

CABINET – 14 OCTOBER 2026

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Tony Burton

A PERMANENT REPRIEVE FOR MEOLE BRACE PARK AND RIDE SERVICE?

Shropshire Council is to be congratulated on identifying funds that can enable a temporary reprieve of the Meole Brace Park and Ride service. But how can a permanent reprieve be secured?

It would be possible to continue all three services at a 20 minute frequency for the same cost as running Harlescott and Oxon alone at 12 minute frequency, because 6 buses would be needed in each case. If the Meole Brace service ceased, there are cogent reasons why existing users would not transfer to Oxon or Harlescott.

At the previous Cabinet Questions, the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Regeneration, reported that the monthly patronage of the three Park and Ride services had increased by 10%, from 34,500 to 38,000, following the increase in frequency from every 20 minutes to every 12 minutes instituted in June 2025. The latter figure may be expected to drop by 30% to 26,600 if the Meole Brace service ceases because, according to Council figures, the Meole Brace service attracted 30% of Park and Ride users in 2025. Clearly, the 26,600 figure is much less than the patronage of 34,500 for all three routes when the frequency was every 20 minutes.

In view of the above, does the Cabinet agree that, as a last resort, it would be better to revert to a 20 minute frequency on all three routes, rather than sacrificing the Meole Brace service?