



COUNCIL MEETING – 6 November 2024

Questions by the Public under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question (or may simply state to “refer to the order paper”). The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will direct the questioner to the microphone when their name is called by the Mayor.
- If a questioner who has submitted a question is unable to be present, the Mayor may ask the question on their behalf, or invite another Councillor to do so, or indicate that a written reply will be given and published on the website following the meeting. or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.
- Please note that following the response given by the Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting and all members of the public who have asked a question will be notified accordingly.

	From:
1	Patrick Davies



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QUESTION

From: Patrick Davies

To: Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management (Cllr Tod); Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“Why has the “Station Approach update” process continued without any reference to the Council decision in its Local Plan regulation 19 document to move the City centre bus station to the railway station?”

Reply

Thank you very much indeed for your question.

And I'd like to start with an apology. It's undoubtedly the case that some sections of the Reg 19 draft local plan could confuse people who don't spend their lives immersed in planning policy, and want to know the council's policy on buses.

In particular, there is a report of the Winchester Design Workshop consultation event on page 85, section 5.55, outlining opportunities in the Broadway area, that outlines an opportunity to “move the bus station to the rail station area and develop the [bus station] site with city centre uses”.

This seems quite black and white, but it is not a statement of council policy. It's a report of what some people said at a workshop in November 2021. It's not reflected in Strategic Policy D2 that immediately follows on page 92 – which makes clear that any transport improvements should be those “identified in the Winchester Movement Strategy, Winchester Walking Strategy and City of Winchester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and other relevant transport documents that have been prepared and consulted on with the involved local community.”

It's not in Central Winchester Regeneration Policy W7, which still requires the Central Winchester redevelopment to provide for buses and coaches. Or in Policy W8 which outlines priorities for Station Approach.

It's also not a practical policy. Until we have succeeded in even more reductions in city centre traffic and resulting congestion, this is not a change we could make and still be able to maintain a reliable bus service. It's not an idea that Hampshire County Council supports. Or that the bus companies support. Or that this council supports.

So the reason that the Station Approach area doesn't reference such a decision is because it's not a council decision. And the Station Approach work will be continuing accordingly.