

Public questions to Council – 12 December 2014

Question from Mr M Sandaver, Herefordshire

Question 1

Council contractors

Why are outside contractors used, instead of the council taking responsibility for employing their own staff to carry out these tasks?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, cabinet member contracts and assets

Answer to question 1

The council's vision, as set out in our commissioning and commercial strategy is to be an innovative, agile commissioning organisation that secures better outcomes by commissioning the right services from the right provider, at the right time and at the right price.

Outside contractors, whether from the private or the voluntary and community sector, may be used where they will deliver better outcomes in the most cost effective and efficient way.

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 2

Determination of highway status

At January 2014 Council meeting I was advised that *"Herefordshire Council is currently finalising a draft protocol for processing requests for Determination of Highway Status and it is anticipated that the draft will be available for consultation in March 2014. Mr McKay and other interested individuals and organisations will be able to comment on it at that time. Once adopted following consultation the protocol will be published on the Council's website."* The October LAF minutes advise that *"The Highways Draft Protocol needs some minor tweaks, and the Cabinet Member report needs to be written. This report will be submitted by the end of the year."*

Could you confirm that this is progressing and anticipated date by which this will be published on the council's website?

Answer from Councillor P Rone, cabinet member transport and roads

Answer to question 2

I can confirm this is progressing. The report will be ready for consideration in early January and, subject to approval, the final protocol will be available to view on the council's website by the end of January 2015.

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Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton

Question 3

The Local Plan Core Strategy Costs

Could the cabinet member responsible for the core strategy please provide the cost to date of the entire local plan process, dating from the finance year 2007/8 to the year 2013/14, broken down by year, and with spend to date for the year 2014/15, and an estimate of costs to this year end, March 2015?

Answer from Councillor P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

Answer to question 3

	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2014/ 15
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual to Date	Fore- cast
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Local Development Framework	291	132	345	131	221	255	199	139	330
Forward Planning	490	472	410	491	558	416	301	133	197
Total Core Strategy	781	604	755	622	779	671	500	272	527

Please note that a proportion of these costs has been supported by external funding. Forward planning costs relate to the staffing costs but it is not possible to specify which proportion is directly attributable to the local plan process.