

CABINET – 22 JANUARY 2018

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

With the introduction of the new 16-18 railcard, announced by the Secretary of State for Transport, how much would a monthly pass to travel to college in Oxford be for a 17 year old, either by train from Radley Station to Oxford Station using the new railcard or by bus from anywhere in central Abingdon to central Oxford?

Answer

I researched the question below to find that the new railcard announced by Secretary of State isn't effective until September and the benefits of it are not going to be announced until August 2019. With this in mind, I can't make the calculations that are requested by Cllr Howson as no train websites are set up for this as of yet.

However, I have made the calculations using what is existing currently. A Railcard for 16-25 year old costs £30 annually. Using this Radley to Oxford would be £6.50 return daily. Having a monthly card would be £69.20.

Bus travel from Abingdon to Oxford with a key card aged 18 and under would cost £42.75 monthly.

2. Questions from Councillor Bob Johnston

Further to the motion on East to West Rail passed at the last Full Council meeting could the Cabinet Member for Transport explain how she intends to monitor the progress of the project and in particular can she tell us when she meets with those responsible for the project, at what time intervals and who does she meet with?

Answer

Cllr Constance as Cabinet Member for the Environment is our Council's nominated representative on the East West Rail Consortium Board, which oversees the progress of the project on behalf of all the partner authorities. The Department for Transport, Network Rail and the East West Rail Company are all represented on this forum. The Board meets quarterly, with the next meeting in March, John Disley also attends as the Oxfordshire Lead Officer.

3. Questions from Councillor Bob Johnston

In the absence of a firm route for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, can she explain how the Council will manage the transition from LTP4 to LTP5 given the range of possible knock on effects of the Expressway?

Answer

We do not yet have a confirmed project plan and timescale for LTP Update, but it clearly needs to reflect the latest position on the Expressway and other strategic work programmes, including for example East West Rail, our Housing Infrastructure Fund Bids and the Oxfordshire 2050, the county's Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.