

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

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Ms Seekings, Hereford	"The public is being told that the library will now be located in the Shirehall Courtroom 2 and other areas, rather than in the more impressive Assembly Room. Locating the library in Maylord Orchards would have been quicker, more reliable, cost effective and accessible. To avoid further taxpayers money being thrown at a much needed, long overdue and already-over budget project, can the Committee look into whether consideration is being given to derisk and minimise the budget overruns, delivery timescales whilst not compromising the attractiveness of the library, by installing it elsewhere in premises including Maylords Orchard, rather than yet more plans being drawn up for another, inferior, more-delayed location in the Shirehall?"	Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee
Response: Many thanks for your question. As part of its scrutiny, the committee is likely to ask questions about the decision to locate the library in Shirehall Courtroom 2. However it is unable to commit to pursuing the line of enquiry that you suggest.			
Supplementary question: Thank you for your response. With £1.8million already spent on the library project, years to go before a library might open in the Shirehall, and the remainder of that building having no defined purpose, will the committee review and scrutinise what a Library and Learning Resource Centre should be for residents, how it will be maintained and can create a Stronger Town, and what should be done and with what budget with the rest of the Shirehall building, including the main hall, which they continue to be responsible for and which should be part of Herefordshire' cultural strategy?			
Supplementary response: Thank you for your supplementary question. We are likely to discuss the decision to locate the library in Shirehall Courtroom 2 as part of our broader scrutiny of work to redevelop the Shirehall. Unfortunately we are unable to commit to the lines of enquiry that you propose when carrying out our work.			

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PQ 2	Mrs Morawiecka, Hereford	"It is oft reported that the Hereford Southern Link Road, Phase 1 of the Bypass, can only realise its full potential when the Bypass Phase 2, the river crossing of the Wye to the West of Hereford, is built through a housing estate of over 10,000 – 14,000 new houses. Hereford Bypass was not listed by government as a planned RIS4 investment, and with the UK Government this week announcing that funding for some roads is to be cut to support defence investment, there is even less likelihood of grants to fund the £300million+ high level river crossing to the West of Hereford. With little prospect of the Hereford Bypass Phase 2 being funded will the committee recommend that Phase 1 be treated as a standalone scheme when the Full Business Case is considered?"	Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee
Response: Thank you for your question. As the committee will be considering the full business case for Hereford Bypass Phase 1 at its meeting on 20 July, it is unlikely to pursue the line of enquiry that you suggest at this meeting. I will however add your suggestion to our list of lines of enquiry to consider pursuing at the committee's next meeting on 20 July.			

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 3	Mr Hardy, Hereford	"In December 2025 the Cabinet decided to pursue Compulsory Purchase Orders for the Hereford Western Bypass Phase 1 on the basis of traffic modelling undertaken in 2025. I asked the Cabinet member at the time if, in line with Codes and Regulations for Local Government and the Nolan Principles, objective and factual data on which the Council relies for decision making would be made public. The Cabinet member replied that it was the intention to publish in due course, but to date the traffic modelling to explain the benefits of this stand-alone road scheme have still not been released. Can this committee review why traffic modelling data relied on by elected members to commit over £45m of local taxpayers money on this capital project and compulsorily purchase residents' private property, is still not publicly available?"	Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee
Response: Thank you for your question. The committee is unlikely to pursue this line of enquiry at the meeting, as it will instead focus on scrutiny of the Hereford Bypass Phase 1 at its meeting on 20 July 2026.			

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Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 4	Mr Jenkinson, Hereford	"The Hereford Transport Hub occupies the safeguarded historic route of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal, near its former terminus and basin, protected under Core Strategy Policy E4. Permission 233009 secures no measure safeguarding or reinterpreting the canal, and its only heritage requirement (archaeological Condition 3) is record-and-implement, with no dissemination element. As the Hub nears completion, will the committee recommend to the Cabinet Members for Transport and Infrastructure (Cllr Philip Price) and Economy and Growth (Cllr Graham Biggs), and the project team, that they support a modest, voluntary heritage interpretation package — signage, an AR map and a QR audio-visual display — using archaeological results from this and nearby canal sites, developed with the H&G Canal Trust, so the canal's significance is publicly recognised where most affected?"	Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee
Response: Many thanks for your question. Any recommendations made by the committee will result from its scrutiny of the development of the Transport Hub. I note the issues that you have raised, but I cannot commit to pursuing the line of enquiry required to make your suggested recommendation.			