

Submission to Cabinet – 10 February 2023**Comments in relation to Items 4 and 6****Proposed Reduction in funding for Public Bus services and specifically the 747 Service – Leicester to Uppingham.**

I am writing to request Cabinet not to implement a further reduction in the budget for supporting local bus services. It was reported to the Scrutiny Commission that an additional £1 million is now available and this could and should be used to offset some of the savings in the MTFS.

Since the Passenger Transport Policy was introduced a number of supported bus services have already been reviewed under the Policy and retained. It would be inherently unfair to put those routes through another review with all the uncertainty this will cause passengers who depend on the service.

I am also concerned about the intention to restrict County Council support to “Lifeline services.” Whilst this needs to be explained and defined, I am not clear if this will include getting to work, food shopping, hospital and doctors’ appointments and school children and students who use public bus services to get to school / college. I would urge Cabinet to ensure all these journeys are included in the definition of “Lifeline Services.” At a basic minimum level, the Policy also needs to ensure that all major routes into the City and County Towns have a public bus service which connects the villages and communities along these routes. DRT is not and never will be a substitute for a basic network of Public Bus Services covering the whole County.

The only remaining supported Bus Service in my Division is the 747. The Service is jointly funded by Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council. The 747 has already been through separate reviews by both Councils and was found to meet their respective policies for a subsidy. The funding arrangement represents good value to the Council and the Council taxpayer. This route provides an essential transport link for communities along the A47 between Thurnby and Uppingham and I would urge Cabinet to protect this and other vital bus services by not subjecting them to another review.

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Launde Division

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