consultation. The value that public transport has to the Wiltshire populace for employment, and access to essential services has been recognized by the decision of Cabinet to enable 97% of all journeys to be achievable by limiting the reduction in public transport budget.