

Councillor Dine Romero – statement at the Special Cabinet meeting on 25th Jan 2017

Cabinet, you cannot be under any illusion as to the strength of feeling provoked by these proposals.

You have heard, time and again, that this park and ride plan is not wanted, that it won't work, and that it will damage the community and the environment.

You have heard from local people, from colleagues, from your own Group, and from experts.

I hope you have listened.

You have decided that now is the time to make a decision. This is your decision and your responsibility. The results cannot be blamed on officers, or the government, or the previous administration, or on sub regional policy processes.

Delegating the choice of two options to the strategic director of place is an attempt to distance yourselves from what is a truly bad decision and to deny accountability.

This is unfair to officers and to residents. Where is the transparency? How will residents find out what is going to happen – will they now need to wait for a press release or for a digger to turn up on their doorstep?

Neither site B nor site F is a good enough option.

You do not have to adopt the recommendations before you. If all the options are bad options then the work on alternatives must continue until a better solution is found.

Bath deserves better. And so does North East Somerset.

These current proposals would lead to a costly white elephant, if it ever even came to be built. You are going up against a community that is organised, resourceful and stubborn.

I do not believe this project is deliverable and in pursuing it, you continue to throw good money after bad. You will cost the council – the taxpayers – a huge sum of money. And for what?

Just to tick something off an ill-conceived manifesto?