

Councillors' questions at Cabinet – 27 July 2018

Question 1

Councillor Matthews – Credenhill Ward

To: cabinet member infrastructure

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure would have us believe the new road would greatly curtail traffic in the city centre and drastically reduce noise and air pollution, however engineers have confirmed an additional 26,000 vehicles in the system would result in all access routes being more congested.

He also states that the local economy will prosper from the road, yet local businessmen repeatedly inform us that they want an E route, and access to the nearby motorway and not to an inferior road system.

The proposed route would cause considerable environmental damage, in particular to the River Wye SAC and SSI and wildlife habitats.

Does the Cabinet Member agree that several of the main benefits he forecast are flawed, and that it is time he came up with more economically beneficial alternative and deliverable options which are readily available?

Response

No I don't. The evidence is clear that an eastern route is not an option given a number of considerations not least of which are the significantly greater environmental impacts. The evidence is equally clear the Hereford Transport Package, including the bypass and a number of complementary active travel measures, is deliverable and that the proposed preferred route is the best performing of the options. Councillor Matthews may continue to make his unsubstantiated claims (such as a recent assertion at General Scrutiny Committee that the choice of route had been made two years ago – it had not; a corridor for the bypass was included in the core strategy approved by Council) in an attempt to subvert the will of both Council and the county but I am satisfied that the case for the western bypass remains sound and in Herefordshire's best interests.