

Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mr McGeown, Weobley	Will a Printed Copy of Draft City Masterplan be provided to all Herefordshire households in advance of it being put for consultation and adoption?	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<p>Response:</p> <p>The Hereford City Masterplan is currently being reviewed to ensure that is aligned with this administration’s Policy Direction. Following this review the document will be reconsidered by Cabinet prior to formal consultation. The consultation will include printed copies being made available in Libraries and Community venues across the County. A short URL link to the digital document will also be available to ensure the document can be easily accessed digitally in line with the Councils Digital Strategy 2018-23.</p>			
<p>Supplementary Question:</p> <p>Would printed copies of draft masterplan be available to Parish Councillors, for example would the parish clerk be able to formally ask that Dilwyn Parish Council obtain 12 printed copies (13 if the clerk can also have one). These would aid the councillors “in depth discussion in advance of consultation”. Also and possibly more significant, these printed copies could be made available to Dilwyn residents so they can become fully informed. Say placed in the borrowed book corner in St Mary’s Church, The Crown community hub, village hall etc. This would help Dilwynners to raise relevant concerns.</p> <p>Also as a simple resident/householder I have minor vision impairment and find hard printed copy easier than on screen documents. Would I be able to formally ask to be provided with a printed copy from say “Information Governance Team, Herefordshire Council”, so that like the councillors, it will enable me to have better accessibility and fuller understanding. I can then be better prepared when the Draft Masterplan is put for consultation.</p>			
<p>Response to supplementary question from Cabinet member transport and infrastructure:</p> <p>As part of the consultation the needs of all different consultees across the county will be considered. The consultation will be conducted largely on line however hard copies of the consultation documents will be available in libraries and where requests for hardcopies are received the council will engage with those members of the public to attempt to address their needs and requirements.</p>			
PQ 2	Ms Reid, Hereford	<p>The Chief Executive’s Announcement and the Leader’s Report mentioned the partnership with Leeds City Council to improve Herefordshire Children’s Services. The Leeds Family Valued approach uses “restorative and relational practice”. When recently interviewed (BBC H&W), the Cabinet member explained this means “working with families and not doing to [families]” and mentioned Family Group Conferences (FGCs).</p> <p>Apart from FGCs, how will the council work with and build trust with families (please include dates)?</p>	<p>Cabinet member children and young people</p> <p>(The Leader has provided the response)</p>

		<p>Excluding FGCs, possibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a group of families with varied experience of Children’s Services (eg care proceedings, children ‘in need’, children in care) to consult with • Suggesting a families co-optee on the Improvement Board • Satisfactorily dealing with complaints • Satisfactorily answering public questions and supplementary questions per the Constitution especially to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) • Representative of Families co-optee on the CYPSC (4.5.7, Constitution) 	
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Response:
The move towards a more restorative and relational approach has started and we are excited that the Leeds Relational Practice Centre has committed to support us over the next few years with our development journey. There is not a distinct list of key dates and tasks but rather an embrace of the approach of working *with* families which should permeate all of our actions in time.

Answering on behalf of Councillor Ivan Powell today I am aware that the service is developing proposals to speak with families about setting up a consultative group which will be shared with Councillor Powell and that additional resources have been put into being better able to respond to and resolve complaints. A question about responding to public questions and supplementary questions was answered at the meeting of the children and young people scrutiny committee last week as was the matter of the appointment of co-optees which is a matter for that committee. I shall however pass on the suggestions contained in the question to Councillor Ivan Powell.

Supplementary question:
Public questions have often not been fully answered, answered late or unanswered. For example, four public questions were submitted to the February children’s scrutiny committee meeting but none was answered before the meeting. At the next children’s scrutiny committee meeting, this month, six public questions were submitted. All six questioners are dissatisfied with the responses to their public questions and/or supplementary questions including the former Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the committee. The explanation for rejecting my supplementary question was that it repeated the answered public question about co-optees. The response would have answered my public question for any other scrutiny committee.

In future, will public questions and supplementary questions be satisfactorily answered and per the Constitution?

Response to supplementary question from the Leader:
Public and supplementary questions were vital to the running council and it was important that the process for the answering of questions operated effectively and did not malfunction. Every effort would be made to ensure that the problems affecting the questions to the February meeting of the children and young people scrutiny committee did not happen again. Within the rules for public questions there was the potential for questions and supplementary questions to be rejected if they did not meet the criteria. The council should strive to answer questions in line with the services it provides and members of the public should feel that the ability to ask questions adds to the value of the running of the council.

