

Cabinet – 15 January 2024

Questions from Councillors

1 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):

At the Full Council meeting on 21 September Councillor Dunne asked a follow up to his question on 20 July which mentioned his concerns about the concerns about the number 9 bus route being cut, which was and still does, mean that bus users are forced to cross a very dangerous road to get an alternate bus.

Can I ask if the council has had any success in writing to Arriva and Essex County Council to resolve this situation and what further action, if any, they are able to take to ensure bus users in Harlow get the service they deserve?

Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):

We are still working to put pressure on Arriva and Essex County Council and unfortunately, at present, there is no progress to report, except that I will ensure that the ward councillors are invited to the meeting I am organising with these parties on this matter. I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we restore the number 9 bus route.

Supplementary question from Councillor Vince:

When will the meeting be held?

Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):

The meeting will be held in January.

2 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor David Carter (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing):

How much money has been spent on external contractors to 'clear the backlog' of outstanding council house repairs acquired over the last 2 years?

Reply from Councillor David Carter (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing):

The total spend on external contractors to 'clear the backlog' of outstanding council house repairs acquired over the last 2 years was £1,825,208.05 up to the end of November 2023.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Vince:

What checks are there on external contractors?

Reply from Councillor David Carter (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing):

All works are post-inspected and are followed up with a phone call to ensure residents are happy with the works.