

24th November 2017

Conservatives unveil efficiency savings on Metrobus extension

On Friday 24th November, South Gloucestershire Council Conservatives published their papers for the upcoming 4th December Cabinet meeting – including papers for a change of policy on the Cribbs Patchway Metrobus Extension (CPME).

As the main Metrobus programme has overspent, with South Gloucestershire Council liable to find £10m at present, it is imperative that the CPME project stays within budget.

Currently there are delays in planned railway maintenance, and as the extensive works required to widen the road and cycle/way under the railway bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane need a lengthy track closure, these can only be done over either the Easter or Christmas holidays. Any delays will cost upwards of six-figures, which would require the Council to make savings elsewhere to meet.

With that in mind, the Cabinet will be presented with two recommended ways forward to continue the project. The first option the Cabinet will consider proposes to continue with the project as planned, but to shoulder the additional financial risk that has arisen. The second option will be to cancel the proposed southbound bus lane on Hatchet Road in Stoke Gifford, with any savings made from doing this to be held in reserve to meet any potential overspend on the wider CPME project.

Speaking of the decision, Council Leader Cllr Matthew Riddle said:

“As Conservatives we are always looking to take the most financially responsible route. There is now greater financial risk on the CPME project, and now is a good time to take stock and decide what the best way to keep the CPME on budget will be. I’m not prepared to allow this project to overspend and the Cabinet will be carefully considering both these options on December 4th. ”

Local councillors for Stoke Gifford Cllrs Brian Allinson, Ernie Brown, and Keith Cranney said: “We have long campaigned to see the cancellation of this bus lane and we would like to see it not go ahead.”