

Questions submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Questions From Victoria Wegg-Prosser	
<p>1. In view of the inconsistencies, inadequate modelling, and the likely rejection of Herefordshire Council's plans for a Hereford Relief Road on an <i>'inner western route'</i> when an independent Public Inquiry is held (which will be triggered by the issuing of Compulsory Purchase Orders) will the Overview and Scrutiny please now call in <i>'the policy which states that this option will be pursued'</i> and review this policy's expensive decision-making processes? <i>(the above wording in italicised quotes is from the 2nd paragraph on p. 15 of 'Preferred Option : Hereford, Sustainability Appraisal, Follow On Consultation – September 2010')</i></p>	<p>Comment The policy concerned is policy H2 in the September 2010 Hereford preferred option.</p> <p>The concept of call-in is not relevant or appropriate in this case because the Local Development Framework forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework and as such will need to be determined by the Council.</p> <p>The timetable in the report to Cabinet indicates that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views will be sought before recommendations on the matter are considered by Council.</p> <p>Any CPO Inquiry held in connection with the Hereford relief road proposal will in any event be pursuant and subject to that scheme being confirmed within the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>2. In view of the ruling by Counsel for the Returning Officer communicated to the Town Clerk on 11th November 2010 that the proposed poll by the City of Hereford 'would be devoid of practical application as Herefordshire Council could not set aside the statutory process for developing the LDF which is in any event well advanced regardless of the results of the poll' will the Overview and Scrutiny Committee now request that the Returning Officer explain why the Motion 'that the Council agree in principle to carrying out a poll with the people of Herefordshire to ask a question relating to</p>	<p>Comment The Council at its meeting on 19 November 2010 asked officers to look at the practicality of carrying out a community poll on the topic of a relief road for Hereford as part of the LDF process. Advice has been given that such a poll is in principle possible as part of a wider consultation exercise and further advice will be provided to the Cabinet meeting in June on the wording and logistics of running a poll.</p>

construction of a road around Hereford City' was not ruled to be equally part of the statutory process mentioned above and therefore should not have been permitted to be put as a Motion to Council on 19th November, 8 days later

Questions from Pat Churchward

1. 1. Having read the Economic Strategy Document, and looked at the information provided re the GVA it is encouraging to see that we, as a county, are predicted to increase the numbers of our managers, professionals and technicians by 10% between 2010 and 2020(see data supplied by Cambridge Econometrics SQW consulting 2010) With this in mind, how will this Council support the expected growth by further investment in the Higher Education facilities available in the county?

Answer sent by Sustainable Communities Director
 With Hereford Futures, the Council is discussing the potential of the Blackfriars Education Centre site to expand such educational facilities. The site has been specifically allocated for that purpose by virtue of a Cabinet decision. There are a number of options available in taking this forward, including collaborating with existing local providers and the private sector, which will need further assessment in terms of their feasibility.

2. Councillor John Jarvis, at Northolme Community Centre in Belmont on Thursday 18th November, declared he was happy that the NHS and PCT had acknowledged that Hereford Hospital would be able to accommodate and cope with the residents of the proposed 10,000 new homes coming to the county. Breinton Parish Council would like to hear about, and, more importantly, know where to access, the evidence provided by both of the above so that we can circulate this information and thereby allay the fears of our residents.

Answer sent by Councillor Jarvis
 Throughout the process of preparing the Core Strategy I can ensure you that the NHS and PCT have been consulted upon the emerging proposals. In discussions with the health providers there has been no indication that the provision of additional bed spaces is a requirement resulting from the implementation of the Local Development Framework. Indeed, over the last two years, health and social care providers in Herefordshire have been reviewing how to deliver significant improvements in quality and efficiency through closer integration of services, as set out in the recent engagement document 'Your local health and social care services are changing – tell us what you think'. The document sets out a

	<p>model that provides care differently and reduces the reliance on hospital beds. Similarly discussions with the PCT regarding future requirements for new health facilities have indicated that the requirements for acute care bed spaces is reducing as practice is to provide intensive rehabilitation and then continue care in the home, at community hospitals or through nursing homes.</p>
<p>3 Regarding the proposed new car parking facilities for Council employees at Plough Lane, the Council is requested to explain their plan regarding the environmental (flood plain and CO2 emissions) congestive,(vehicular and sustainable travel) and financial (free parking for all, and upkeep) implications for the city.</p>	<p>Answer sent by Sustainable Communities Director The Council is considering expanding its Plough Lane offices as part of its accommodation strategy. This will require further car parking and other arrangements for travel and journey to work. Travel Plans and assessments of vehicular movements along with a flood risk assessment will be required as part of the planning application.</p>