

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR

Council

Friday 2 March 2012

2.00 pm

The Shirehall, St Peter's Square, Hereford.

**SUPPLEMENT – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC AND FORMAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Mr A Powers, Hereford

Question 1

The budget is proposing further savings in school transport of £220K. The Council's own Local Sustainability Transport Fund bid in April 2011 stated that school traffic could account for a doubling of numbers of vehicles on some radial routes into Hereford during term time. If this analysis is correct would not congestion in the city be more efficiently and swiftly addressed if the £300K to be allocated to yet another relief road study were instead to be spent on improving sustainable transport measures for local schools and residents?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 1

It would be a mistake to think this is a case of either/or. The proposed relief road is not intended to address issues in the city in the short term, but is an essential longer term component of the infrastructure required to support the future natural and necessary growth of our city.

However I agree entirely that more can be done to encourage individuals to use alternatives to the car and am delighted that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid, 'Destination Hereford' secured additional resource to promote alternatives for short car journeys. Around a third of all journeys in peak periods are made by car and are less than 3 miles. The school run is part of this pattern and Destination Hereford is targeting these journeys through a partnership with schools to promote walking cycling and the use of existing bus services.

The school transport savings of £220k will be delivered through good housekeeping rather than the removal of specific services and the Council will continue to fulfil its statutory responsibility to provide home to school transport for eligible scholars.

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton, Hereford

Question 2

"Herefordshire Council believed that the 1% decrease in traffic volume in 2009/10 was a response to high fuel prices (report to Environment Scrutiny Nov 2010, page 23). As diesel and petrol prices have increased since then by 15% and 12% respectively and with a further duty increase of 3.02p/l due to be implemented on 1st August 2012, what motor vehicle traffic volumes are the transport department forecasting for Hereford City in their Local Transport Plan 3?"

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 2

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

The report in 2010 referenced the 2009/10 fuel price rises as a probable cause. Local Transport Plan 3 will not be considered and adopted by the council until later in the year; however the modelling tools used in developing traffic projections are those recognised as national standard. They take into consideration a wide range of factors including projected fuel prices.

Question from Mrs J Morris, Hereford

Question 3

Herefordshire Council supplies a number of private limited companies with staff on secondment and also provides legal and other professional services by sharing public employees. As these private companies have no clear reporting structure to Herefordshire Council, could you tell me the total cost of staff seconded to these companies in the last 3 years and could you include the cost of the hours of professional advice provided by local tax payers through council employees working for these companies?

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services & Education

Answer to question 3

Where secondments to any organisation are, or have been, in operation the receiving employer covers the cost of that secondment.

No legal or other professional advice has been provided by council employees working for private companies.

Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger, Hereford

Question 4

"What is the anticipated impact by 2020 of the ageing population on estimated car use in Herefordshire, taking into account that older people are more likely to rely on public transport, or if still driving use their vehicles for less frequent and shorter journeys ? in addition in the same period what is the projected increase or decrease in school age children needing transport at peak hours?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 4

Local Transport Plan 3, which will be considered by the council later in the year, will include modelling projections to 2031; however modelling outputs are across the whole population and it is not possible to clarify the specific impacts of travel patterns amongst older people or younger people.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Mr S Brown, Bucknell

Question 5

When will the Council publish the results of last year's consultation on the revised Local Development Framework and the current Local Development Scheme?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing & Planning

Answer to question 5

The analysis of the consultation responses will be published as part of the consideration of the final draft version of the Core Strategy, together with a revised Local Development Scheme, scheduled for June.

Question from Mr M Moore, Bredenbury, Herefordshire

Question 6

In March 2011, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker, announced additional (transitional revenue) funding to support local transport authorities and communities specifically in the development of community transport services. He stated that he did not expect authorities to use the extra DfT funding to displace planned expenditure on community transport for 2011/12. Under this arrangement Herefordshire was granted £157,463. Community Transport (CT) schemes in Herefordshire were advised of these funds ("Baker money") through the Herefordshire CT Forum, and initially encouraged to make applications for grants from that source for service development projects. On several occasions subsequently, and as recently as 7 February 2012, Herefordshire's CT schemes have been informed by the Council that they should delay bids for the CT grant provided by DfT until the Council issued guidelines on the bids which it wished to do in the context of proposals going forward – its aim being to support activity which improved capacity and longer term financial sustainability. The proposals referenced are those within the Council's Review of CT Services 2012, still on-going and for which the process and, draft, reported outcomes have been heavily criticised by the Herefordshire CT Schemes. As we near the end of the 2011/12 year, no effective and direct action has been taken by the Council to use and dispose the extra DfT funding for the development of Herefordshire's CT schemes. Furthermore and contrary to the principles of the Herefordshire Compact, access to this funding by the CT schemes is being denied until the Council obtains an agreement and a mandate to pursue its policy on the future arrangements for CT schemes in Herefordshire.

When will the Council enable the county's CT schemes to access the funds they desperately need to develop and improve the vital services they provide to their communities?

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 6

Whilst I cannot accept some of the assertions made by Mr Moore in the preamble to his question, I fully acknowledge the importance of community transport services, particularly within rural areas. A review of Herefordshire's community transport services is almost complete, with the overall aim of increasing the capacity of the community transport services provided in the county. Pending the outcome of this review, the council has protected the budget available for community transport, even at a time when savings have had to be made on bus services.

Additional funding, provided by direct grant from central government, will be allocated in the context of the review findings early in the new financial year. Mr Moore will, of course, be aware that consultation on the review findings was extended at his request.

Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford

Question 7

Status of the Local Transport Plan

Local transport authorities are required by law to produce and maintain a Local Transport Plan that sets out the authority's strategy, implementation plan and targets for improving transport in their community. The government permitted the Council's second Local Transport Plan to be extended for one year (to the end of March 2012) after the Hereford Preferred Option consultation resulted in rejection of a key element of the draft third Local Transport Plan, the relief road.

In the absence of coverage by a legally adopted Local Transport Plan, what steps subject to public scrutiny is the Council taking to maintain its targets for improving transport in the county and ensure its transport planning and investment processes are lawful?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 7

Council took the decision at its meeting on 4 March 2011 to adopt the Local Transport Plan 2 as its interim Local Transport Plan 3 'pending finalisation of the Local Development Framework submission'. Hence, the Local Transport Plan 2 remains the council's legally adopted transport strategy and decisions on investment are being carried out in the context of adopted policy.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Mr A Fisher, Hereford

Question 8

The October 2011 version of the Draft Revised Preferred Option Background Paper described some 'detailed changes ... proposed for Hereford' (para 4.21) including another crossing of the River Wye (which would 'not be considered to be a substitute for the western relief road currently proposed', para 4.21 iv). Given the rejection of a Western Relief Road in the Hereford Preferred Option consultation and the investment by the Council earlier in 2011 in testing and eliminating the 'East Is Best' partial relief road proposal, given, that is, the very controversial nature of this 'detailed change',

Why was the proposal for an additional eastern river crossing not put forward in last year's Revised Preferred Option consultation and when will it be subject to public consultation?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Answer to question 8

The possibility of additional transport links to the east of Hereford was mooted in the context of the then recent announcement of Enterprise Zone status for Rotherwas. The merits of such links are presently being examined. Any proposals will be subject to further consultation if they are to be included within the Core Strategy.

Question from Councillor EMK Chave of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing and Planning

- 1 *Who is undertaking the analysis of LDF consultation responses on behalf of Herefordshire Council and what is the timescale of when these responses will be reported to Council?*

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox Cabinet Member, Environment, Housing and Planning

Answer to question 1

I refer to my answer to Mr Brown (Public Question 5). The analysis is undertaken by the planning policy team.

Question from Councillor DC Taylor of Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

- 2 *Could the Cabinet Member advise me which Parish Councils have increased their precept for the 2012/13 financial year over the precept they set for the 2011/12 year and by what percentage have they increased?*

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

Answer to question 2

The table below identifies those 80 Parish Councils that have increased their precepts, together with the level of increase for each.

It should be recognised that local councils are able to actively respond to meeting the identified needs of their communities, supporting much valued local facilities and services, through their use of local precepts.

Parish Council Meeting	Precept Required	Last Year's Precept	Increase/ (Decrease)
Allensmore Parish Council	£1,500	£600	150.00%
Almeley Parish Council	£7,250	£6,250	16.00%
Aston Ingham Parish Council	£2,200	£1,750	25.71%
Avenbury Parish Council	£3,500	£1,750	100.00%
Aymestrey Parish Council	£2,739	£2,634	3.99%
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	£23,000	£21,000	9.52%
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	£2,000	£1,827	9.47%
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	£20,000	£18,000	11.11%
Bishopstone Group Parish Council	£4,174	£3,885	7.44%
Bodenham Parish Council	£9,780	£8,150	20.00%
Border Group Parish Council	£7,500	£7,000	7.14%

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Parish Council Meeting	Precept Required	Last Year's Precept	Increase/ (Decrease)
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	£10,000	£4,750	110.53%
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	£2,000	£1,500	33.33%
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	£4,250	£1,700	150.00%
Breinton Parish Council	£7,020	£6,500	8.00%
Bridstow Parish Council	£5,225	£4,750	10.00%
Brilley Parish Council	£4,000	£2,750	45.45%
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	£9,500	£9,000	5.56%
Brockhampton Parish Council	£3,600	£2,800	28.57%
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	£168,000	£141,700	18.56%
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	£5,500	£4,400	25.00%
Cleghonger Parish Council	£11,000	£8,000	37.50%
Colwall Parish Council	£56,873	£55,758	2.00%
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	£10,945	£9,155	19.55%
Dorstone Parish Council	£2,300	£1,700	35.29%
Eardisland Parish Council	£15,750	£15,000	5.00%
Eardisley Group Parish Council	£7,700	£7,000	10.00%
Garway Parish Council	£4,724	£3,938	19.96%
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	£10,000	£7,000	42.86%
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	£2,500	£1,800	38.89%
Hereford City Council	£734,960	£712,340	3.18%
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	£6,575	£6,250	5.20%
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	£3,300	£3,000	10.00%
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	£5,000	£4,250	17.65%
Huntington Parish Council	£650	£600	8.33%
Kimbolton Parish Council	£5,000	£4,450	12.36%
Kings Caple Parish Council	£6,688	£4,400	52.00%
Kingsland Parish Council	£10,000	£7,000	42.86%
Kington Town Council	£60,900	£58,000	5.00%
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	£3,000	£2,800	7.14%
Lea Parish Council	£9,600	£5,600	71.43%
Ledbury Town Council	£266,596	£265,773	0.31%
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	£15,000	£14,500	3.45%
Leominster Town Council	£229,011	£218,279	4.92%
Linton Parish Council	£6,000	£5,800	3.45%
Little Birch Parish Council	£2,700	£2,300	17.39%
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	£7,500	£6,500	15.38%
Llangarron Parish Council	£5,000	£4,500	11.11%
Luston Group Parish Council	£9,000	£7,900	13.92%
Lyonshall Parish Council	£5,000	£4,500	11.11%
Malvern Hills Conservators (Colwall Parish Council)	£33,040	£31,350	5.39%

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Parish Council Meeting	Precept Required	Last Year's Precept	Increase/ (Decrease)
Malvern Hills Conservators (Mathon)	£4,400	£4,180	5.26%
Marstow Parish Council	£5,000	£4,500	11.11%
Mathon Parish Council	£6,392	£6,279	1.80%
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	£3,500	£3,000	16.67%
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	£2,900	£2,300	26.09%
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	£3,600	£3,500	2.86%
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	£3,500	£3,000	16.67%
Pencombe Group Parish Council	£6,500	£5,750	13.04%
Peterchurch Parish Council	£13,560	£11,708	15.82%
Peterstow Parish Council	£3,500	£3,000	16.67%
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	£2,330	£1,400	66.43%
Pixley & District Parish Council	£5,000	£4,000	25.00%
Putley Parish Council	£4,500	£4,300	4.65%
Sellack Parish Council	£1,750	£1,300	34.62%
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	£2,000	£1,750	14.29%
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	£3,500	£3,000	16.67%
Thornbury Group Parish Council	£3,300	£3,000	10.00%
Titley and District Group Parish Council	£3,921	£3,825	2.51%
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	£6,200	£5,400	14.81%
Walford Parish Council	£16,000	£12,500	28.00%
Wellington Heath Parish Council	£7,400	£7,300	1.37%
Wellington Parish Council	£21,500	£13,500	59.26%
Weobley Parish Council	£10,555	£8,139	29.68%
Weston Beggard Parish Council	£1,000	£600	66.67%
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	£6,300	£6,000	5.00%
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	£9,000	£7,000	28.57%
Wigmore Group Parish Council	£17,000	£12,000	41.67%
Yarkhill Parish Council	£4,000	£3,000	33.33%
Yarpole Group Parish Council	£10,385	£8,300	25.12%

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Question 3 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number 26 18 November 2011.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Councillor RI Matthews of Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

- 4 *It has recently been announced that a kilometre of hoarding is due to be erected around the old cattle market site in the near future. Can Members be told how much this work will cost, and who is paying for it?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

Answer to question 4

The hoarding is to be erected by the developer's nominated principle contractor; the costs of which are not being carried by the council.

Question from Councillor RI Matthews of Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education.

- 5 *Can Members be informed how much Herefordshire Council have spent on consultants between 01/01/2011 – 01/01/2012 and how do these figures compare to the expenditure during the previous twelve months, on this same issue.*

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education.

Answer to question 5

This information will take time to collate and I will provide a written response in due course

Question from Councillor RI Matthews of Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education.

Question 6 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Public question number three 2 March 2012.

Question from Councillor TM James of Councillor JG Jarvis, Leader of the Council

Question 7 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number three 18 November 2012.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor BD Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing and Planning

- 8 *Under what circumstances is it appropriate or necessary for the Chief Executive to involve himself in the issuing, or otherwise, of emergency Tree Preservation Orders.*

Answer from Councillor BD Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing and Planning

Answer to question 8

The council's constitution makes provision for the exercise of functions by the Chief Executive on behalf of the council; it also identifies how those functions may be delegated and in what circumstances officers taking delegated decisions should consult with the Chief Executive.

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor BD Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing and Planning

Question 9 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number 26 18 November 2011.

Question from Councillor SJ Robertson of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Environment, Housing and Planning

Question 10 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number 26 18 November 2011

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation and Sustainability

Question 11 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number three 18 November 2011

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

Question 12 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number three 18 November 2011

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

Question 13 disallowed on the grounds that it is the same or similar to a question put to a meeting of Council in the last six months, see Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.15.4 c. Member question number four 2 March 2012

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

14 *Who is paying for the archaeological investigations on the Old Cattle Market Site?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Cabinet Member Enterprise and Culture

Answer to question 14

The developer.

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

15 *Please can you detail any properties owned by Herefordshire Council where the income earned on the property is being paid directly to Hereford Futures? Please include details of the income levels.*

Answer from Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

Answer to question 15

None is paid directly to Herefordshire Futures.

A number of properties were acquired to progress the Hereford Futures programme utilising funds provided entirely by AWM, as part of the Agency's funding of the Hereford Futures programme. As the accountable body for Hereford Futures, the council agreed to acquire these properties.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

Under the terms of the funding agreement between the council and the Agency, Hereford Futures receives a variable residual amount of funding, to support implementation of the programme, from income from these properties which would otherwise be repaid to the Agency or its successor body. This amount is net of council deductions for repairs, alterations, management and maintenance

The properties in respect of which AWM funded the acquisition are

Franklin House
Blueschool House
4, Blackfriars St
32 Coningsby St
Station Approach Trading Estate

During the current financial year, £146,000 was the net figure made available to Hereford Futures under these arrangements.

Question from Councillor PJ Watts of Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

- 16A *Given that Herefordshire Council employed Drivers Jonas Deloitte to do an appraisal report on the Tesco site (Ledbury 2011) in conjunction with the Tesco application – how much did this report cost?*
- B *Given that Herefordshire Council employed Drivers Jonas Deloitte to do an appraisal report on the Sainsbury site (Ledbury 2012) in conjunction with the recent Sainsbury application – how much did this report cost?*

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

Answer to question 16

- A £2,900
- B £2,000

Question from Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes of Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

- 17 “The recent “Herefordshire Matters” survey was distributed to 80,000 households in the county in September asking people’s views. The response was published in the November 2011 edition. There were 200 responses (0.25%), so the views of 99.75% of the readership were

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2012

not recorded. Of respondents, one third thought the magazine not worthwhile, and a quarter did not trust the information published.

On the basis of these figures, do you not agree it is misleading to publish conclusions from the survey that suggest that "Herefordshire Matters" is supported by its readers?

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Education

Answer to question 17

No. The article published in the November edition of Herefordshire Matters was not misleading - the specific results which were included clearly related to, and were contextualised by, the numbers of responses received.

Whilst improvements continue to be made in response to feedback from customers to ensure information is accessible, relevant and available in a range of formats, Herefordshire Matters will continue to be a key element of public services communication and engagement within the county