

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 MARCH 2019

Please note that under the Constitution all questions must be directed to the Chairperson. Where it is not within the Chairperson's remit to answer the question he will ensure that the issue is explored during the committee's deliberations.

Question 1

Mrs v Wegg-Prosser– Hereford

With regard to category (e) of General Scrutiny's powers covering reports to Cabinet or Council on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area, and to ensure best value for money, particularly with regard to continuing progress being made by the Council to achieve modal shift away from private car dependency, would the GS Committee today please recommend that a joined-up evaluation of all the authority's planned and implemented sustainable transport measures dating from 2014 onwards is prepared and reported on to Council before any funding by borrowing is allocated to the Hereford Transport Package in the coming financial year, 2019-20?

Response

Thank you for your question. This meeting has been convened to consider a call-in made of a specific decision. The committee will consider at its next meeting whether to include in its future workplan a review of all the planned and implemented sustainable transport measures.

Question 2

Mr R Palgrave How Caple

The Capital Programme 2019/20 Onwards and Capital Strategy presented to full council on 15 February contains this provision – *“10. Approval of provision in the capital programme is not an approval to proceed. Each project will be subject to its own governance and business case before any spend may be incurred.”* The Capital Funding Request Business Case for the HTP requesting £3.5m presented to the same Council meeting stated. *“This Feasibility Business Case is to be submitted to the Capital Strategy Board and if accepted, a more detailed outline Business Case will be developed.”* Has the Feasibility Business Case been submitted to the Capital Strategy Board, has it been accepted, and where is the record of their decision?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 3

Mrs L Lewis Breinton

The feasibility case for the £3.65million spend needed to go to the Capital Strategy Board before a more detailed outline business case could be developed to unlock funding for 2019/20. Where are the minutes of the meeting of the Capital Strategy Board as these were not published with the decision?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 4

Mrs Morawiecka Breinton

The Strategic Outline Business Case for the HTP which was written a few years ago, says that “the breakdown of capital costs is not available and has been commissioned by the Project Control Group”. The recommendations of the Internal Audit report on the Blueschool House capital overspend recommended detailed budgets to be developed and regularly updated and tracked. How is the detailed budget of the HTP being monitored by the new capital project system, in particular tracking the cost of professional fees which are already a significant component?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 5

Mrs J Morris Hereford

The Capital Programme 2019/20 Onwards and Capital Strategy presented to full council on 15 February, contains this provision – “25. The Hereford Transport Package proposed budget of £3.5m in 19/20 will enable support of landowners who are impacted by the scheme to be provided subject to appropriate governance decisions.” Appendix 2 of the papers provided to this Scrutiny meeting state that the expenditure of £3.65m is required to fund “detailed design and consultation of the preferred route” etc. How is the budget for the £3.65million split between “support of landowners” and the “design and consultation” fees?

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.

Question 6

Mrs C Palgrave How Caple

The decision that has been called-in is undoubtedly politically sensitive, and I would like the committee to require the Cabinet member to explain why it was made during the election purdah period.

Response

Thank you for your question. The issue raised is included within the grounds for call in as set out in the report published with the agenda and will be explored by the committee.