

Public questions to Council – 17 July 2015

Question from Mr P McKay, Herefordshire

Question 1

Accuracy of administrative map

Our Administrative Map does not show all our roads, and of particular concern are those that provide connectivity with public paths, lead to public places, and/or are through routes. The Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network data does according to the Technical Specification provide a list of public use roads, but the survey as undertaken fails to distinguishing between public and private use roads, with OS in process of raising a disclaimer.

Will council a) record these roads with public highway rights under the new Local Street Gazetteer standards, having procedures in place for correction of any errors, as council simply must be aware of many of them, and b) advise Ordnance Survey that raising a disclaimer is unacceptable, requiring a survey as paid for in conformance with the Technical Specification ?

Answer from Councillor P Rone cabinet member transport & roads

Answer to question 1

- a) Herefordshire Council's administrative map identifies all streets that the council is aware are subject to highway rights. In April 2015 the council adopted a protocol for dealing with applications for amendments to highway records. The protocol (available on the council's website at the following link: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/amending-herefordshire-councils-highway-records>) sets out the procedure under which members of the public or other organisations can submit evidence to the council to enable consideration to be given to any suggested amendments. I am aware that the questioner has also raised this matter via a freedom of information request and to the chairman of general overview and scrutiny committee. A formal response has been sent direct and a copy will be provided to the chairman and members of the general overview and scrutiny committee.
- b) This is a matter for the Ordnance Survey as the responsible body for their data. However, the council is aware that the Ordnance Survey is currently working on the alignment of data to ensure consistency with data held by local councils.

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton

Question 2

Housing growth targets

In March 2015 Herefordshire Council published "Update of Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy Examination in Public - Five year housing land supply (2015-2020)". In this document the council stated para 4.3 "*The Herefordshire Core Strategy covers the period 2011-31 and provides for a minimum 16,500 homes. This target exceeds the objectively*

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assessed need identified for between 15,400-16,200 homes over this period by 2% - 7% (300-1,100 homes)."

The Regional Spatial Strategy is no longer a national requirement and so the council can set its own housing development target on the basis of the Objectively Assessed Need for homes. If Herefordshire Council reduced the housing target in their Core strategy on the basis of the most up to date housing figures, the council would be in a position to demonstrate that it does have a 5 Year Housing Land Supply, as required by the NPPF. This would prevent speculative planning applications across Herefordshire, often on Greenfield sites.

Would the cabinet member please explain why Herefordshire Council continues to defend a housing growth target above that required by national government, when to continue to do so leaves housing development across the county in the hands of large developers?

Answer from Councillor P Price cabinet member infrastructure

Answer to question 2

The objectively assessed housing need and the five year housing land supply were fully tested at the recent examination hearings.

The proposed level of housing provides an opportunity to improve affordability and supports economic growth across the county.

The outcome of this process will be precisely that which the questioner has in mind, namely the adoption of an up to date local plan which will give local control to decision making in planning.