

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING CAR PARKING) TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017

Introduction

Since being appointed to the Executive I have been gathering information that is relevant to the areas of my portfolio. I wish to plan for the future and not make decisions without careful consideration and balanced advice.

Car parking

I have studied the recently published Parking Strategy report and compared aspects of the recommendations with the council's own 2015-2016 car parking report which contains details of income from car parks, their detailed capacities plus the various permits and their conditions of use.

I have much sympathy with the residents of our town centres and the many difficulties they face daily trying to find suitable places to park their vehicles, so I will be looking of ways that we can help them in the future without jeopardising the council's income.

There appears to be a growing demand for residential parking zones so officers are developing a clearer policy that can be easily understood. I do accept that schemes should take into account local conditions and a standard scheme will probably be difficult to apply island wide.

Island transport

I have met with the management teams of Southern Vectis and the ferry operators for basic introductions. Further meetings are scheduled with all of them for more detailed discussions in the near future.

I recently chaired a meeting between Southern Vectis, council officers and representatives from the town and parish councils whose areas will be affected by Southern Vectis's decision to not increase the frequency of services provided on the number 6 route during the summer season. Southern Vectis states that the level of ridership does not justify a more frequent service and a significant percentage of the passengers are destined for Ventnor and would be better served by the number 3.

The meeting concluded with Southern Vectis agreeing to add an additional journey each day and altering the scheduled timing of some buses to help connectivity. However, options are still open to explore the provision of a more frequent service.

Councillor Ian Ward BEM
Executive Member for Transport and Infrastructure (including car parking)