

Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public and supplementary questions

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mrs Roberts, Hereford	<p>The lack of a second bridge across the Wye was demonstrated last week when a RTC occurred on the Belmont road - this then paralysed the new bridge for hours. Obviously this council apart from ignoring the referendum regarding the bypass surely uses the term 'green' while resolving nothing. Slowing all the traffic across the city means that cars and lorries are sitting and emitting fumes from their engines which can't be doing much to reduce global warming.</p> <p>What can be done about a second bridge if the public is ignored when money was made available for the bypass and is now gone?</p>	Cabinet member infrastructure and transport
<p>Response: Firstly, it is important to clarify that funding had not been secured to progress the western bypass which would include a new river crossing.</p> <p>In terms of your wider point, I share your concerns about the fragility of the city's transport network and the reliance on the Greyfriars Bridge for local and longer distance travel needs. As you will be aware we are progressing a review of the transport strategy because we feel it is important to take into account the local and national climate emergency declarations and ensure that carbon reduction is fully considered in relation to our major schemes. The review explicitly includes options which would provide additional river crossings for the city as we recognise the potential benefits of such schemes in addressing network resilience issues. It is also looking at options which will encourage more walking and cycling and bus use noting that these are modes which can bring wider health benefits and can reduce transport related carbon emissions. We consider that in undertaking this review now and taking into account the increasing importance of decarbonising transport in national policy we will be able to ensure that our local evidence base is robust with a view to helping secure external funding for any major transport proposals which we may wish to take forward.</p>			