

## **COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 28 September**

### **Question 1**

**Councillor Hitchiner, Stoney Street**

**To: Cabinet Members, Economy and Growth and Transport and Infrastructure**

The paper to Cabinet on the Marches Partnership refers (para 21) to the new administration's priority to address congestion on the A49 "through developing a western bypass to Herefordshire". Can the Cabinet member confirm that for the time being at least the new administration is continuing the work instigated by the previous administration to look at the viability of building a new bridge to the East of Hereford, and when the results of this work will be provided to Councillors and the public. This project, and the associated active travel measures will deliver the same benefits to relieve congestion on the A49 as a western bypass at much lower cost and much more quickly.

### **Response**

The Council is continuing to work with Aecom to deliver the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Eastern River Crossing. This work is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. The projected cost of the project has now grown significantly since the original scheme was mooted by the previous administration. It is therefore no longer the cheap scheme that was envisaged. To ensure that the residents of Herefordshire are presented with a scheme that delivers the best value and rate of return this administration is seeking to explore the development potential that the creation of a western bypass will present.

At the same time we are looking to reinvigorate the construction of the Southern Link Road, a project that will provide some relief to the business traffic that is accessing the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone and will also create an essential link should the western bypass be adopted as a part of the Council's plans.