

## Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mr Willmont, Hereford	<p>The Council have/are about to commission One Creative Environments Ltd to progress a master plan for development of the North Magazine.</p> <p>In preparing this masterplan what account will be taken of the remaining former munitions factory structures in the area. These include the Blast Walls (and their access paths that remain), the above ground air raid shelters and the loading dock. These are, notwithstanding that they are not Listed Buildings, historic structures which should be preserved as the last remnants of the ROF.</p> <p>Please confirm that there will be a public consultation process once the masterplan is produced?</p>	Cabinet member environment, economy and skills
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>One Creative Environments Ltd have been commissioned to advise on how best to build out the development platform that has already been created at the North Magazine site at Hereford Enterprise Zone. This is primarily about engineering the infrastructure – such as access roads, utilities and drainage – that is needed to open up the site for businesses to invest and build.</p> <p>One Creative Environments Ltd have full knowledge of the presence and location of the former munitions factory structures at the North Magazine and the importance that Hereford Enterprise Zone and the Council has put on them remaining. They know that none of the infrastructure solutions that they propose are permitted to impact on those structures – which are all situated outside the development platform area that is the focus of this project. Given that all the structures are to the north of the site and the infrastructure will need to connect in from the south, this should be straightforward to achieve.</p> <p>It is not intended to carry out further public consultation on this technical piece of work required to enable the development of this large industrial site.</p>			
PQ 2	Mr Peel, Hereford	<p>In 2019 the newly elected Herefordshire Council delayed plans to build a Bypass that, after years of planning and deliberation, would have finally taken traffic away from the City Centre setting up the conditions that could realise a cycle and walking friendly City Centre. Since then the Administration has provided little regarding how it intends to remove traffic from the City Centre less suggesting introducing cycle lanes. Now all the funding opportunities for a Bypass have been lost and removing sections of road to create cycle lanes will compound the longstanding congestion issues. What is the Council's plan to remove traffic from the City Centre now the Bypass will not be built and traffic will continue to be reliant on the route through the City Centre using the single road bridge over the river Wye?</p>	Cabinet member infrastructure and transport
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question Mr Peel. Your definition of bypass 'plans' is an interesting one, as is your understanding of our City's traffic congestion. For clarity, when we arrived as a new administration, after 12 years of Conservative control – a period which saw no measurable improvements in congestion as far as I</p>			

and many others could see – we were not in a position to start building any new roads and we had no completed business cases for either the SWTP or HTP. There were matters that prevented immediate progression, even before you consider the electorate mandate we were given at the ballot box to consider alternative approaches to local transport networks and congestion. It is also important to note that latest figures show that only 7% of traffic through Hereford is completely through traffic with an origin and destination outside the city. All other trips have either an origin or destination within the city and 40% of traffic is entirely internal.

I took the decision last year to pause and review the bypass project because I was concerned that the road scheme as part of the Hereford Transport Package was not compatible with the climate change challenge and the previous Conservative Council's declaration of a climate emergency. It is my view that there are other options that could deliver transport (including congestion) and growth objectives and given the lasting impact of major road schemes I believe it is imperative that these should be considered. Therefore I authorised a review to commence earlier this year which is anticipated to finish in the Autumn.

This review is essential to ensure that the council's decision making is fully informed by the latest information and best practice. It is incumbent on the council to ensure that projects are consistent with the council's declaration of a climate emergency and will contribute to reducing the carbon output of the county whilst also addressing the transport problems of the city and supporting economic growth. Whilst the review is being carried out the council will continue to develop and deliver active travel projects to encourage a shift of travel mode and reduce congestion.