

CABINET – 19 DECEMBER 2017

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Councillor Phillips to Councillor Constance

'The Oxford Transport Strategy LTP4 proposes on Page 23 'a crossing of the A40 east of Headington roundabout (linking Barton and Risinghurst)'. This commitment recognises the danger for pedestrians having to dodge traffic to cross 2 dual carriageways of the A40 at the bottom of Collinwood Road. There is a primary school in Barton, a post office and a pub in Risinghurst and thriving faith groups in both communities. Good reasons for why people cross this road. Can you let me know when the commitment to install this crossing will be fulfilled?'

Answer

This scheme remains an aspiration but is currently unfunded. We will seek to secure funding from future planning applications in the area, or other sources if appropriate. Whilst it is recognised that this scheme would fulfil an important local function, it would not deliver wider strategic benefits or help to deliver significant economic or housing growth, which unfortunately limits our ability to secure funding for the scheme, since most of our funding for transport schemes currently comes from competitive growth-related government funds.

2. Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

'The viability and longevity of the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board (OSSPB) will depend on the financial model that can be ensured for the future. The Board initially secured funding through the generous support of the OCC and Schools Forum.' How much funding was provided by Oxfordshire County Council for 2017-18 and will that funding continue into 2018-19?

Answer

"The SSPB received £250,610 on the 16th of March 2016 under the proviso of a one off sum. As the board is not a legal entity the money was actually transferred to the Vale Academy Trust under a funding agreement. Our understanding is that the SSPB has sufficient funding remaining to extend the agreement for up to 2 more years.

OCC will continue to provide a clerk for both the SSPB board and its operational boards through core funding.

There is no plan to provide the SSPB with any further funding from the council's core budget. Additional monies for strategic school improvement must be applied for by bidding for the strategic school improvement fund held by central government.

SSPB will need to identify suitable legal entity organisations to bid for money for strategic school improvement on their behalf"