



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION AND RESPONSE

25 September 2015

From Mr David Beaman (Farnham)

The Government has announced the provision of £5 million to fit buses with green technology:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-greener-bus-fund-announced-to-tackle-air-pollution>

On previous occasions when similar grants have been offered no bids have been submitted by Surrey County Council (SCC), I understand their view being that there were insufficient staff resources available to prepare such a bid that was likely to be successful, since all these grants are generally awarded to major urban areas. To quote the lottery saying "you have to be in it to win it": should not SCC at least try, especially given the known air quality problems in Farnham ?

Response

The Council is actively progressing the introduction of 'green bus technology'. The Travel & Transport and Sustainability Groups within the Environment Service are jointly working with bus operators in developing bids for funding to the Office of Low Emission Vehicles for fully electric buses to replace old diesel buses that are contributors to poor air quality in Surrey's urban areas. This is a £30 million funding programme and the bid focus is currently Guildford and Epsom, based upon willing partners and the need to meet the primary objectives set by the Department for Transport. However, these innovative bids, if funded, will allow tested but new technology to be incorporated into Surrey's bus fleet, providing valuable insight that can be used to inform wider adoption of the technology in the future.

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