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Dear Mr Taylor

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the X16 bus service.

For ease of reference, I have responded to each of the points in the order you have raised them.

How are the people who will be affected by the decisions in relation to the Council's draft budget being involved, and how is the Council ensuring a diverse range of people are being involved?

Following Newport City Council's consideration of a range of draft budget proposals, the Council's Cabinet agreed that eleven of these proposals required a period of public consultation. 343 responses were received to the consultation and as a result of feedback received, a number of proposals were removed from the budget programme.

The public consultation feedback on the withdrawal of the x16 service subsidy was that the majority of responses were in agreement with the proposal. All comments on the proposal were recorded during the consultation process, including those highlighted at a meeting with local residents. The proposal was also further considered by the Council's Scrutiny Committee and Newport Fairness Commission, which is a body independent to the Council.

Following the consultation period, the consultation responses were reported to the Council's Cabinet in February; this report included Marshfield Community Council's response, and statements received from the local community. A Fairness and Equalities Impact assessment was also produced, published and considered in the decision making process.

How will the approach that the Council is proposing improve the well-being of the people of Marshfield in the long term?

It is the Council's aim to provide effective and sustainable services to all communities. The existing service is ineffective and unsustainable in its current form. As part of this proposal, the Council is exploring alternative, sustainable delivery options that we envisage will better meet the needs of the community longer-term.

How will it affect what Marshfield looks and feels like in the year 2040 (25 years' time)?

Whilst this proposal reduces the provision of this service specifically, the Council is working with local residents and the Community Council to develop alternative forms of provision to mitigate any impact on the community both now or longer-term. It is also the aspiration of Welsh Government and Newport City Council to deliver improved connectivity to all communities by the implementation and promotion of the South East Wales Metro. Metro will bring benefits to passengers, link communities together creating a positive social, economic and environmental effect.

How will the approach that the Council is proposing prevent problems that the local community faces? For example, if a decision could provide opportunities for people to

access learning, it could help build peoples' skills and prevent underemployment; or if a decision could provide opportunities for elderly people to socialise, it could help prevent loneliness and isolation.

As previously stated, Newport City Council is actively working with Marshfield Community Council to develop alternative service provision that will meet the needs of the community.

How has the Council considered how their decision will impact on economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being – You cannot focus on one of these areas, at the expense of the others

A Fairness and Equalities Impact assessment has been produced, published and considered in the final decision making process, and the Council will continue to listen to and take account of the views of all communities in relation to social, economic , environmental and cultural needs.

Has the Council thought about how it could work in collaboration with other organisations in making this decision? Our report made suggestions about Newport Council thinking about how they could work with Cardiff Council, as Marshfield is equidistant between Newport and Cardiff

The Council benefits from collaborative working with a number of South East Wales authorities and the Council will continue to explore any collaborative benefits that can be gained, whilst discussions with all stakeholders are on-going.

Passenger consultation had not been completed and as such there was no context as to how passengers would be affected if the service was to cease.

The journeys, times, number of passengers and points of service access have been subject to recent surveys undertaken by the authority. This process has provided actual data on the usage of the service which has been used to support this proposal. Further dialogue with local communities is currently on-going to test the impact of the proposal and to inform the potential development of sustainable alternatives.

This proposal disproportionately affects the elderly, who would access this service with their free bus pass. The nearby rail links outlined would not offer a suitable alternative as they would have to pay for this service.

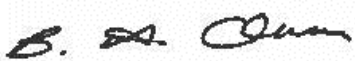
As stated, dialogue with the local community is currently on-going to inform the development of alternative solutions to the issues being raised.

That the Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment had been completed – Members wanted sight of this to understand the full impact of the proposal

The Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment has been published and is available on the Council's website.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate that Newport City Council is committed to delivering sustainable and effective services, but that such services do have to be delivered within resources available. We will continue our on-going dialogue with local residents and the Community Council to ensure all stakeholders are afforded an opportunity to input into alternative solutions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs B Owen
Strategic Director – Place