

**Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at Three Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Belmont, Hereford, HR2 7BP on Thursday 23 September 2021 at 2.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillor David Hitchiner, Leader of the Council (Chairperson)  
Councillor Liz Harvey, Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairperson)  
  
Councillors Felicity Norman, Ellie Chowns and John Harrington

Cabinet support members in attendance Councillors Jenny Bartlett and John Hardwick

Group leaders in attendance Councillors Jonathan Lester, Bob Matthews, Toni Fagan and William Wilding

Scrutiny chairpersons in attendance Councillors Elissa Swinglehurst

Officers in attendance: Interim director of children and families, Acting deputy chief executive - solicitor to the council, Acting deputy chief executive - chief finance officer, Acting Director for Adults and Communities, Interim director of economy and place, Head of economic development and Senior planning officer

**42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies from Councillors Gemma Davies, Diana Toynbee and Ange Tyler.

**43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**45. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Questions received and responses given are attached as appendix 1 to the minutes.

**46. APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSION OF MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN (MWLP)**

Cabinet member, finance, corporate services and planning introduced the item, details of which can be found in the agenda pack.

It was noted that the list of modifications (appendix 2) had been updated since publication of agenda. An updated appendix 2 would be attached to the report to Council on 8 October.

It was noted that advice had been sought with regard to requesting more than nutrient neutrality. The advice had been to request nutrient neutrality as this would mean that developers had to meet this and may also include a buffer as well. Applicants could only mitigate against their own developments and not historic applications.

Group leaders were supportive of the minerals and waste plan and they considered that the plan should go forward to the council meeting on 8 October.

**Resolved that:**

- (a) the draft MWLP development plan document (see background papers) and the schedule of suggested main modifications and minor changes (Appendix A) be recommended for approval by Council for submission to the Secretary of State for examination in public;**
- (b) to agree that the Planning Inspector be invited to recommend any main modifications necessary to the MWLP in order to find it legally compliant and sound; and**
- (c) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment and Waste and to the Lead Development Manager to agree, with the Planning Inspector, any additional modifications to the MWLP, if it is appropriate and necessary to do so, in order to facilitate efficient progress of the Plan through the examination process. Subsequently, such modifications will be subject to public consultation.**

**47. LEOMINSTER HERITAGE ACTION ZONE**

Cabinet member, economy and environment introduced the item, full details of which are set out in the agenda pack.

It was confirmed that there were additional resources in place to deliver this project. It was also requested that there be co ordination between this project and any public realm activities which may be taking place at the same time.

The group leaders were supportive of the project.

**Resolved that**

- (a) The Director for economy and place, following consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Cabinet member for environment and economy and the Cabinet member for infrastructure and transport, be authorised to approve expenditure required to deliver the public realm projects which will be procured in line with the council's contracts procedures rules;**
- (b) The Director for economy and place, following consultation with Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet member for environment and economy and Cabinet member for infrastructure and transport, be authorised take all operational decisions necessary to deliver the balance of the programme, including grant schemes and information and engagement projects within the total project budget of £3.6m; and**
- (c) The Section 151 Officer be authorised to reduce the grant element of the overall budget to up to £1.8m from the £2m originally estimated and approved at Council so that the overall capital programme budget for this project is £3.6m.**

**COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021****Question 1****From: Councillor Nigel Shaw, Bringsty and Bromyard Ward****To: Cabinet member, infrastructure and highways**

I am informed by BBLP that there is no budget for cat's eyes; road marking or anti-skid replacement in the County of Herefordshire. Given that I have a number of fast roads in my ward, where the Council insists on maintaining the national speed limit against the wishes of the local population, can the council at least undertake to maintain these items that help to protect the lives of those in my community, and take immediate action now that foggy, darker mornings are about to return? Brockhampton Group Parish Council have requested that I raise the matter of missing cat's eyes on the B4203 and A44 as a matter of particular public concern

**Response**

Thank you Cllr Shaw for your question. I can assure you that there is budget available for road marking, anti-skid and cat's eye replacement within the Annual and Forward Plan maintenance budgets.

Within the Annual Plan there is a budget of £100k for lining (this also covers studs) and £100k for loss of control sites. Last year we had additional £300k which was programmed and delivered to help deal with the demand.

Each year the highways asset is maintained in line with the council's Highways Maintenance Plan (HMP). A risk based approach is adopted to maintain the network based on inspections and surveys within the constraints of available funding. If there is an identified need following the safety inspection the works will be identified, categorised and delivered in line with the HMP within available budgets.

In short, we will never compromise on safety and if more money is needed to cover safety features it will be taken out of the annual plan to the detriment of any other planned standard works.

I have asked highway officers to liaise with BBLP (our road network managers and inspectors) ASAP and report back the issues highlighted by the parish council regards missing cats eyes on the B4203 and A44 and will come back to you with a written reply.

**Supplementary question**

I thank the Cabinet member for his assurance and look forward to the written reply by a highways officers. If they could detail how much this administration has spent on such replacement of cat's eyes (studs) since May 2019, excluding resurfacing installations, that would also be additionally reassuring

**Answer**

I thank Councillor Shaw for the question and I am sure we will do that. I would also like to ask Councillor Shaw a question, anything we struggle to do is not because of a lack of will but primarily is a lack of funding. I appreciate it if he could write to his MP to ask for some of the return of the revenue grant which has been lost over the last 10 years which is about approx. £60m per year which impacts us enormously.