

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

Please note that under the Constitution all questions must be directed to the Chairperson. Where it is not within the Chairperson's remit to answer the question he will ensure that the issue is explored during the committee's deliberations.

Question 1

Councillor Nigel Shaw – Bringsty and Bromyard

Can the Chairman advise who discussed with the LEP, and when, prior to the decision to pause being made by cabinet member, to ensure that the proposed pause does not impact the secured funding?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 2

Councillor Mark Millmore – Holmer

The proposals for Hereford Bypass have been developed to enable the city centre to be decarbonised and improve air quality. To this end, the traffic that does not need to be in the city centre must be removed so that the city centre space can be enabled for active travel and public transport. This means preventing car use in defined areas. How does pausing or cancelling improve the air quality within the city?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 3

Councillor Carole Gandy – Mortimer

In the Cabinet Member's report there are references to no fewer than 17 consultations pertaining to the HTP and the SWTP. Given the new administration's emphasis on openness, transparency and increased community engagement, can you advise me as to over what period of time this consultation was undertaken, with whom and can you explain to me how you ensured it was open and transparent?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 4

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst – Llangarron

Ground (d) of the call in holds that the decision is disproportionate to the desired outcome. What exactly is the 'desired outcome' of the decision?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 5

Councillor Paul Rone – Redhill

The reasons given by Cllr Harrington for pausing include a review of alternatives, one of the alternatives is an Eastern Route.

Does the committee feel that four months is sufficient time for commissioning reports and feasibility studies – all at immense cost – especially when there are multiple reports already available?’

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 6

Councillor Christy Bolderson – Wormside

(Councillor Bolderson has declared a schedule 1 interest in this matter and has been granted a dispensation by the monitoring officer under S33 (2) (c) of the Localism Act 2011 as it is in the best interests of persons living in the council’s area.)

There was considerable public consultation during the development of the HTP and SWTP, however, there has been no formal consultation with the public in relation to pausing the HTP and SWTP. In addition, as Ward Councillor for Wormside I was asked to comment on a summary draft report, however, the report was being provided “in confidence in advance of the publication of the report itself and was not for forwarding to or discussion with anyone else”. This made it impossible to solicit feedback from Parish Councils and Ward Constituents. Would the Committee not agree that holding a referendum on the by-pass, and suspending the decision to pause until the result of that referendum, would be appropriate in light of the Administration’s commitment to increased public participation and decision making?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.