

Supplement to the agenda for

Council

Tuesday 4 August 2020

2.00 pm

Online meeting only

Appendix to Minutes – Questions and answers and supplementaries

Pages

Appendix 1 Questions and Answers and Supplementaries

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Appendix - 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>			
<p>Supplementary Question I am really not satisfied with the answer to my question - it's just padding that says nothing. My question is not answered - where is the second bridge for motorised vehicles? As per the bypass and second bridge - this has been going on since the 1950's and now it's 2020 and it's still being stonewalled by the council.</p> <p>From your answer there is a general belief by the council that everyone can walk everywhere or cycle everywhere within the city. Mobility issues means for me that I can neither cycle at all due to a knee injury and equally I am unable to walk very far; so what are the alternatives for people with mobility problems? To say that I am unimpressed with the response is putting it mildly.</p>			
<p>Cabinet member response</p> <p>The council was mindful that not everyone could walk or cycle everywhere. Many journeys in the city by car were less than 2 miles. Reducing the number of these journeys would be beneficial.</p>			

In relation to the provision of a second bridge the transport review was to conclude in September. As a small city a move to increased cycle use where possible was necessary. He invited the questioner to contact him if she required further information.