

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2 July 2018**

Question 1

**J Lagoutte - Hereford**

Please could you provide some clarification under the item 'Use of Green space – keeping people well and looked after'. Comments read "Currently work is progressing on technical work to enable a housing/employment site options consultation to be undertaken later in the summer". What does this mean? Does it mean the council is considering building on green spaces?

**Response**

The Core Strategy contains a county wide policy which applies when development proposals are advanced on areas which would constitute open space (policy OS3). The Hereford Area Plan (HAP) will be able to identify important open spaces on the policies map (an OS base map) and may include more detailed policies for open spaces if necessary. Work is ongoing to examine the qualitative and quantitative need for open space in Hereford as part of developing the evidence for the draft plan.

In respect of the housing/employment land site options consultation it is important that all options are considered at this stage in the process and the sites identified in the consultation document originate from a range of sources, including officers, members of the public, landowners and developers. The site options are likely to include a number of open spaces.

However, at this stage all sites which form part of the consultation remain as "options" and not "proposals". The context for consideration of the merits of any open space site for inclusion as a preferred/draft plan allocation (following the consultation) will include consideration of its current role and function, compliance with Core Strategy policy OS3 and the development of the evidence outlined in the first paragraph (above).