

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Charlotte Holloway

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Jonathan Drea

Question:

What transport options are available to vulnerable, elderly and other residents without access to their own transport following the recent axing of 5 Plymouth City Council subsidised bus routes, including the 31 Bus, which runs through Drake Ward?

Response:

For those of pensionable age or with disabilities, there is an option to become a member of Access Plymouth, which would provide access to their Dial a Ride and community car services. These are door to door services which need to be booked in advance. Below is the link to their website for more information. This is something Plymouth City Council and Plymouth Citybus both support and fund to help more vulnerable members of our communities who are unable to access conventional bus services. This is not a free service, but offers much better value than comparable standard taxi journeys.

<https://www.accessplymouth.co.uk>

I am also working with both local bus operators and community transport providers to seek alternative zero cost options to serve these areas of the city, and will continue this work as the wider bus network develops over time.

As a Council we are also looking to refresh our Bus Service Improvement Plan by summer 2023 to place us in the best possible position for future government funding allocations. If we are successful this will mean that we will be able to add more routes back into the bus network, although I appreciate this doesn't offer an immediate solution.

The Public Transport Team also continue to look for alternative funding methods for provision of non-commercial bus services such as Section 106 funding and other bidding opportunities that might arise.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Drea

Dated: 12/12/2022