



**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
Wednesday 11 March 2020**

**1. QUESTION FROM KEITH LEWIS (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)  
Re: Exeter Transport Strategy and Publication**

Devon County Council consulted on the proposed Exeter Transport Strategy in the spring of 2019 with an expectation that it would be published later that year. Subsequently it has been published in the Forward Plan, and in the version set before Cabinet in February it was down for submission to Cabinet on 8th April 2020. I have just reviewed the Forward Plan for the Cabinet meeting of 11 March and find that this item is now absent. Why is the Exeter Transport Strategy not being published and why has it been withdrawn from the Forward Plan?

This revised plan is urgently needed for Exeter to help alleviate congestion and to start the process of investing in infrastructure to generate alternatives to car use more attractive, and to support Exeter City Council's statutory duty to improve air quality which exceeds safe levels in several parts of the City.

Why is Devon County Council not making the reduction of car use into Exeter a high priority?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART**

The consultation in 2019 stimulated a considerable and varied response with over 1,000 responses. In addition, other local and national transportation related issues continue to occur such as changing in shopping patterns, edge of centre developments, rail (Marsh Barton station) and bus changes including patronage. In particular, the Council has announced a climate emergency, continuing concern regarding air quality and there is a new Government with emerging policies. We are also reflecting how this sits alongside the City Council's emerging Liveable Exeter proposals.

This has resulted in a considerable amount of work and we need to ensure that the supporting documents and emerging strategy will stand up to scrutiny. Whilst the strategy was well supported through the consultation, there is a need for officers and Members to be confident with the content rather than rush it through and be criticised for any potential gaps.