



Mohammad Asghar AM

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*Dear Mohammed,*

I refer to your question in Plenary last Wednesday and your Written Assembly Question tabled on 27 June in relation to the Devon Place Footbridge project and specifically the £4m grant funding for the scheme. I hope the information below answers your query.

Following an original grant offer to Newport Council in 2014 for a public and integrated transport package that incorporated a footbridge across Newport station, the Council requested a revision to the grant offer. This was due to their inability to progress the Devon Place footbridge and the requirement for additional funding for the completion of the new bus station and for development funding in respect of integrated and active travel. A revised grant of £4.125 million was issued and accepted in June 2015 and this funding was drawn down by the Council over the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16. The amount paid against invoices submitted was £4,039,880.

The improvements were part of the delivery programme for Metro Phase 1 and expenditure related to:

- Friars Walk Bus Station (improvements included canopy, Real Time Passenger Information at the bus station and LED Passenger Information screen at the railway station) - £3,800,000
- Bus Development Services - £84,104
- A review of active travel routes - £58,859
- Development of Rapid Transit Route across Newport (study) - £96,917

In addition to the above, we allocated £50k from the active travel budget in December 2017/18 to support the development of the new footbridge and specifically to complete the feasibility. Newport Council claimed £25k of the money allocated and we are anticipating another application for further funding to be submitted by Newport in July 2018 under the new Active Travel Fund.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Now we have appointed KeolisAmey as the Operator and Development Partner for the new franchise, I will ask my officials to discuss with Transport for Wales, Network Rail and the Council how the footbridge scheme at Devon Place can be taken forward. I will write to you again to report on the outcome of their discussions.

*Yours ever,  
Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport