

These notes indicate the decision(s) taken by the named Cabinet Member on the date shown and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the report(s) to the Cabinet Member available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

The decision(s) take effect at the time and date specified, unless before that time written notice is given in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules requiring the decision to be called in for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

If you have a query please contact Graham Warrington (Tel: 07393 001211; E-Mail: graham.warrington@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSPORT) - THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2020**

<i>List published 13 March 2020 This decision is exempt from call in and so becomes effective immediately</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Declarations of Interest	None declared.	-
<p>2. Questions from County Councillors</p> <p><i>Councillor Howson</i></p> <p>"Why were county councillors not asked for their views on possible routes to be included in the supported bus services bid when some district councillors were circulated about the fund?"</p>	<p><i>Cabinet Member for Environment</i></p> <p>"Thank you for your question and please allow me to clarify. As you know, the timescales for responding to this fund were exceedingly tight as such we were limited in the opportunities available to us for consultation. We have had only a few weeks to respond so officers have been working very hard to gather input and clarify our position with key stakeholders.</p> <p>I sent a message to all Town and Parish Councils on the 4th March advising them of the Government's announcement and of our Statement of Intent. Districts were not contacted directly by us. The Parish Transport Representatives, Bus Users Oxford and Oxfordshire MPs were all contacted.</p> <p>I am pleased that the Government is</p>	-

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<i>List published 13 March 2020 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 March 2020</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
	<p>choosing to put money into public transport services and the high level of interest shown has assisted us in developing this submission as a Statement of Intent to be eligible for Government funding. It will allow us to make some real improvements to the county's public transport network, but we will have to carefully target the money to get the most out of it. For this reason we have set out our intention to distribute the money so that its benefit will be felt across the county, particularly more rural services.</p> <p>And while the funding is welcome, it should be noted that it represents a small proportion of the resources previously available to the council for bus services. We await the publication of the National Bus Strategy later this year which hopefully will contain details of how the Government's proposed investment in buses will manifest itself for local authorities. We are hopeful that the strategy will include an element of longer-term supported bus funding which will enable us to maintain and develop the network in the future.</p> <p>I sincerely hope that the spending of this Supported Bus Services Fund on much needed supported bus services across Oxfordshire will help to encourage more travel by bus, thereby reducing traffic and congestion. Fewer vehicles on the road would reduce traffic emissions, contributing to better air quality and reducing the impact on climate change."</p>	

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<p><i>Councillor Howson</i></p> <p>“Thank you for that. I appreciate that the timescales involved were tight but wondered why unparished areas of the City were not included in this consultation as there are parts of my division and I expect elsewhere in the City where residents are some distance from a bus route.”</p>	<p><i>Cabinet Member for Environment</i></p> <p>As I have said the timescales involved were limiting but I am satisfied that officers were able to meet the requirements for consultation under the Supported Bus Services Fund. In addition to consulting with Oxfordshire MPs a previously scheduled meeting of Parish Transport Representatives on 25 February in addition to a separate consultation with the Oxfordshire based Bus Users Group had enabled proportionate engagement with the public. As far as I’m aware the unparished areas of the city were represented on the Bus Users Group and so would have been part of that consultation.</p>	
3. Petitions and Public Address	County Councillor John Howson	-
<p>4. Supported Bus Services Fund</p> <p><i>Forward Plan Ref: 2020/045 Contact: Dave Harrison, Senior Public Transport Planner Tel: 07901 331751</i></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the Statement of Intent for the spending of Oxfordshire’s allocation of the Supported Bus Services fund, for submission to the Department for Transport on 13 March 2020.</p> <p>Exemption from Call-in Under Standing Orders (Section 6.2,</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>	DPP(JF/ DH)

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<p>paragraph 19 (a) to (c) the Chairman of the Council has agreed that a decision on the proposed Supported Bus Services Fund, which would normally be subject to call-in, should be exempt from that process. That allows the County Council to meet a Statement of Intent deadline of 13 March, which if the usual scrutiny process were invoked could not be met and, therefore, would prejudice both the Council's and public interest.</p>		

