



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Richard Holden MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/433876
Your Ref: SD/RO/lp

Councillor Shaun Davies
Leader of Telford and Wrekin Council

Councillor Lee Carter
Cabinet Member for Place
(The Economy & Neighbourhood Services)

2 August 2023

Dear

Mr Davies & Mr Carter

Thank you for your further letter of 23 June, about funding for bus services in Telford and Wrekin.

As noted in my previous response, the Government recognises the vital role that local bus services play and that is why we are providing the largest government investment in bus services for a generation. We know, however, that the sector continues to face a number of challenges as it adapts to changing travel patterns following the pandemic, impacting the financial sustainability of some routes.

On 17 May we announced a further investment of £300 million over the next 2 years as part of a long-term approach to support and improve bus services, of which £160 million is being provided to local transport authorities. Telford and Wrekin Council has been allocated £650,938 in 23/24 under the Bus Service Improvement Plan plus (BSIP+) mechanism. With regard to your concerns about the size of this allocation, the funding has been allocated on a needs basis to provide support for services in the areas that need it most. 50% of the funding has been allocated on tendered mileage, weighted by metrics of deprivation and car ownership, and 50% on population.

The remaining £140 million will go directly to bus operators to help protect essential services across England. This funding will also help support longer routes, such as those in rural areas, where some services are less likely to be commercially sustainable without additional funding.

We do recognise that there will be some changes to service provision, however this funding will help to mitigate reductions to services, alongside additional measures taken locally such as the efforts you and your colleagues have taken in Telford and Wrekin.

As a condition of this additional funding, we are asking operators and local transport authorities to work together to help us gather data on the connectivity provided through modern bus networks and what we can do to support passengers' access to key services to enable decisions to be made on future bus funding beyond the next two years.

As noted in my previous reply, the Government believes that the currently available partnership and franchising models should help encourage local transport authorities to take a leading role in securing improvements to bus services in their area. We are clear that operators and local transport authorities will need to work together to develop sustainable networks over the long-term that best meet the needs of the people that rely on them to get around every day.

Thank you again for writing to the Department on this issue. I hope that this response has helped to set out further detail about Telford and Wrekin's BSIP+ allocation, and to make clear this Government's commitment to continuing to work with the sector to support bus services.

Best wishes,



RICHARD HOLDEN MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT