

Bath Transportation Package

Liberal Democrat motion to be moved by Councillor Caroline Roberts
Full Council meeting, 16th November 2010

Council welcomes the opportunity that the new Coalition Government is offering for a reconsideration of the currently proposed Bath Transportation Package.

Council welcomes the Secretary of State's assurance to Bath MP Don Foster that *"Where there are ideas about how a scheme might be differently presented and how costs might be taken out in order to make a scheme more attractive and thus significantly more likely to secure funding, the Department will be interested to hear about them in the course of the process"*.

Council considers that its objective should be to promote the economic development of the city through measures to relieve congestion and enable more effective and sustainable access to the city centre and the Bath Western Riverside site in particular.

Council believes that this would be best achieved following further local consultation on a basis which is genuinely open to new proposals, and listens to local views, rather than one which insists that the currently proposed Bath Transportation Package must be pursued on a "take it or leave it" basis.

Recognising the success of cross party working at national level, the Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to work together with the leadership of the Liberal Democrat and other political Groups, with full officer support, and taking full account of local opinion, to develop cross party proposals for resubmission to the Department for Transport, in consultation with neighbouring authorities where appropriate, as a matter of urgency.

The Cabinet, following discussions as referred to in the previous paragraph should consider whether and if so what changes need or can to be made to the scope and costs of the package, including the balance between government and local contributions and the inclusion or deletion of the higher cost elements of the package, in order to make the best case for funding to the government.