

2. Supplement to the agenda for

Cabinet

Thursday 1 May 2025

2.30 pm

**Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4
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Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

Question No.	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1.	Peter McKay, Leominster	<p>Will this years 'Professional services supplier to support Highways and Infrastructure' work programme include:-</p> <p>a) identification of Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads on Highways Map by change of line colour,</p> <p>b) identification of Unadopted Highways Not Maintainable at Public Expense on the Street Works Register, especial those that are through routes or link to public paths,</p> <p>c) showing open spaces on the Public Rights of Way Map,</p> <p>d) an addendum to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan comprising an amplification of the Public Right of Way Glossary that says CRF's and CRB's were intended to be shown as Roads Used as Public Paths, but in fact were shown as Footpaths and Bridleways, identifying them as being prospective upgrades, along with other identified anomalies, and</p> <p>e) showing long term defects in red on the road and path problem webpage?</p>	Cllr Price
<p>Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your question. We have no current plans to use any Professional Service Support for the items that you have raised. I have provided an update on each item that you have raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. At the 26th April meeting of the Local Access Forum, the council provided the forum with a copy of a list of Herefordshire's unsurfaced, unclassified roads and made a commitment for these to be displayed in an appropriate place on our public website. B. Unadopted Highways Not Maintainable at Public Expense are available on our website via the Street Works Register tab on the Highways and Public Rights of Way map. C. A search facility for Parks, Open Spaces and Sports Pitches is available on our website. The council have no current plans to include this information on the Public Rights of Way map. D. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is in place until 2028. The council will consider this amendment when redrafting the plan. E. We are currently making improvements to our public rights of way defect map and I have asked Officers to consider your suggestion. We have made additional funding available for investment in the PROW network during 2025/26 in order to re-open paths and address as many long term defects as possible. 			

Supplementary question:			
Supplementary response:			
PQ 2.	Nigel Shaw, Bromyard	Is the Cabinet Member responsible aware of the number of applications for Tree Protection Orders received by the Council in the last quarter and the Council's inability to consider applications because of a lack of resource in the appropriate department?	Cllr Swinglehurst
<p>Response: Yes, I am - so far in 2025, we have received 10 applications for Tree Preservation Orders.</p> <p>The applications were dealt with in a timely manner and there is no inability to deliver the service. Each of these applications were reviewed by the Natural Environment Team and desktop assessments of each were undertaken.</p> <p>Of these, 5 applications were considered appropriate for a site visit using the national Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders. Of these, two applications were deemed appropriate for a provisional TPO to commence the consultation process for a full TPO.</p> <p>Whilst we are seeking to recruit a new Tree Officer the team is supported by specialist interim resource and is performing well.</p>			
Supplementary question:			
Supplementary response:			
PQ 3.	Will Vaughn, Hereford	Are there processes and criteria within the proposed food-waste collection and disposal contracts that will allow the Council to vary its scope. or appoint a sub-contractor, to	Cllr Swinglehurst

		accommodate any innovative or future improved ways of collecting or processing food-waste?	
Response: Yes. Both the waste collection contract with FCC Environment and waste disposal contract with Mercia Waste Management Ltd include change mechanisms to ensure that we can continue to drive service improvement and innovation through our waste management services.			
Supplementary question:			
Supplementary response:			



Title of report: Procurement of a professional services supplier to support Highways & Infrastructure

Meeting:	Cabinet
Meeting date:	Thursday 1 May 2025
Cabinet member:	Councillor Price, transport and infrastructure
Report by:	Corporate director, economy and environment
Report author:	Infrastructure Deliver Director

Supplement to report to include PGC comments

Consultees

Political Groups Consultation 7th April 2025

The consultation was attended by 16 councillors from across the Conservative Party, Green Party, Independents for Herefordshire and Liberal Democrats groups. The following discussion/feedback was noted:

- Positive support for the proposal.
- Members sought assurance on how the contract would be managed and how we stop staff from relying on professional services support too much and forgetting to look at what can be done in-house
- It was suggested that the cabinet paper should also include a reference to the importance of the professional services provider being independent from the public realm contract provider which would give a better check and balance approach.
- There was support for having a governance board that would ensure quality of delivery from the professional services provider
- Members felt that the Cabinet Paper should also highlight the new arrangement would be flexible with no guarantee of spend through the contract, but leaving officers open to using other providers.
- Members also wanted to know if there had been engagement with neighbouring authorities to see if there were any economies of scale for joined up procurement or working arrangements. Officers commented that this had been explored with Gloucestershire and Shropshire but both are currently in long term professional services contracts and there would unlikely be any reduction in rates as rates are fairly standard across the industry.

