

## Agenda item no. 6 - Questions from members of the council

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1	Councillor Matthews, Credenhill	In 2012, this administration brought into being a system for the development of NDP. Each Parish Council was allocated a relevant number of houses to be constructed within their parish boundaries by 2031. They were clearly given the impression that having met their allocated targets, no further development expectations would be enforced upon them. Quite a few parishes, with early approved NDP's, have more or less already met their full quotas, and I understand they are soon to be reviewed, obviously with the intention of increasing greatly the development in their areas. Did the Cabinet Member for Development and Infrastructure at the time totally mislead members and the public, when he assured us all that the initially allocated figures would be strictly adhered to?	Cabinet member infrastructure
<p><b>Response:</b> Neighbourhood plans have been successfully applied throughout Herefordshire and have provided the additional local planning policies to ensure that the growth required in the Core Strategy meets local aspirations.</p> <p>Each parish council undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan was given a proportional growth housing requirement to ensure that their plan contributed and supported the growth within the Core Strategy. This was based on the overall housing requirements within the Core Strategy. All neighbourhood plans are adjudged against their conformity with the Core Strategy at examination and therefore it is important that the housing growth numbers can be achieved and neighbourhood plans are seen to positively promote growth. These growth housing requirements are being adhered to.</p> <p>Government has recently consulted on a revised National Planning Policy Framework and we await the publication of the outcome of that consultation and a new framework. Any future review of Herefordshire's Core Strategy may require an adjustment to current housing figures to ensure continued compliance with evolving national policy; this is a normal part of the national development plan process. At this stage, there is no specific indication of any housing numbers or future settlements/parishes to which this will apply.</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Question:</b> When the NDPs were reviewed what percentage of growth would be imposed on Parishes in future years?</p>			

**Response to Supplementary Question:** The Core Strategy set the expected level of growth in the County and if this needed to be increased or changed this would happen in the future. Government policy provided growth levels but was usually challenged.

MQ 2

Councillor Bartlett,  
Leominster East

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July following General Scrutiny decision on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to call the Hereford Transport Package Route decision in for pre scrutiny, a 'Partners and Businesses HTP Route decision' letter was sent out by recorded delivery. The final paragraph reads: *The Cabinet papers, including a proposed response to any recommendations made by General Scrutiny Committee will be published on or before 19 July.* This suggests there will be very little consideration of General Scrutiny's responses, or none at all if papers are published before 19<sup>th</sup> July as stated in the letter. All together how much money was spent on these first class 'one day delivery and signed for' recorded delivery letters?

Cabinet member  
infrastructure

**Response:**

Cabinet will, as it always does, give full and due consideration to any recommendations determined by General Scrutiny Committee. The cost of letters informing potentially affected residents and businesses of when information will be made available was £1,598. The tone of the question seems to suggest this was wasted money; I hope that was not the intention but if so I can only wholeheartedly disagree. The by-pass is something this county has been calling for for many years and the benefits of building it have been well-rehearsed. However those whose home or business may be directly impacted may understandably have different views and will above all want certainty about their future. To ensure that they are kept informed of the process is, to me, an essential and therefore worth the small cost.

**Supplementary Question:** How will the scrutiny recommendations be given proper consideration ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 27 July?

**Response to Supplementary Question:** The timings had been worked out with officers and there would be time for the recommendations to be taken to the Cabinet meeting.

MQ 3

Councillor Crockett,  
Queenswood

Now that it has been decided that the Council owned property Hillside, is to be refurbished and an amount of £1.5million has been reserved for this project, can the Cabinet member ensure Council, that work quotations will meet this target and not become another 'Blueschool House' fiasco?

Cabinet Member  
Health and Wellbeing

**Response:**

Council is being asked to make provision in the capital programme for this exciting opportunity to explore the development of nursing home provision at Hillside that meets the need of Herefordshire's ageing population, particularly those with complex Elderly Mental Illness needs, that delivers quality care and is financially sustainable. However a decision to implement the scheme has not been taken and will be informed by the feasibility work currently underway, and a developed business case which will include refined cost estimates.

I don't accept the description of the customer services hub at Blueschool House being a fiasco given the benefits it is bringing to our residents in terms of improved access to essential services in a quality environment. Whilst there were indeed failures in reporting of cost increases which have been fully recognised, the revised business case remains sound. Lessons have been learnt from that experience and there are more robust controls in place to prevent unauthorised expenditure once a capital project has been approved for implementation.

**Supplementary question:** Please advise the number of people at the Hillside Centre?

**Response to supplementary question:** A written response will be provided.