

## **Statement to B&NES Cabinet by Robin Kerr – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

### **The Bath Alliance for Transport and Public Realm**

The Alliance is an association of 21 major employers, institutions, businesses, housing providers, residents, public transport providers, universities and other Bath stakeholders, who share a common goal of helping to resolve the city's transport problems. Alliance members are all signed up to our 'Manifesto', which we have just updated.

Last year we carried out an informal 'audit' of the Council's progress on transport and public realm issues against the Manifesto, and sent this to the Cabinet members responsible for transport. We support your transport strategy, the Journey to Net Zero, including the removal of non-essential traffic from the centre. We concluded that there had been modest progress in a number of areas. The main exception is on the 'design and delivery of a new movement system that excludes most traffic from the centre'. Unfortunately, this is central to the Alliance vision for Bath and probably the most important single element of the Manifesto.

The lack of a traffic movement plan has caused you difficulty with the Liveable Neighbourhood programme, including the abandonment of the Camden bus gate scheme, which would have cut off an important local distributor road and displaced traffic into the centre. Therefore we strongly urge you to publish proposals for a traffic movement plan as soon as possible, before embarking on any more LNs.

The other key transport issue on which progress has stalled is a park-and-ride, or similar, to the east of Bath. 'Link-and-ride' is an interesting concept but to judge from the recent feasibility study is not likely to be viable. Therefore we urge you to revisit the issue of an eastern P&R, in conjunction with Wiltshire, which is the source of much of the heavy traffic coming into Bath from the east. After all, unless there is an alternative for drivers from the east, they will simply continue into the maelstrom of traffic on Bath's London road, adding to the congestion and delay: what else can they do?

We recognise that transport issues are difficult and your control limited, for instance over bus services, which are in serious need of improvement. However, one lever which is entirely within your control is car parking, and we urge you to reduce meter parking in the centre, and so encourage the use of alternatives such as P&R, and bus and train services, and thus reduce car traffic.

We welcome the new Transport Action Map but as I am sure you recognise, it does not constitute a transport plan. We very much hope you will develop the JNZ into a fully-fledged transport plan and take it forward. Our wonderful city desperately needs solutions to its many transport problems. Never forget, Bath is a World Heritage Site, a place of 'outstanding universal value to the whole of humanity': let us make it truly worthy of that high objective.