

CABINET – 15 FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p data-bbox="219 416 739 448">1. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</p> <p data-bbox="219 603 1048 932">With learning from the Cowley LTN experience of (lack of) consultation by the previous administration, Cllr O'Connor and I have worked hard on recommendation from Performance Scrutiny to Cabinet on the Consultation & Engagement Strategy. Please could you let us know what Cabinet plans to do with this recommendation and how the substance of the recommendation will be put into practice for the development of the Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy / Connecting Oxford policy?</p>	<p data-bbox="1093 416 1944 555">COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p data-bbox="1093 603 1964 783">The consultation and engagement strategy has been updated to incorporate the recommendations from Performance Scrutiny at their meeting of 17 January. Wider responses to some of the detail within the recommendations will be provided to scrutiny officers to share with Scrutiny members.</p> <p data-bbox="1093 826 1964 1118">A number of communications and engagement strategies have already been developed, and will continue to be developed, to support individual travel and transport schemes. They follow the principles of communications, consultation and engagement best practice and are tailored to the specific project or scheme in question. This includes the Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy / Connecting Oxford programme.</p> <p data-bbox="1093 1161 1964 1342">This is a useful opportunity for us to begin honing our plans for LTCP stage 2 and the area strategies, which we hope will involve local members at their heart, and ongoing working groups, based on the current traffic advisory structures and city/county coordination group.</p>

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<p>2. COUNCILLOR BRAD BAINES</p> <p>Currently the necessary capital funding for the infrastructure elements of Connecting Oxford is accounted for as a £3 million element of the Bus Service Improvement Plan bid to the Department for Transport. Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether there is contingency available so the requisite funds could be made available as scheduled even if the BSIP bid falls through or funds are otherwise delayed beyond 2022/23? Similarly, would it be possible within the recently approved 2022/23 budget and MTFS for Connecting Oxford to be accelerated ahead of current timetables for delivery in 2022 or early 2023?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CALUM MILLER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Connecting Oxford is a priority for this administration. We made a strong bid to Government for an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan and hope it will be supported. However, if our bid is not successful, the £3m it contained for traffic filters and other infrastructure will be made available from reserves.</p> <p>The scheme is being progressed at pace. The timeline includes important periods for public consultation and engagement. As a result, the key elements of the scheme will not be able to be delivered in advance of Spring 2023.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR BRAD BAINES</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether Phase 1b School Street schemes, such as the St Ebbe's scheme in my Division, will be eligible for replacement ANPR enforcement before the end of the current school year, subject to the granting of Part 6 powers, and if so when is the Council aiming to install these?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Thank you for your continued interest and questions on this topic. You are a credit to your local residents, always fighting hard in their best interest. I am very aware of the effort and dedication volunteers have put into the School Streets schemes, not just in your Division but across the county. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. I know with any voluntary process it is possible to face burn out and fatigue. I know that some of the schemes are facing difficult choices and concerns about their long-term sustainability. For this reason I am also keen to progress ANPR cameras to compliment the school streets project as a priority. But we are dealing with Government here and in every area there has been delay, postponement and ambiguity. We were told that these powers were going to be devolved in March and now that is likely to be May - if our bid</p>

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	is successful. So any commitment I make here today would be a foolish hostage to fortune. All I can say is that it is a priority.