

**MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 10
November 2016**

*Response to be made by Councillor Philip Bialyk Portfolio Holder Sport and Health and Well
Being*

Questions from Councillor Prowse and precis of response below.

Question 1

Until a few days ago I was of the belief that funding for alternative arrangements in connection with the operation of the bus services; for the interim period during the Bus Station closure and re-build was to be funded by the applicant. At what point did the Portfolio Holder know that this funding was to be undertaken by this Council? To clarify, I assume that the funding relates to all enabling works involving advertising of Traffic Regulation Orders (including revocations), street furniture alterations and associated works.

Response

Exeter City Council is the applicant for the New Build Bus Station. The process for funding the New Build Bus Station and Interim Arrangements was subject to Exeter City Council formal governance and Members' involvement. The request was approved at full Council.

The funding being provided by Exeter City Council is in relation to all enabling works for the operation of the temporary arrangements including all necessary highways permissions (such as for Traffic Regulations Orders etc.), the physical highways works, bus shelters, relocating street furniture, relocating & reusing the two electronic information stands in the existing bus station, marketing and communications

Question 2

Details of the above question appear as an agenda item at the forthcoming Devon County Council's Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee meeting on 14 November and I note that the figure mentioned to achieve these works is £80,000. Does the Portfolio Holder believe that this figure is correct?

Response

This figure is for the highways alterations being considered at Exeter's HATOC. The figure has been developed following a detailed measure of the highways works scope/ quantity, with the application of contractor rates from the DCC Minor Works Framework. This resulted in a value of £58,235.82. In addition to this, a contingency of £21,764.18 has been added to arrive at the forecast cost of £80,000. This contingency is for unexpected surprises when paving slabs are lifted or if encounter utilities at a level higher than expected.

Question 3

How did Devon County Council acquire this figure?

Response

This is the forecast value contained within the draft Works Order to be issued to the preferred contractor on the DCC framework.

Question 4

Does this figure include the costs of provision of temporary bus shelters and associated markings at the locations to be agreed?

Response

No.

As discussed with Cllr Prowse at Monday night's of the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board, the total budget for all the various elements associated with providing the temporary arrangements is £400,000, which has been included in the budget of £6.25 million previously allocated. This includes the highways alteration works, temporary bus shelters, relocation of information stands, professional fees, marketing and communications. The budget allows for an average cost of approximately £5,000 to relocate and then remove each bus shelter.

Question 5

How many shelters are being funded?

Response

It is expected that circa 16 to 18 stands will be relocated for use within the temporary arrangements (the exact number to be determined based on the ability to reuse insitu stands).

Question 6

On completion of the works can the Portfolio Holder confirm that the shelters will remain in the ownership of Exeter City Council and is it anticipated that this Council will gladly allocate them to areas in the City where shelters would be most welcome?

Response

The bus shelters are not the property of the Council but remain in the ownership of the providing company. Therefore the bus shelters will return to the owner after our use.