

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 28 September 2012**Question from Ms B Mark, Orleton, Herefordshire**

Question 1

Local action during flooding

There is much going on to bring in localism but our Parish Council is frustrated that they are left almost powerless when flooding hits Orleton. Localism is about trusting locals, and when flooding hits the county, county resources are stretched. A partnership between local and county, at these times, would seem to be a sensible thing to work toward. Once an area has been proved to be susceptible to flooding could we ask that Highways gives permission for Parish Councils to protect home owners, and road users, by putting up flood signs or even closing severely flooded roads until the flood subsides? There could be a phone-in centre where all the actions of local PC are collected so Highways can monitor road floods and actions.

With all the work the county council is putting into monitoring flooding and ideas of alleviating floods hopefully such actions will be needed less and less. But while flooding persists action has to be fast and local people can do this much better.

Question from Mr P Mitchell, Herefordshire

Question 2

Demonstration of optimum value for money solution for the PFI procurement of the energy from Waste CHP scheme

Would the Cabinet Member responsible provide an assessment explaining and demonstrating that the chosen procurement option and chosen technical CHP solution at Hartlebury offers the best value for money to the tax payers of Herefordshire. Specifically addressing -:

- How he has determined and ensured the optimal technical CHP solution at Hartlebury (against other CHP alternatives considered) to achieve minimum NPV (best value to Council tax payers) for this project within a single tender PFI contract.
- Why he has not considered / adopted commissioning independent technical support to specify, competitively tender and project manage then operate the energy from waste CHP plant on behalf of the Council.
- How within this contractual arrangement he is safeguarding the public purse by independently validating the offered energy from waste CHP technical solution also demonstrating that this delivers lowest NPV or best value for money solution.
- How he has avoided well recognised adverse long term cost implications historically repeatedly delivered under many and varied other public PFI contracts and which are now generally consider as a poor value method of project implementation.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 28 September 2012

Question from Mr P Linnell, Eardisland, Herefordshire

Question 3

Affordable Housing

On the evidence base for the LDF, please indicate the likely percentage of the identified affordable housing need which will be met by the implementation of the proposed LDF strategies and policies in full. Please show all data sources and calculations, and indicate estimates of the worst, best and most probable cases along with the assumptions these estimates are based on.

Question from Mr A Fisher, Hereford

Question 4

Democratic accountability in the contracting out of statutory council services.

According to the Project Mandate for the Council's 'root and branch reviews' of the services it provides, all services are included in the review, with the aim of shrinking the Council budget by 30% and leading eventually to new governance structures.

Which are the laws and regulations applying to the contracting out of statutory council services that ensure continued (and improved) democratic accountability both during and in the culmination of this review process? (Please list the laws and regulations and the statutory services to which they apply.)

Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford

Question 5

Statistically robust opinion surveys of a representative sample of the County's population for the Root and Branch Reviews of services provided by Herefordshire Public Services

The Council propose to learn residents' views on the provision and contracting out of all services (and on the Interim Local Transport Plan) through a 'community engagement exercise', 'Your community - your say', comprising evening meetings, a web forum, twitter and a facebook page. In addition 'there may be some supplementary locality based consultation on aspects of certain Reviews' (report to Cabinet 5th April 2012).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 28 September 2012

Will the Council be undertaking any statistically robust opinion surveys in connection with the Root and Branch Reviews designed both to be properly representative of the county's population (and including 'hard to reach' groups) and capable of being weighted according to the respondents' stake in the service in question?