

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 14 December 2023

Question 1

Carole Protherough, Clehonger

To: Councillor Price, Transport and Infrastructure

How can expenditure on furthering the pie in the sky SLR project be justified in the context of increasing council tax and cutting services, at a time when many households are struggling with increased costs, and there are clearly significant shortcomings in services for vulnerable individuals and families ?

Response

The funding requests for projects in the approved capital programme have been confirmed as manageable within current borrowing limits in the medium term financial strategy and the available balance in the capital receipts reserve.

Question 2

Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton Hereford

To: Councillor Stoddart, Finance and Corporate Services

The Southern Link Road in the capital projects programme will use £5million of capital receipts and also require £5.3million of prudential borrowing. The £5million of capital receipts could be used to reduce borrowing for other capital projects.

Building a new road will generate no income to repay the capital or cover the interest payments. Please confirm the extra cost to the local taxpayer of borrowing £10.3million, and how this will be repaid by local tax payers?

Response

The project is funded by £5.3 million of borrowing. This is not new borrowing and was included in the budget approved by Council in February 2023. There is no extra cost to the taxpayer as this is already included in the Council's approved base budget.

Question 3

Mr Paul Symonds, Ross on Wye

To: Councillor Price, Transport and Infrastructure

In relation to the response to my question at full Council on 8 December, please explain why priority could not be given to southbound traffic leaving Ross-on-Wye town centre in order to facilitate a yellow box?

Response

As per our initial response, the introduction of a yellow box at this location is only permissible in conjunction with an associated priority working arrangement.

The implementation of an associated priority working arrangement would require suitable points to be established at either end of the section of road and at locations where vehicles of all types (ie. not just cars) could wait and not prevent the passage of vehicles from the other direction.

In this case it is not considered feasible to introduce priority working for southbound vehicles leaving Ross on Wye as there would be insufficient forward visibility between the point that vehicles enter into the priority arrangement and where vehicles would be required to wait when travelling towards the town centre. This means that drivers of vehicles travelling in a northbound direction would not be able to see drivers coming southbound. For this reason, a priority working arrangement is not considered feasible.