

#### Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

| Question No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Questioner                 | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Question to        |
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| PQ 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Peter McKay,<br>Leominster | The Street Works Register still shows few, if any, of our unadopted highways, i.e., those not being maintained at public expense, with them filling many gaps in highway record connectivity, subject of the 2007 Regulations as referenced in your reply to my question 16 May 2024, and I seek your assurance that you plan to show those you are aware of, before putting onus on Parishes to report any omissions, and when this could be expected ?                                                                                    | Councillor Hurcomb |
| <b>Response:</b><br>The Council publishes its Street Works Register as an online map and this contains all unadopted highways that it is aware are subject to recorded public highway rights. Members of the public and Parish Councils are welcome to submit applications under the Councils Highway Records Protocol for any routes which they have evidence are subject to public highway rights. |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| <b>Supplementary Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| <b>Supplementary Response:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| PQ 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Amanda Martin,<br>Hereford | In the Q4 Performance Plan Appendix A at p9, I note that the Council has postponed presentation of the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Southern Link Road (SLR), Phase 1 of the Western Bypass, from this meeting until September. However, the documentation appears to indicate that the Council would contemplate entering into a binding construction contract before the FBC has been considered and approved.<br><br>Would the Council contemplate entering into a construction contract before the Full Business Case is approved?" | Councillor Price   |

**Response:**

No, the Council will not enter into the construction contract until the FBC has been published and reviewed by Cabinet which is planned for the September meeting.

**Supplementary Question:****Supplementary Response:**

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| <b>PQ 3.</b> | <b>Kate Seekings, Hereford</b> | <b>In the Q4 Performance Plan Appendices I note that the Council has delayed presenting the Full Business Case (FBC) for the SLR (“Phase 1 of the Western Bypass”) from this meeting till September’s. Does the Council constitution allow a binding construction contract to be entered into before and if a FBC is approved, before the Council has acquired all the land it needs to build the SLR, and when planning conditions remain undischarged?</b> | <b>Councillor Price</b> |
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**Response:**

The Council will not enter into the construction contract until the FBC has been published and reviewed by Cabinet which is planned for the September meeting. The report to Cabinet for the September meeting will set out the current status of land acquisition and the discharge of planning pre-construction planning conditions so that Cabinet are making a fully informed decision.

**Supplementary Question:****Supplementary Response:**

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| <b>PQ 4.</b> | <b>Barry Jenkinson, Hereford</b> | <b>In the Q4 Performance Plan Appendices, I note that the Council has postponed presentation of the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Southern Link Road (SLR), described as Phase 1 of the Western Bypass, from this meeting until September. What legal advice has been given to</b> | <b>Councillor Price</b> |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                         | the Council regarding the risks it would face were it to enter into a construction contract for the Southern Link Road ("Phase 1 of the Western Bypass") without delivering and first approving a Full Business Case?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| <b>Response:</b><br>No legal advice has been sought as the council does not intend to enter into a construction contract without first having published and approved the FBC. This is planned for the September Cabinet meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| <b>Supplementary Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| <b>Supplementary Response:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| PQ 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Jeremey Milln, Hereford | In my Hereford Central ward both the Museum & Art Gallery and the Library & Learning Centre projects are red flagged for delivery (purple flagged for c/fwd in the Delivery Update sheet at Appendix A to the Q4 Performance Report at agenda item 7). These are supported substantially by the Stronger Towns Fund which has extended the deadline for delivery from March 2025 to March 2028.<br>It is understood these projects are at risk of running into the sand financially and are significantly delayed. In £ terms what exactly is the financial requirement for these two projects, how will the shortfall be addressed and when might we expect completion? | Councillor Bramer |
| <b>Response:</b><br>The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government extended the deadlines for all 100+ Stronger Towns areas across the country to 2028, it was not a local request. For both the Hereford Museum and Art Gallery and Shirehall project we are working through respective Pre-Construction Services Agreement periods with the selected contractors to finalise designs and costings which are commercial in confidence at this stage. As with any historic building project, there are significant challenges and costs associated with bringing these building's back into use. We are working through these challenges with the contractors, design teams and external funders at this stage. We are aiming to be able to say more about the next steps and timescales over the next few weeks. |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| <b>Supplementary Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |

**Supplementary Response:**

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| <b>PQ 6.</b> | <b>Mrs Morawiecka, Hereford</b> | <b>With the “School Run” being the biggest cause of significant congestion at peak times on the urban road networks &amp; with the Government focussing funding on active travel between schools, home and work, will the Cabinet be looking to expand safer routes to schools and colleges, so that the children who have benefitted from Bikeability can apply their skills to cycling to &amp; from home and activities, helping reduce the biggest cause of urban congestion?</b> | <b>Councillor Price</b> |
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**Response:**

Cabinet recognises that journeys to and from schools make a significant contribution to peak-time congestion on the urban and rural road network and that enabling more children and young people to walk, wheel and cycle safely can play an important role in reducing car dependency and therefore give a reduction to congestion.

The council currently deliver Bikeability training to children and are recognised as a leading council in England in the number of children being trained. Additionally we also provide road safety education in schools along with partnership working with all emergency services. The recently adopted Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) includes commitments to improve active travel, promote school travel planning and deliver a programme of safer routes to school. It also identifies the need to reduce congestion, improve road safety for vulnerable users and increase travel choice. Public consultation on LTP5 highlighted strong support for safer walking and cycling routes to schools which is something Cabinet have prioritised.

In addition, the council has recently completed its Herefordshire Local Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan (LCWWIP), which provides an evidence-based programme of walking, cycling and wheeling improvements and will help prioritise future investment opportunities. The LCWWIP supports the national objective of increasing the number of children travelling actively to school and identifies the delivery of connected, safe active travel networks as a key priority, this is supported by the allocation of our Active Travel Grant for 2026/27 being entirely on a safer school route in Ledbury.

The draft Parking Strategy recently consulted on also supports this approach by recognising the importance of reducing obstructive and unsafe parking, improving conditions for active travel and integrating parking management with wider transport objectives. Measures such as School Keep Clear enforcement, improved crossings and support for sustainable travel can help create safer environments around schools and colleges.

Therefore, the Cabinet will continue to seek opportunities to deliver safer routes to schools and colleges where funding is available, drawing on priorities identified through the LCWWIP, LTP5 and future Active Travel England and Department for Transport funding programmes. This will help ensure that children who have benefited from Bikeability training are better able to put their skills into practice for everyday journeys, while also contributing to reduced congestion, improved air quality and healthier travel choices across Herefordshire.

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| <b>Supplementary Question:</b> |
| <b>Supplementary Response:</b> |