

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Agenda item 6 invited the public to submit questions for consideration at the meeting on 18 June 2013. At the meeting, the Chairman also invited supplementary questions, with written responses to be supplied in due course. The responses received are provided below.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Question 1 Mrs Morawiecka did not consider that a satisfactory response had been provided to her question 1 a), the question being 'As a result of the consultation on the draft Core Strategy and the responses received, has Herefordshire Council corrected any of the omissions identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan?'

Question 2 Mr Stow, also linking to question 1 a), re-iterated the key elements of his question (9) 'Why did the Council consult on the Core Strategy without providing evidence of the economic viability and deliverability of the necessary infrastructure, as required by NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) paragraph 177?' and given the absence of timings.

Response to Questions 1 and 2

Planning Obligations Manager:

The IDP schedule cannot specify the entire infrastructure to be provided, when it is delivered or how it is to be funded in the county to 2031. The IDP is not intended as a one off document. Changed requirements may become apparent as new areas of development are designed in more detail and or ways of delivering services or facilities are reviewed. In addition, the strategies of service providers and the introduction of new technology will have implications for infrastructure requirements and their costs over the plan period.

Public funding levels are also likely to vary over the life time of the Plan. As part of the annual budget the Council sets a Treasury Management Strategy that covers Capital Financing Requirement for the forthcoming year. This covers one year only and is based on agreed schemes.

It is important to note that capital expenditure can be financed in a number of ways including government grant, capital receipts and borrowing. Until specific schemes are brought forward for agreement through the capital budget process it is not possible to indicate funding sources.

The information contained in the IDP schedule will therefore be kept under review and updated. This is why it is called a 'live' document.

In response to the consultation, Councillor RB Hamilton has invited his Cabinet colleagues to a future review of the IDP to include the prioritisation of identified infrastructure, projected timescales for delivery and potential funding mechanisms. The outcome of this review will be fed into the IDP for the independent examination.

With regards to the phasing/delivery element of the IDP, the Council will be working with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Welsh Water to finalise the Nutrient Management Plan and the Highways Agency on a phasing road study. These pieces of work will assist in completing the phasing element, if needed, within the IDP.

The Council is actively engaged with the process of Neighbourhood Planning. The production of Neighbourhood Development Plans or an alternative lower tier plan will assist in identifying the infrastructure required for an area, including rural areas. This will then be identified in the IDP.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - COUNCIL BUDGET 2013/14

Question 3 Ms. Rogers commented on Herefordshire's ageing population, the supplementing of underfunded care by family members, and the underfunding of adult social care locally and nationally. She asked whether Members and officers were aware of the impact that the proposed cut to baseline fees would have on families.

Response to *Director for People's Services:*

Question 3

The Open Book Review of Residential and Nursing Home fees for Older People which the Council is undertaking, will enable the Council to reach a transparent and fair Maximum Usual Price for care. In forming its views, the Council has conducted a careful process, engaging with all current providers. Over half the providers have supplied information about the actual cost of care.

The Council is currently consulting providers individually and collectively on the implications of its proposed Maximum Usual Price to ensure it is clear about these implications before reaching its final decision.

The Council will also be clarifying the position on voluntary top ups so that families and providers are clear what those top ups would be purchasing above and beyond the services purchased by the Council.