

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 28 JULY 2022

Question 1

**From: Mr Les Fancourt, Three Shires Building, Monkhide
To: Cabinet Member, Infrastructure & Transport**

Are the council now going to commit to a confirmed release date for the long awaited and promised Phosphate credit scheme?

If so, is the amount of Phosphate credit proposed to be released going to cover the first eligible list? If not, it seems certain we are going to have to suffer another open ended, long period of extend moratorium, with no second release even on the horizon. This will be devastating for the construction industry that in some instances has already been on stop since 2019. This would be completely unacceptable in respect to the fact that the primary and biggest polluters continue virtually unchecked, and the moratorium on development has made little or no difference to the pollution problem. It is long overdue that this wrong is addressed.

Response

Thank you for your question. We agree completely more needs to be done to address pollution on the Wye and will continue to press all parties locally and nationally to play their part. As the Cabinet report, to be considered this afternoon explains, the Council has voluntarily chosen to assist developers by bringing forward a Phosphate Credit Scheme. Credits will start to be offered in August 2022 and a planning condition will ensure that new developments are only occupied when the site is actually able to deliver the Phosphate reduction. This condition is likely to be less than a year from now. Many design, engineering and environmental challenges have been overcome to get to the point in which Herefordshire Council has become the first to achieve this. At present, there are insufficient credits to meet the entire backlog and we are actively progressing further sites from which to offer credits close to Tarrington and Titley. We are also keen to learn from DEFRA whether the new support scheme announced last week will be available here. We are pleased to hear that government intends to ensure that pollution from the Water Industry must be rectified by 2030. Our Cabinet Commission on restoring the Wye will look further at what the Council can do to tackle wider pollution issues and further details of the Commission and its work will follow.