

Public questions to Council – 20 May 2014

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton

Question 1

Local transport plan

The local transport plan has been updated to recognise the potential for a new university in Hereford. The National Travel Survey of 2014 (ONS) shows that 21% of people aged 17-20 live in a household with no access to a car, and for those who live in a household with access to a car 51% do not drive. With such a high proportion of young people unable to drive, what transport infrastructure is being specifically proposed to support and encourage those aged 17-21 to study in Hereford and enable them to access the range of services and opportunities the county has to offer?

Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Brienton

Question 2

Local transport plan: cycling and walking

The Government's cycling and walking investment strategy is out for consultation until 23 May 2016. The key element of the strategy is that cycling and walking should become the natural choice for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey.

What part of this element would be fulfilled by the building of the southern link road (SLR) with no cycle or walking pathways, and no apparent funding of the complementary measures which, according to cabinet minutes 18.12.14, "will be outlined within the planning submission for the SLR element" of the south Wye transport package? Furthermore, there is still no sign of the complementary measures appearing within the planning submission for the SLR element and yet, in accordance with Government policy, the funding of the SLR is conditional on these complementary measures being delivered at the same time, or in advance of, road building.

Question from Mr J Perkins, Hereford

Question 3

Local transport plan: traffic lights

In the local transport plan strategy for Hereford page 12 the document says "The system which controls traffic signals is aging and also prone to instability which further impacts on the effective management of traffic passing through the network."

In recent months there have been a number of occasions of traffic lights failing in Hereford where traffic, in some cases moved more smoothly, where others specially those involving pedestrian crossings south of the river caused total disruption. Andrew Jones, the Road Safety minister has recently advocated the removal of lights, as also proposed by Hereford Transport Forum as long ago as 2012.

Would the cabinet member please provide details of the cost of making improvements to the traffic signals in Hereford and when they are scheduled to happen, and would he also consider some of the proposals outlined in this question?

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Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger

Question 4

Local transport plan: consultation

The local transport plan was a public consultation, in which many stakeholders and public bodies engaged. For any other public consultation conducted by Herefordshire Council the public responses have been made available for public examination. As transport affects every resident in the county, why have the consultation responses received during this local transport plan consultation earlier this year been treated as confidential and not been made available for public examination?

Question from Mr R Palgrave, How Caple

Question 5

Local transport plan: Hereford/Worcester connections

Just over a year ago Cllr Philip Price backed Worcestershire's plans to improve the Carrington Bridge in Worcester, the main route to the M5 from Herefordshire, and was reported as saying, "Congestion on the bridge puts significant strain on businesses who cannot avoid using the A4440 to transport their products to various parts of the country".

Page 24 of Herefordshire's local transport plan shows a western relief road connecting the A49 both north and south, by 2027, but with no connection to the A4103/A465 Worcester Road. Would the cabinet member Cllr Philip Price please explain why the latest version of the local transport plan shows no intention to improve connections between Hereford and Worcester?

Question from Dr N Geeson, Hereford

Question 6

Local transport plan: conformity with core strategy

In Herefordshire Council's adopted local plan core strategy we read that "Policy SS7- Addressing Climate Change" states "***Development proposals will be required to include measures which will mitigate their impact on climate change. At a strategic level, this will include:***

- ***delivering development that seeks to reduce the need to travel by private car and which encourages sustainable travel options including walking, cycling and public transport;***
- ***designing developments to reduce carbon emissions and use resources more efficiently***".

If the road schemes proposed in the local transport plan (LTP) are built ahead of sustainable transport options, these roads are shown to increase overall vehicle emissions, which would result in the LTP not being in conformity with the adopted core strategy. Would the cabinet member responsible please confirm that there is provision to ensure the LTP does conform with the core strategy, and that the LTP needs to measure and assess performance of overall vehicle emission changes across the county?