

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 29 February 2024

Question 1

John Harrington, Herefordshire.

To: Councillor Price, Transport and Infrastructure

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the shelters at the Country Bus Station are being replaced, and if so what are the timelines involved for the redevelopment of that site - and what are the plans for that site considering the hub is supposed to accommodate buses? Finally, are the shelters able to be repurposed if needs be?

Answer: Cabinet Member, Transport and Infrastructure

The shelters at the Country Bus Station are being replaced with sedum roofed shelters as a part of the Hereford City Centre Improvement scheme. These replacement shelters will improve the biodiversity of the space and will provide an improved experience for users. As a part of the replacement programme, those shelters that still have useful life remaining will be re-installed at other locations across the city.

The redevelopment of the Country Bus Station and the surrounding area/s was being considered under the auspices of the Hereford City Masterplan. The development of the Hereford City Masterplan has been paused, to allow for the Local Plan, the New Hereford Road Strategy and the Local Transport Plan to be progressed. Once this work is complete, the council will be in a position to review the City Masterplan, ensuring Hereford is well placed to play its critical role in realising the ambitions of the county wider strategies. Further information will be available in due course on the process and timescales for stakeholder consultation and public engagement for the Hereford City Centre Masterplan

Supplementary question:

Thank you, although you must be aware that the plans for redeveloping the Country Bus Station were part of Conservative proposals prior to the Masterplan and linked to the HCCTP, whose genesis and gross overspends you oversaw. Or perhaps singular focus on reviving a supine equine in the form of a Western Bypass has tunnelled your vision a tad.

Regards river crossings, can you tell me why the appendices of the Aecom ERiC report are still not available? It is for the people of Herefordshire, through their properly informed elected members, not you alone, to decide whether continuing with a short crossing in the East, already furnished with a SOBC is the way forward or whether a Western bypass with no business case, no planning permission, no funding and no hope is something to have another crack at.

Supplementary response:

Thank you for your supplementary question, it has nothing to do with your original question but I am told that the SOBC for the Eastern River crossing was published in December and the appendices can be found by searching Eastern River crossing and Link road hyphen strategic outline case report and it's been on the Council website since 8th February.