

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 July 2019

Question 1

Mr P McKay– Leominster

Those cared for at home require visits by carers, service providers, family, etc., not in control of who and when, with HC scheme only permitting one visitor permit, for display before leaving car, yet visitor would not have it, so would have to park, walk to resident to ask for it, back to car to display, and if absent mindedly drove off with it could be lost, and is not replaceable till would have expired, or if second visitor arrived they could not have permit as first visitor would have it, and would have to depart, nor could resident have any family visits of more than one person, and I suggest this be subject of scrutiny ? Some other councils provide packs of single use visitor vouchers to be marked with date enabling 2 or 3 to be displayed.

Response

This request will be considered as part of the overall work programme prioritisation and you will be informed of the committee's conclusion.

Question 2

Mrs E Morawiecka – Breinton

“At the March 2019 meeting of the General scrutiny meeting a number of public questions on the Hereford Transport Package were not permitted to be asked on the basis the meeting “will not be considering matters that do not relate to the grounds for call-in.” The public were told that under the circumstances the question would normally be redirected to cabinet. However, as there was no cabinet meeting scheduled until after the elections it was intended the public would receive an officer response in due course. When the issue of the Hereford Transport Package is of such high importance to all parties why have officers been unable to provide written responses to these public questions prior to the local elections or since?”

Response

Written answers were provided to the questions accepted for the Committee's meeting on 29 March. Regrettably the provision of answers to the other questions has been overlooked. Answers are being prepared and will be sent to those who submitted questions. We apologise for that.

Question 3

Mr A Morawiecki - Brienton

In July 2018 the Cabinet was advised by WSP & Balfour Beatty on progressing the further development of a bypass route at a cost of £2.54million. These companies were then employed to undertake the additional contract work without any public tender process. Likewise the HTP work costing £3.65million was apparently treated as an extension of the Herefordshire Council contract with Balfour Beatty and did not go through a competitive tender process. To ensure that expert advisors employed by private contractors cannot

speak at length at Council meetings and then leave a meeting with a new multi million contract, will the Scrutiny Committee look at the way in which professional advisors have been appointed, provided evidence and how contracts have then been awarded to parties related to them ?”

Response

BBLP and their sub-consultants WSP professional services costs associated with the preparation of this project are procured through the council’s Public Realm contract and form part of the council’s annual plan and is not an extension as suggested in the question. This public realm contract was awarded to BBLP following a competitive OJEU procurement process in 2012/2013 and design professional services are within the scope of this contract. BBLP and WSP provide professional design resource to deliver this project and provide a fee proposal for delivery of the project which is scrutinised and challenged as part of the annual plan commissioning process. Annual fee proposals are reviewed and monitored prior to work commencing and are subjected to robust change control mechanisms.

Question 4

Dr N Geeson – Hereford

The Hereford Transport Package was discussed at the General Scrutiny meeting of 29 March 2019. The Walking/cycling/bus public consultation related to that had closed on 11th March 2019, but we have not yet seen the results. If the future Scrutiny Committee work programme is to consider sustainable transport, when will the results of this public consultation be available, so that it can inform future transport plans and decisions?

Response

The HTP consultation feedback is being analysed and a report summarising this feedback will be presented to the new administration cabinet later this summer and will published on the council’s website at that time.

Question 5

Mrs J Tonge - Hereford

Hereford has generated much interest from transport specialists with high regulations at national and international levels.

With sustainable transport on the Scrutiny Committee work plan, will the council or this committee be asking such experts as Prof. John Whitelegg and or Brian Deegan to speak to councillors regarding sustainable transport, not just for Hereford city but across the County as a whole ?

Remembering as recently as April 2019 Herefordshire Council declared a 'climate emergency', for which we are grateful, but actions need to go further than words.

Response

This request will be considered as part of the overall work programme prioritisation and you will be informed of the committee’s conclusion.