

April 26th 2023

By e-mail only:

Mr Mark Russell
Senior Responsible Officer – Local Plan Review
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Ebley Wharf
Stroud
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GL5 4UB

Dear Mr. Russell,

**Comprehensive Summary of Bus Service and Infrastructure Measures in support of the Local Plan
Review 2040**

As you and your colleagues are aware, Stagecoach has endeavoured to provide the highest possible level of support and advice to assist you and the wider consultant team arrive at a soundly based Local Plan Review, over the duration of the genesis of the Plan to date. We share your strong commitment to the planned system, and equally strongly and explicitly have supported the key objectives and broad architecture of the spatial strategy, as we trust you also recognise.

Following the Examination in Public Session covering Main Matter 11b on Thursday 23rd March, the presiding Inspectors asked me to provide you and your consultant team with a comprehensive overview of the public transport measures relating to bus services, that we considered has been lacking in the plan and its evidence base so far.

I therefore attach for your own and wider consideration by the Examination, two documents in which I have endeavoured to provide a synopsis of the full range of the identifiable bus service measures that support the draft strategic allocations in the plan, aligning with and fleshing out the already identified sustainable movement corridors in the Sustainable Transport Strategy. These specific measures are identifiable and deliverable, along with estimates as to broad costs and delivery responsibilities. I am hoping that in so doing this will make it relatively simple for the Inspectors, your Council, the County Council as Local Transport and Highways Authority, to understand, and in due course to incorporate these measures in both the final plan and its Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

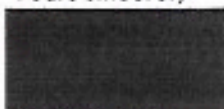
Where these measures relate to specific proposed allocations and the East of Whitminster Proposed Growth Point PGPI, they have been worked up in dialogue with each of the promoters, and agreed with their consultant teams. Thus the Inspectors, the District and the County Councils can benefit from a great deal of assurance that these measures are considered deliverable and affordable, having regard to the relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that bear on development viability, as well as on purely technical grounds. In fact, in both cost and technical terms, these measures ought in our view, to be considered more or less low risk.

I trust that in pulling this together, this important matter is now evidenced sufficiently well for you and the presiding Inspectors to progress the Plan towards a successful conclusion, and adoption in due course. I would expect that any further level of detail could readily wait to be addressed through the development management process in due course. While I trust this will not be necessary, please direct any future correspondence on this matter to James Heaney Regalado, Commercial Manager, at the address above.

I shall be remitting this letter and the accompanying material directly to the Programme Officer under separate cover.

I wish you and your consultant team the very best for the remainder of the Examination in Public.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Nick Small.

Nick Small

Head of Strategic Development and the Built Environment