

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011**

### **Question from D Phelps, Hereford**

#### Question 1

The JOINT CORPORATE PLAN under 'Economic development and enterprise' seeks as a LONG TERM OUTCOME 1.1, 'Higher quality, better paid jobs and reduced unemployment' and one of the Council's justifications for growth is the need to improve wages and services in the county:

*How many jobs have been created and how much have wages increased in Herefordshire as a result of new housing built over the last five years?*

### **Question from A Fisher, Hereford**

#### Question 2

The draft JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 dated 12 January 2011 indicates Local Transport Plan funding has been cut but that further funding may be available for 'both capital and revenue need' through the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund (para 2.9.1)

*What steps is the Council taking to ensure that it retains and enhances its capacity to plan and deliver modal shift to walking cycling and public transport in the face of cuts in grant funding, the availability of the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund and its decision to shed 250 FTE posts?*

### **Question from Mrs J Straker, Fownhope, Hereford**

#### Question 3

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus

*How will the Council spend the estimated £660,000 p.a. it expects to receive from the New Homes Bonus?*

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### **Question from D Straker, Fownhope, Hereford**

#### Question 4

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus

*Since the Council is expecting income from the New Homes Bonus, where will the new homes in Herefordshire be built between now and 2014 (please indicate numbers of homes in each location)?*

### **Question from C Nicholls, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford**

#### Question 5

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus.

*Given the reduced resources in the period ahead and the Council's expectations of earnings from the New Homes Bonus, how many new homes earning the New Homes bonus will be built in Herefordshire between now and 2014 and of these how many will be affordable?*

### **Question from S Brown, Buchnell, Herefordshire**

#### Question 6

THE HEREFORDSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES VISION refers to Long Term Outcomes of 1.1 'The regeneration of Herefordshire', and 4.3 'Enhancing local democracy and community engagement' while the report to Cabinet on the Joint Corporate Plan states that 'all the key issues the people of Herefordshire regard as important, drawn from various consultations' are capable of being covered in the plan'...

*What account has been taken of the 13000 signature petition given to Herefordshire Council asking for a halt to the ESG retail centre and a re-assessment?*

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### Question from B Mee, Hereford

#### Question 7

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. 'Improve infrastructure and learning and employment opportunities, enabling business growth and sustainable prosperity for all'; LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport'.

*'More people walking, cycling and using public transport' has been a stated policy aim of Herefordshire Council for some time. As a result of its level of investment in sustainable transport measures in the Council's first two Local Transport Plans, how many car trips have been transferred to walking, to cycling, and to public transport so far and how many more car trips does the Council intend to transfer to these modes as a result of future investment under 'the reduced resources in the period ahead'? (para 5 in the report to Cabinet on the Joint Corporate Plan 20 January 2011)*

### Question from Mrs P Hughes, Hereford

#### Question 8

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. 'Improve infrastructure and learning and employment opportunities, enabling business growth and sustainable prosperity for all'; LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport'.

*What levels of walking, cycling and public transport use (and by what year) will enable the Council to determine how well it is progressing on this 'long-term outcome'?*

### Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger, Hereford

#### Question 9

The draft JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 dated 12 January 2011 states that 'the financial management strategy for increasing capital investment capacity centres on maximising developers' contributions ...' (para 7.9.6)

*What impact will the Council's plans to maximise developer contributions have on the rate of house-building in the County and in particular on the rate of build of affordable homes?*

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

### Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford

Question 10

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'VISION' Value for money

*What are the Council's criteria for demonstrating 'value for money' and how will both these criteria and demonstrations of value for money be made available to the public?*

### Question from Mrs M Brown, Hereford

Question 11

THE JOINT CORPORATE PLAN refers to 'Affordable housing appropriate to people's needs' (Long term outcome 5.3)

*How have the Comprehensive Spending Review, public sector cutbacks, increased unemployment and the 'reduced resources for available in the period ahead' (Report to Cabinet on Joint Corporate Plan 2011-2014, para 5) affected the number of affordable homes needed in Herefordshire and the Council's ability to ensure that they are supplied over the life time of the JCP?*

### Question from Ms M Burns, Hereford

Question 12

THE JOINT CORPORATE PLAN refers in 'OUR VISION' to 'avoidable ... accidents' and 'doing all we can to combat climate change' and its 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES and 'LONG TERM OUTCOMES' specifically set many goals that would be supported by fairer management of the road network to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages (for example LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport', 3.1 'Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles with less obesity...', 4.5 'Fewer accidents and injuries', 6.2 'Reduced CO2 emissions ..', 6.5 'Investment in high quality streets...' etc. etc.

*When will the Council 'spend to save' and get value for money by introducing 20mph speed limits in all residential and shopping streets and continuous pavements and mandatory cycle lanes on higher speed roads in order to ensure that the road networks in Hereford and our market towns are attractive and safe for sustainable active travel on foot and by bicycle?*

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

### Question from S Rowe, Hereford

#### Question 13

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY According to p65 of the draft Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy, annual capital expenditure will fall from nearly £75m in 2010/11 to under £15m in 2013/14.

*What specific areas of the Council's operations are covered by this capital expenditure and how will the proportions of the available funds spent on each vary between 2010/11 and 2013/14?*