

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 24 October

Question 1

Mr D Howerski, Eaton Bishop

To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport

There are 137 Parish and Town councils in receipt of precept income. Their total spending value in 2019 is approximately £4,622,000. A small 1.25% portion of the £376 Million, that Herefordshire County Council will spend this year.

From the 137 Parish and Town Councils, how many completed an “expression of interest” in Community Commissioning with Balfour Beatty Living Places? From those who did, how many of the Annual Maintenance Plans submitted for each were, “Generic Versions” with no budget figures, which have subsequently been accepted by Balfour Beatty Living Places for the year 2019-2020?

Response

For 2019 / 2020 the ‘Community Commissioning Model’ scheme has had 48 requests to date with 13 completed and 17 progressing. 18 have not been progressed by the relevant parish councils.

Expressions of interest and annual maintenance plans are not part of the community commissioning model requirement but relate instead to the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3 Scheme) and the Parish Lengthsman Scheme. For 2019/2020, 85 parish councils submitted an expression of interest. Of those, 66 parish council annual maintenance plans identified budgets for the schemes to progress. Of these 53 parishes are doing both the P3 and Parish Lengthsman Scheme, 1 is doing the P3 scheme only and 12 are doing the Parish Lengthsman Scheme only.

If any parish council wants to be part of the scheme they should submit the maintenance plan with the identified budget.

Further information is available at

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200231/parish_councils/207/lengthsman_scheme

Question 2

Dr N Geeson, Hereford

To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport

This time last year at the Public Inquiry for the Southern Link Road CPOs we were told that the business case for the Southern Link Road was being finalised, but this did not happen during the last four months or so of the previous administration. What were the main reasons for the Southern Link Road business case not being ready to be submitted to the Department for Transport before April/May 2019?

Response

The development of the final full business case for the SWTP progressed following the public inquiry in November 2018. However Department for Transport guidance sets out that the final full business case cannot be formally submitted until all statutory consents have been obtained and a tender price for the scheme has been agreed and included in the business case.

The statutory compulsory and side roads orders for the Southern Link Road were not confirmed (following the public inquiry) until middle March 2019 in the week before the purdah period for the May 2019 local elections began. In addition the tender process for the SLR had not concluded before the purdah and election of a new administration. As a result the business case has not yet been finalised or submitted.