Agenda item no. 5- Questions from councillor

Question No.	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1.	Cllr Hitchiner	*The outline business case for Phase 1 of the bypass (page 137) sets out anticipated benefits. A claimed benefit is a reduction of traffic in the city centre. What evidence is in the public domain to support this claim? What evidence does the Council have to support this? If such evidence exists why is this not being made public?*	Cllr Price
Response: Our initial modelling indicates that construction of Phase One will see improvements in transport resilience; it does not indicate increased traffic in the city centre. At the same time will reduce traffic on portions of Belmont Rd, Walnut Tree Ave and Holme Lacy Road. The traffic modelling that underpins these forecasts is still going through our formal validation and verification processes. It would not be appropriate to publish this data until those checks are complete, as the results need to be robust, accurate and fully assured. The modelling will form part of the investment and business case documentation, which is scheduled for publication in July 2026. However, we expect the modelling work to be completed ahead of that date and will look to make the information public as soon as it has been fully verified.			
Supplementary Question:			
Supplementary Response:			
PQ 2.	Cllr Ben Proctor	*Given the "deeply concerning reports of the Grok AI chatbot account on X being used to create and share undressed images of people – which may amount to intimate image abuse or pornography – and sexualised images of children that may amount to child sexual abuse material (CSAM)" (I am quoting the OfCom news release of 12 January 2026). Will the Cabinet close all council accounts on X and ensure that the X or Twitter logos are no longer used on council communication materials?"*	Cllr Hurcomb
Response:			

We fully acknowledge the seriousness of the recent misuse of Grok's image generation capabilities, which has enabled the creation of non-consensual and harmful deepfakes - an issue that has rightly drawn widespread condemnation. xAI has responded by imposing restrictions on creating sexualised images for all its users, and the government has confirmed the changes bring the platform into compliance with UK laws. We will continue to monitor developments closely and will reassess our use of the platform should substantive improvements not materialise. In the meantime, maintaining a presence on X, alongside a range of other channels, allows us to communicate with the public, especially at times of crisis where it often becomes the go-to place for breaking news and updates.

Supplementary Question:

Supplementary Response: