

Public questions to Council – 18 December 2015

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 1

Highways records

A briefing note raised for general overview and scrutiny committee advised that access is to be improved to our highway records but at Local Access Forum, council's Balfour Beatty representative had little information other than that some statutory records would shortly be online. The Deregulation Act 2015 provisions can be expected to come into effect early next year with volunteers researching gaps and anomalies in the records, helping to bring them up to standard, so may I ask if :

1. Viewing the records over historic base maps could be made viewable at Record Office, this known to be available to Herefordshire Council officers but not online?
 2. If viewing the Exponare public rights of way data with its written statement path termination information could be reinstated, this presumably still available, and useful information if researching gaps and anomalies ?
 3. If the list of anomalies and blue triangle location markers could be made viewable, again useful information if researching gaps and anomalies?
 4. If definitive map modification order applications and road protocol applications could be shown on a map layer in addition to being listing in the register, this making them clearer to be seen by all?
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Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton

Question 2

Southern link road

The Southern link road waste report is blank for the management of waste from the construction of this road. As waste spoil has been a significant problem with the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone, ESG development, the flood alleviation works, Asda, etc. would the cabinet member please explain what cost allowance has been made for the waste associated with this major infrastructure project and how this has been calculated, including types of waste, volumes of each waste and location of the appropriate waste handling sites?

Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton

Question 3

Hereford 2020

Hereford High Town, Hereford Butter Market, Hereford parking charges, Hereford Southern link road, and Hereford Skylon Park enterprise zone all seem to have been rolled into one masterplan, 'Hereford 2020', with its own website, and video insert 'blogs'. Could the cabinet member responsible for 'Hereford 2020' please explain what, at a time of cuts to public services making Hereford a less attractive place in which to live, is the justification for the allocation of £2.5 million to streetscape improvements in High Town, and describe the remit, terms of reference, budget and funding sources for 'Hereford 2020'.

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Question from Mrs J Morris, Hereford

Question 4

Local transport plan

With reference to the draft local transport plan policy, on page 16 it says in reference to bus services - "Subsidy is allocated to services on the basis of the relative costs of providing the service and rider-ship (cost per passenger). A service qualifies for subsidy if the cost per passenger is at, or below, a standard amount. This standard amount alters in line with budget availability. **At the time of writing (2012)** the rate is £4 per passenger."

Would the cabinet member confirm that the public are actually viewing the 2015 local transport plan and what the update, current 2015/16 standard rate, actually is per passenger?

Question from Dr N Geeson, Hereford

Question 5

Local transport plan

The local transport plan currently under public consultation includes a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) based on a list of objectives to protect the environment. Unfortunately this SEA is not new but is based on previous SEAs, including that for the core strategy, which was criticised for not recognising up-to-date baseline environmental data. Since the proposed Western relief road corridor crosses the River Wye SAC (that is a European designation) and SSSI, why does the council mention only very few environmental assets by the riverbank that might be affected, and consistently fail to recognise the scheduled ancient monument at the National Trust site of Breinton Springs, Breinton Wood ancient woodland, (designated a Local Wildlife Site), extensive landscaped parkland, and a local geological site at Red Rocks? If so much up-to-date environmental evidence is missing, surely this SEA, which is required both by European law and the national planning policy framework, cannot be either reliable or lawful?

Question from Ms K Sharp, Hereford

Question 6

Enterprise zone employment

With the council making significant investment in the Rotherwas enterprise zone to support the creation of 4,000 new jobs, would the cabinet member please confirm how many additional, new jobs have been created on the zone (excluding those that have been transferred from other sites in Herefordshire)?

Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger

Question 7

Local transport plan

The LTP4 SEA para 4.6.30, shows that in 2009 the county's carbon footprint per capita was 16.2% higher than the rest of the UK. Since then the rest of the country has reduced its carbon footprint by 13% whilst Herefordshire has only reduced by 10%. With the council's plans for economic and housing growth across the county, including major new road infrastructure which is expected to

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increase car use, what are the forecast carbon emissions between now and 2031 and what amount is anticipated to come from transport within the county?

Question from Mr J Perkins, Hereford

Question 8

Southern link road

With the deadline of April 2016 fast approaching for providing a full business case to the Dept for Transport for the South Wye transport package, and planning permission for the Southern link road still outstanding, would the cabinet member please confirm that Herefordshire Council will be submitting a full business case for the sustainable transport measures that will tackle congestion in South Wye, ahead of any road building?

Question from Ms P Churchward, Breinton

Question 9

Local transport plan

Given that the cabinet member has asked people to take time away from their Christmas preparations, holiday and family in order to meet the December 31st consultation deadline for the local transport plan 2016-2031, it would be helpful if he could provide specific examples of past LTP proposals that have been changed or introduced as a result of public consultation, particularly from the 2010 consultation on LTP3.

Question from Ms D Toynbee, Eaton Bishop

Question 10

Destination Hereford

£11 million was allocated to the council for the Destination Project to April 2015, to develop low carbon transport and support sustainable economic growth in Hereford. Would the cabinet member detail how the final Destination Hereford package has performed against the targets of reduced congestion and increased rural access to public transport?

Question from Ms P Mitchell

Question 11

Local transport plan

The draft LTP4 policy document contains an ambitious and very welcome policy on active travel, aiming for cycling to account for 15% of all journeys in Hereford by 2032 (p 30). This is a very big difference from the share modelled in the 2014 Hereford transport strategy review which showed that by 2032 cycling would account for less than 5% of trips on Hereford's road network (table 3.8).

What modelling has the council undertaken since the Hereford transport strategy review report to analyse the impact of a 15% mode share for cycling in 2032 on a) the number of cars using the

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Hereford relief road, which the 2014 transport strategy review says will not be needed until 2027, and b) peak hour congestion in Hereford?