



Cabinet – 19th April 2016

**Comments from the Liberal Democrat Group on the
Environment and Transport Interim Commissioning Strategy**

This is a very technical report that sets a high level strategy and it is not immediately obvious how this would play out in practice.

As an example, let's look at the first Departmental Outcome listed in this strategy:

“Our transport system and assets are effectively managed and well maintained.”

Who would argue against our systems and assets being well managed and maintained? Most people I know would agree with this, until they are made aware of what this means in practice.

In the action plan on page 117 the small print reveals that part of this “Outcome” involves generating income through a “Countywide Parking strategy” – this presumably means introducing parking charges to generate Council income.

While we support the general principle of managing our systems and assets well, we strongly disagree with this particular policy, and think that most residents will as well. Many residents have no option other than to park on the road outside of their home, and I'm concerned that this could become a compulsory living charge for such people.

So while I found the aims and theory in this report generally agreeable, the difficulty in translating how this works in practice makes these high level strategic reports difficult to scrutinise.

If we are going to make large cuts to public services, we owe it to Leicestershire residents to at least be upfront over what is being lost.

David Bill

Liberal Democrat Environment and Transport Spokesperson