

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING CAR PARKING) TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 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 received a thorough briefing from officers regarding parking provision and current practice. I know councillors often get lobbied to provide the first hour or 30 minutes parking free of charge in local car parks to assist the high-street footfall. When looking at income figures it is very obvious that generally most of a car park's income is generated in the first two hours.

There has been some loss of income because of unserviceable parking meters so steps are being taken to replace the most unreliable machines. In addition, the procedures currently in place to ensure that parking meters are serviceable and available for customers is being reviewed to increase that availability.

Island transport

Buses - Reviews are underway on how the Isle of Wight Council supports general bus services and school transport, with the intention of providing possible improvements in service and reductions in cost. There is always scope for improvement and it is a positive situation when all parties are prepared to discuss such issues. The leader and myself are due to meet the management of Go South Coast, Southern Vectis's parent company later this month.

Ferry - I was due to meet with the chief executive officer of Red Funnel on 14 March and hear about Red Funnel's plans for the future. I am also due to meet the chief executive officer of Wightlink later this month.

Solent Transport – I will be meeting with my fellow Executive members from the other Solent authorities, who have a responsibility for transport matters, later this month.

Cowes floating bridge – Our new floating bridge is due to come into service soon but the controlling factor at present is the completion for the new slipways. The slipway preparation in turn is controlled by the height of the tides during the preparation period. The target date for the floating bridge to open for service is 6 May, however, if work is completed ahead of schedule it may open earlier.

Councillor Ian Ward BEM

Executive Member for Transport and Infrastructure (including Car Parking)