

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT

ITEM 12(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS-DUBUS

“Great Western Railway is consulting on the future of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station with a predicted closure date of June 2024.

In recent years **this administration, working with the MP for Gloucester, has won** there ~~has been~~ a huge investment in the Railway Station, Transport Hub and the Forum area of the City. This has included:

- Gloucester Rail Station – £6 million investment from Gfirst LEP and **£1.3m from the Government.**
- Gloucester transport hub - £7.5 million investment from Gfirst LEP and the Government.
- The Forum - £85 million investment from the Reef Group and Gloucester City Council.

Gloucester Railway Station, alongside the Transport Hub and the Forum development are the gateway to our proud City for anyone arriving by public transport. The ticket office at the station is an integral part of that for both visitors and residents and is frequently busy providing customers with far more than just tickets. Losing the ticket office would be detrimental to the visitor and resident experience when accessing or leaving the City by train and therefore detrimental to the wider scheme of improvements in that part of the City.

Whilst acknowledging the limitations of the Council regarding the retention of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station, this Council pledges to do all within its power to reverse any decision that may lead to the ticket office’s closure.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, to express concern about the possible closure of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station.
 2. **Write to the Managing Director of GWR to support our MPs counter proposal from his letter of 26th July.**
 3. Write to Richard Graham MP for Gloucester **to express support for his counter proposal to keep a minimum of one fully staffed ticket window open** ~~to ask for their support to retain the ticket office~~ at Gloucester Train Station.
 4. **Continue to work with the MP for Gloucester, GWR and others on regeneration of Gloucester Station including looking at changes to lay out to reflect modern passenger usage.**
- ~~3. Write to Laurence Robertson MP for Tewkesbury to ask for their support to retain the ticket office at Gloucester Train Station.~~
- ~~4. Liaise with Great Western Railway regarding the importance of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station and it’s retention.”~~

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ITEM 12(3) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HILTON

“This council notes that only 12% of local government bodies received audit opinions on their finances in time to publish accounts for the 2021/22 financial year within the extended deadline (UK Parliament, Public Accounts Committee, June 2023). Gloucester was one of the authorities to not meet this deadline due to challenges faced following the cyber incident the administration has failed to meet the deadline to produce audited accounts for the 2021/22 financial year.

Council notes that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had extended the deadline for the publication of 2021/22 audited accounts to 30th November 2022. ~~This makes our accounts more than 9 months late.~~

This Council agrees with the view of Alison Ring, the director for Public Sector and Taxation at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales that “Delayed audit opinions lead to delayed accountability and issues being identified when it is too late, which is a real problem given the financial pressures facing local authorities.”

This council also notes that the deadline for publishing the 2022/23 accounts is fast approaching.

This council calls on the cabinet member for performance and resources to **work with the council’s finance team and the external auditors Deloitte to produce** ~~promise that~~ fully audited accounts for both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years **as soon as is practically possible** ~~are published at least 3 months before the 2024 city council elections.”~~