

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MARCH 2020

**Question to Helen Fisher
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

By Kyle Robinson

Question

Staffordshire County Council may receive a large amount of Government funding in the near future to reinstate bus services in Staffordshire that were previously cut due to austerity. How can elected members have more of an input to decide where this new funding will be prioritised and spent in their divisions to help improve public transport?

Reply

The county council are required to submit a statement of intent to Department for Transport in order to release the funds (£583,372 for Staffordshire). As the amount is a one-off payment and we are conscious that the funds should be used both fairly and in a way that maximises the likelihood of the services that are funded continuing beyond the period of funding, we propose that the funds are spent over 2 years and in the main are spent on reinstating Sunday services across the county. This recommendation takes account of feedback from the detailed consultation undertaken during the review of local service 2 years ago.

As required by DfT, all MPs and bus operators have been consulted on our recommended approach, and feedback and support to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

As the deadlines were extremely tight, it was not possible to consult all members. However, in light of the recent developments concerning the pandemic, some timescales may change.