

COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 10 May 2018**Question 1**

Councillor AJW Powers, It's Our County

To: cabinet member, infrastructure

Local authorities are required to produce an Annual Progress Report (APR) summarising the progress made towards meeting objectives laid out in their Local Transport Plans. Herefordshire Council has contravened this obligation by stating that the long overdue APR for 2016/17 will now be combined with the 2017/18 APR, and by refusing to publish the 2016/17 APR on its own.

Who authorised these decisions?

Response

No formal decision has been taken.

Under the Local Transport Act 2008, there is no statutory requirement to produce a Local Transport Plan annual progress report or APR. We last produced an APR in relation to the previous Local Transport Plan period 2015/16. We did say in the Local Transport Plan adopted in May 2016 that we would report progress annually and I do acknowledge that we have not produced a bespoke summary of progress against the LTP programme and indicators for the partial first year of the plan period. We will be producing a report covering the period from adoption in May 2016 to end of March 2018 which will show the data in relation to all the indicators identified on page 37 of the LTP, by financial year.

To suggest we are 'refusing to publish' information is not correct. The council is committed to reporting transparently on progress against agreed indicators and has done so for a number of the indicators in the LTP through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the routine corporate performance reporting process. The end of year corporate budget and performance report 2016/17 published and reported to Cabinet in June 2017 included data for the year 2016/17 covering some key LTP indicators relating to road safety, cycle levels, road condition, bus punctuality and journey times; the joint strategic needs assessment has also reported data on physical activity levels and the percentage of the population overweight or obese.

Supplementary

Wherever other data may be available it is not good practice for that data to have to be sought out or stumbled over by accident. I understand the intention for combined reports this summer, however given delays in analysing the data from 2016/17 will the data from 2017/18 be ready on time?

Response

I am assured that analysis of the data is on time. The combined report will cover the whole period from adoption through to end of March 2018 but with data for the separate financial years identified.

Question 2

Councillor RI Matthews, Herefordshire Independents

To: cabinet member, contracts and assets

What is the total number of assets, land/property which the council disposed of between April 1 2016 and April 1 2018, and what was the total sum generated by these sales?

Response

Response delivered by the Leader of the Council in the absence of the cabinet member

Almost 100 land or property assets were disposed of in the two years to April 2018 generating receipts in excess of £48 million pounds. It's worth noting that a significant number of these disposals were community asset transfers and therefore didn't generate a capital receipt.

Supplementary

Do you agree that this administration has sold off almost all the council's most valuable assets? There will be very little left to dispose of to support any future administration's investment plans.

Response

Some asset disposals were community transfers so these assets are still available to the community. Those assets that generated capital receipts were not given away. The smallholdings estate had a total guide price of £37m but the sales will net £46m to be reinvested in the council and the county to get a greater return from those assets. The reinvestment of receipts will aid our economy and deliver greater returns for this county.