

Dear Winchester Democracy team,

I would like to ask this question at the Council meeting on Wednesday.

Thanks and Regards

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Councillors,

At the Cabinet meeting on Monday 19th August I highlighted several issues with the July Transport Assessment. These include the fact that there was no acknowledgement of the significant loss of public transport in the Southern Parishes in the last 7 years, for example 53 weekday bus departures from Bishop's Waltham in 2017 is now down to 35 and will fall further. There was no assessment of that impact of that loss. And thirdly, the Assessment is out of date and inaccurate, with a diagram that shows the X9 bus, which stopped 2 years ago.

Although Hampshire is responsible for transport, that does not absolve Winchester City Council of the responsibility to assess the transport provision appropriately to support its plan, as required by the NPPF, specifically to quote 'align growth and infrastructure'.

These issues mean that the Transport Assessment is flawed and will not stand examination. I understand your timing for the proposed plan submission but this Assessment is a risk to that submission. Please, I'd encourage you to reduce that risk. It cannot wait until the start of a future local plan.

So can I ask the Council: 'will you commit to improve the Transport Assessment, in parallel with the submission process, to assess the actual public transport required by people in the District for sustainable development, and to identify gaps that need to be addressed?'

Thank you

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