

I apologise for the formatting error in our earlier email, where the following section was numbered instead of presented as Q&A. It should have read as follows:

**Meeting with GCC Project Team & Cllr Julian Tooke**

We met with the Project Team, Cllr Julian Tooke and 2 GCC officers on 9<sup>th</sup> July at the Council offices in Gloucester. This was our first opportunity to meet the councillor with responsibility for Planning and Infrastructure i.e. the M5 J9 & A46 Transport Scheme is part of his remit. After providing a verbal overview of the history and status of the transport scheme and explaining our concerns about the route options that utilise the A435, Cllr Tooke was reticent to support our views. He didn't feel he had sufficient information, nor had he had time to digest the information we and the project team had provided. We have since reached out to him, to provide any help he needs to get up to speed. Sadly, we have heard nothing further from him since July.

The key items we wanted to discuss with the project team at this meeting were;

Q. What had happened to their report summarising the Public Engagement feedback.

A. We were told that it was finished but was waiting approval and should be published imminently.

Q. What had happened to the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2024? Has it been approved?

A. The SOC has still not been approved and is caught up in the new government's internal review of DfT's funding and the overall Spending Review. The team had no idea of any timescales as to when they might get a decision from DfT one way or the other (see below item on Government's new 10-year pipeline).

Q. What is the timeframe for producing the short list of route options?

A. Current timescales are Spring/Summer 2026.

Q. What is the timeframe for the Public Consultation on the short list of route options?

A. The team stated that they were still to decide how best to communicate the short list, so there are no timescales for this at present.

We would have preferred to see their minutes of the meeting before updating residents, to ensure our understanding of what was said was accurate. However, the minutes have still not been provided and are apparently awaiting agreement by Cllr Tooke.

*Once again apologies for any confusion caused.*

If you think your neighbours would like to receive a copy of our Newsletter, then please direct them to our website, [taagroup.co.uk](http://taagroup.co.uk) where they can sign up.

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