

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 15 JULY 2015**

**Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster**

**Question 1**

**Street works register**

Herefordshire Council has adopted both its Core Strategy and Transport Plan without any policies regarding completing and correcting our highway records (the Street Works Register reference LAF Blue Book for Roads viewable at [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/4753074/blue\\_book\\_for\\_roads\\_v8.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/4753074/blue_book_for_roads_v8.pdf)), which must surely be a fundamental requirement, leading to an unrecorded verbal discussion reported in FOI IAT 11614 deciding to register our unadopted roads on the upgraded Local Street Gazetteer as being without any highway dedication status, even those leading to public places, with public paths branching off them, in regular public use including those with public street lights !

However I am also advised under FOI IAT 11812 that Herefordshire Council proposes to make a representation to the Department for Transport shortly regarding envisaged problems, and also that the 1950's parish submissions are presently not available due to being scanned, so may I please ask if Herefordshire Council will raise a plan to address completing and correcting the Street Works Register complete with an Evidence Base of what has been done in previous years; that is open, transparent and an understandable way forward that may be undertaken in the most effective, efficient and economic manner ?

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**Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton**

**Question 2**

**Local Growth Fund / Large Local Major Transport Development Schemes**

The budget for the Southern Link Road (SLR) is overspent (£2.164 million as against the budgeted £1 million for development). Incurred costs reported by the Council are £1.712 million, and the Marches LEP has complied with the Council's invoice and paid over £2.164 million. The Council has failed to allocate any money in its Medium Term Financial Strategy for the sustainable transport / active travel elements in the South Wye Transport Package (of which the SLR is a part). The consequence of this action is that the Local Growth Fund conditional funding of £27 million (minus the £2.164 million already advanced) is the only funding available to the Council to complete the South Wye Transport Package. Furthermore, the Council, through the Marches LEP, is seeking an additional £2.65 million for development costs of the Hereford Transport Package (aka Hereford bypass), and pledging from the Council £600,000 of tax payers' money towards these costs.

Could the Cabinet member responsible for infrastructure, Councillor Philip Price, please explain why he has confidence that the sustainable transport / active travel elements within the SWTP will be delivered alongside the SLR, and that the £2.65 million in the Marches LEP bid document (ref. 160531) will be forthcoming via the DfT Large Local Major Transport Development Scheme to kick-start the Hereford Transport Package?

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**Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton**

**Question 3**

**Five year housing land supply**

Herefordshire currently does not have a 5 year housing land supply, meaning that any development that can show it is "sustainable" can be granted planning permission anywhere in the county. As the Western Relief Road corridor prevents housing development on the grounds of prematurity along the length of Kings Acre Road, until the route is defined, housing in Three Elms will not come

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forward in accordance with the approved Core Strategy Local Plan, and the shortfall will increase at a rate of 100 dwellings pa. What steps are being taken to review the housing targets of the Core strategy, and to assess infrastructure that will actually bring forward sustainable housing in Hereford, maximising the use of active modes of travel, such as that proposed by the Destination Hereford project?

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### Question from Ms K Sharp, Hereford

#### Question 4

##### Enterprise zone jobs and investment

With Rotherwas Enterprise Zone having created 254 new jobs (net) at the REZ up to the end of 2015, when does the Cabinet Member anticipate the 4,000-6,000 new jobs anticipated will be created in Hereford at the REZ and what investment by Herefordshire Council is needed to make these jobs a reality?

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### Question from Dr N Geeson, Hereford

#### Question 5

##### Relief road and congestion

The Western Relief Road corridor has recently prevented development of 75 new homes just off Kings Acre Road. (See Appeal ref 3137770). The proposed Western Relief Road may also run through the Strategic Urban Extension at Three Elms Urban Extension. Would the Cabinet member please explain how the Western Relief Road will reduce congestion into Hereford City from this large development site, improving sustainable connections with schools, colleges, hospitals, shops and employment sites and other services in the Centre of Hereford and so bring forward development of these new homes?

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### Question from Ms D Toyne, Eaton Bishop

#### Question 6

##### Enterprise Zone investment and business rates

Please would the Cabinet member detail how much in business rates from the REZ has been paid to the Marches LEP since the creation of the Zone, and how do these payments compare, year on year, with the investment Herefordshire Council has put into REZ?

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### Question from Mrs C Protherough, Clehonger

#### Question 7

##### Three Elms trading estate

With Herefordshire council purchasing the Three Elms Trading Estate as an investment for the local taxpayer, would the Cabinet member please confirm:-

1. How much this investment has cost to date, including renovations and business rates payable on unoccupied units;
  2. How much rental income has been received by Herefordshire Council;
  3. How many new jobs have been created, or lost, on this employment site?"
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**Question from Mr R Palgrave, How Caple**

**Question 8**

**Hereford livestock market**

In a period of austerity, services such as supporting homeless young people, Citizens Advice, and tourist information can no longer command a subsidy from Herefordshire Council. Rural bus services are under continual threat of closure. No Council money is being provided to help Hereford's City of Culture bid.

The local taxpayer invested at least £12million to provide a brand new, purpose built Livestock Market for local auctioneers. Would the Cabinet member please explain how the new Livestock Market is performing as an investment for the people of Herefordshire, in particular:-

- i) how much annual rent is received from the auctioneers and when was this last reviewed?
- ii) how much is paid in rates for the site?
- iii) who receives the benefit of any rates on this site?
- iv) is the return on investment achieving the level expected at the time the Livestock Market was built?