

Supplement to the agenda for

General scrutiny committee

Friday 30 November 2018

10.15 am

**Council Chamber, The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford,
HR1 2HX**

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5.	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	3 - 6
7.	SETTING THE 2019/20 BUDGET, CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND UPDATING THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (Recommendations from Adults and Wellbeing and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees)	7 - 8

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2018

Please note that under the Constitution all questions must be directed to the Chairperson. Where it is not within the Chairperson's remit to answer the question he will ensure that the issue is explored during the committee's deliberations. The Chairperson will also request further information on issues raised by questions to be published as a separate supplement in advance of the committee meeting to inform the Committee's consideration of the matter where that matter is on the agenda.

A response will therefore only be published to a question listed in this supplement where it is within the Chairperson's remit to answer.

Please refer to the separate supplement for further information.

Question 1

Mr T Geeson– Hereford

In the Capital Budget Requests (App 3), £2.96m is shown as approved in 2018-19 for the Hereford Transport Package and a sum of £3.5m is requested for 2019-20. What will this money be spent on, and if external funding for the Bypass element of the HTP is not obtained and the Bypass plan is dropped, how will these costs be covered and treated in the accounts?

Question 2

Mr R Palgrave – How Caple

MTFS Appendix 4 (Capital Funding Requests Business Cases) contains a section on the 'Hereford Transport Strategy' at page 51. This appears to be a copy of an Outline Business Case produced in 2014 for the Western Relief Road with other transport interventions. The Business Case makes it clear that the project described would only go ahead if the Southern Link Road were delivered, saying, " The package primarily relies upon the Southern Link Road being delivered as part of the South Wye Transport Package". What is the justification for further capital expenditure in 2019-20 on the Hereford Transport Strategy / Package, while there is still no Full Business Case for the Southern Link Road, and the Department for Transport has not as a consequence released the £27m Local Growth Fund money required to pay for the SLR?

Question 3

Ms K Sharp – Hereford

Against the Saving Proposal for Public and School Transport (of £150k in 2019-20), the text includes this – "Public consultation carried out in autumn 2016 will inform decisions for 2017/18. Decisions have already been taken to withdraw transport services and these were subject to a full consultation and EIA . As future proposals are developed consultation and

EIA will be undertaken and will form elements of future reporting and consideration by members.”

Are the dates given in this text wrong, and is the text suggesting that there will be further cuts made to public and school transport?

Question 4

Mrs E Morawiecka - Breinton

Appendix 1 to the MTFS states: “The council faces a constant challenge to manage the increases in demand for adult social care and looked after children that are increasing significantly year on year.” How then can the Council expect to make the proposed saving of £1.1m set out in Appendix 2 for Adults and Communities Directorate, described as “Reduction in demand for formal care services and support in line with demographic pressures?”

Question 5

Mr J Milln - Hereford

Regarding The Development and Regeneration Programme (DRP), Appendix 1 to the MTFS states “Consideration is given in all instances of providing developments that are considerate to the health and well-being of the residents, built to the latest environmental standards as set out in the building regulations (The National Standards).” How is this consistent with commitment made in the Council 13 July 2018 Sustainable Development Motion that under the DRP, homes will be “built to the highest possible standards of energy and water efficiency in order to ensure affordability for residents and low environmental impact”? NB, the National Standards are not the highest possible standards of energy efficiency.

Question 6

Dr N Geeson - Hereford

In Appendix 4 (c. p89) we read about Corporate Fleet Procurement. The capital request to replace the existing fleet appears to be recommending fossil-fuelled (particularly diesel) vehicles. Why not choose electric cars/vans, or even include pedi-cargo bicycles instead of a solution that gives only a “10% improvement in fuel efficiency”?

Question 7

Mrs V Wegg-Prosser – Brienton

Buried within MTFS Appendix 4, Capital Funding Requests..., there is a section beginning ‘SC1’ which refers to a Hereford Transport Strategy, aka the Hereford Transport Package. The most recent quoted ‘background study’ is dated April 2013. The assessment of Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) which appears on page 68 of the document includes figures from JMP May 2014 HTS Prioritisation Study which beggar belief. They range [from 13.39](#) to 8.73 while, for example, the BCR for the Southern Link Road is 2.5. This 2.5 figure accords with figures given in Highways England’s 2015 post-opening report on 81 major road schemes: the median forecast BCR value was 2.7, and the outturn BCR was lower for the majority of

schemes than the forecast BCR. Could the committee recommend that the HTP Business Case data is reviewed independently with immediate effect??

Question 8

Mrs C Palgrave – How Caple

The recent public consultation on the Council budget for 2019-20 had minimal information on capital items. Compared with revenue items, the Council has more scope to choose where and when to spend money on capital items. A number of large-ticket capital expenditure items have been identified for this Scrutiny meeting. Why were they not outlined in the public consultation and feedback sought from residents?

Question 9

Ms D Toynbee – Hereford

Under 2019-20 for Economy and Place, Procurement savings of £500,000 are shown, with a note "including savings to our waste contract". Please could you explain how savings are made on the waste contract?

Setting the 2019/20 budget, capital investment and updating the medium term financial strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 27 November 2018

1. The committee would like to see a strategy for investment in technology enabled care and a budget allocated to take this forward
2. The committee would like to see a review of current commissioning of domiciliary care, especially in our more rural parts of the county
3. The committee would like consideration given to a percentage of section 106 contributions being allocated for adult social care
4. The committee would like to see the spend to save business cases and the timing of when financial savings will be delivered

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2018

That the committee:

- supports investment in early help, edge of care and placement stability services and requests that business cases are shared with the scrutiny committee when available; and
- supports the separate monitoring and reporting of overspends on the LAC budget from the children and families budget.

