

Item 5, Questions from members of the public

Questioner:	Phil Smart, Hereford
Question: How can the committee do its scrutiny effectively when so many different sectors are all lumped together under one umbrella?	
Response: Almost every aspect of the council's work involves close partnership working, including our public health and social care duties. These often complex working arrangements are themselves a valid and necessary topic for scrutiny. The committee recognises the challenge this faces, and is producing a comprehensive programme of briefings and training in order to develop its understanding of the numerous organisations that deliver health and social care services. This matter will be a topic for discussion at the committee's meeting on 29 July 2024.	
Supplementary question: It is clear there is a desperate need for a separate Housing and Homelessness scrutiny committee given the recent ruling from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman where a family was awarded £13,580 in compensation for being placed in unsuitable accommodation. Will the committee recommend to Council that it create such a committee?	
Response: The committee discussed your suggestion at a briefing earlier today and we recognise the importance of providing a high standard of accommodation for people in Herefordshire, in particular those who are homeless, as well as those for other vulnerable groups. We believe that this committee is well placed to scrutinise the council's work in this area, so we will not make a recommendation to Council for a scrutiny committee dedicated to housing and homelessness. We welcome any further suggestions you might have for topics for this committee to look into.	