

FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015

Written question from Mr Stuart George to Councillor Shirley Smart, Executive Member for Economy and Tourism

In view of councillors' lack of knowledge of the effects of the cuts in subsidy for transport why did the Council prioritise the withdrawal of **all** its financial support to bus services and bus users as a preference to other non-statutory functions?

Response

The decision was made at Full Council meeting on 25 February 2015, following the outcomes of the Budget Engagement 2015/16 consultation (22 October to 17 December 2014), where it was identified that the continuation of the Council's financial support for subsidised and community bus services was not deemed a high priority by Island residents.

Anticipated supplementary

Is it now time to reverse the cuts?

Response

Unfortunately the savings identified and agreed to at Full Council meeting on the 25 February 2015 must still be pursued. As the Isle of Wight Council continues to face a very significant financial challenge with a projected revenue budget gap of £14.5m in 2015/16 and a further £8.5m in 2016/17 a total of £23m on an ongoing basis. However officers are still in discussions with parish councils, local transport operators and voluntary organisations with an aim to reduce the full impact of the cuts announced by Southern Vectis.