

**Full Council
16 February 2021
Questions submitted for the Public Participation Period**

Question 1 - submitted by David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

What Budget is set aside for social support buses services in Dorset separate from the Department for transport Covid 19 bus operators grant and concessionary fare grant?

This funding is important to maintain vital buses service across the county for essential journeys for key workers and access to Food shopping, chemist, banks post office banks health care and very importantly to The Bus minister and the Department for transport Covid 19 vaccinations centres as per recent guidance to Dorset council and Bus companies. From Stephen Fiddler Director of buses and taxis at the Department for transport

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Dorset Council is continuing to provide funding for the supported public bus routes, in order to enable key workers to get to work and for people to access essential services. A number of these services are duplicated for the school run when a dedicated school bus is provided for students, to allow correct social distancing for members of the public. These additional vehicles are funded by the Department for Education. Commercially operated routes in Dorset are running at around 80-90% of the full timetable, in order to provide a public transport service for essential travel. Service levels are regularly reviewed with the bus operators to ensure they meet demand. Public Health Dorset (PHD) and the Clinical Commissioning Group are working together to identify transport solutions for those people who are unable to get to vaccination centres by driving themselves or using public transport. PHD will apply to the COVID-19 Contain Outbreak Management Fund for the required amount of funding, once the level of demand for the service is established.

Question 2 – submitted by David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside

What capital budget is set as railway improvements programmes for Bus rail interchange work at Weymouth town station and Dorchester south station, bus stop real time information and bus stop shelter maintenance?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

The Weymouth Station Gateway project is being led by the Dorset Coast Forum, in partnership with Dorset Council, Public Health Dorset, Weymouth Town Council, Weymouth BID and South Western Railway. The project's aim is to make a number of improvements to the forecourt and the walkway to

make it a more welcoming and user-friendly place for visitors and residents. These improvements include improving the sustainable transport infrastructure including bus links, cycle ways and pedestrian access. The budget is £596,000 and Dorset Council's current contribution to the project is £100,000 from the Local Transport Plan funding. The scheme is still in the design phase and full costings of the preferred design is underway. The project team are investigating other public transport links that could sit alongside the project and we are working closely with the local bus companies to do this. The capital budget for bus stop improvements is an annual sum of £25,000 from the Local Transport Plan. In addition, when appropriate, Dorset Council will collect contributions for bus stop infrastructure from new developments through Section 106 or CIL. The current budget for maintenance/ operation of Real Time Information is £112,100 and for maintenance/ cleaning of bus shelters is £9,000.