

Agenda item no. 6 - Questions from members of the Council

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1	Cllr O'Driscoll, Ross West	The Section 106 agreement for the Orchards development provides for a footpath and cycle link to the Town and Country Trail. Why, following the MOD's indication that it intends to cease using the adjoining rifle range, has the Council not sought access to deliver this link, and can the Leader assure residents that its delivery is not being delayed to protect the future development value of Council-owned land?	Leader
Response: Thank you for your question. The Council remains committed to delivering the footpath and cycle link, recognising its importance to the local community in providing access to the Town and Country Trail. The Section 106 contribution for the scheme remains available, and we have actively sought to progress the link, subject to the necessary permissions and approvals. Although the Ministry of Defence has indicated that it intends to cease using the adjoining rifle range, the land remains in its ownership and the Council requires the MOD's agreement and the necessary legal access before the scheme can proceed. We have today (7 October) further written to the MOD to encourage progress in this issue. The Council's approach is therefore being driven by deliverability, land ownership and legal access, and not by any intention to protect the future development value of Council-owned land. I have asked that you are kept updated as this matter progresses.			
MQ 2	Cllr Proctor, College	What actions has the council taken since the last council meeting on 24th July to accelerate the spend of the Section 106 backlog?	Cabinet member Culture and Environment
Response: The Council has taken a number of steps to improve the delivery of Section 106 since July including the following: • The integration of the Section 106 function within the Highways and Public Realm Team, enabling greater access to management structures, technical expertise, and delivery resources. • Strengthened collaboration and knowledge sharing with Planning Services to improve coordination and expedite planning and delivery processes. • The proactive pursuit of funding opportunities to supplement Section 106 contributions to enable delivery of larger or more comprehensive projects where costs exceed available s106 funding.			

- Enhanced stakeholder engagement and project development through attendance at parish and town council meetings and liaison with third parties to ensure priorities are understood and schemes are appropriately scoped at an early stage to expedite delivery.

We recognise that there is still more to do and I am confident that the new management arrangements will help deliver more schemes.

MQ 3	Cllr Mason, Weobley	Not a day seems to go by without acknowledgement of the transformative, rapidly evolving, but existentially risky, nature of Artificial Intelligence. According to the minutes of the audit and governance committee in June 2025, the draft annual governance statement 2024/2025 reported that: "The council has an AI ethics and governance board comprised of membership across different areas of the council who have oversight to ensure ethical use and accountability, to evaluate the risks and harms associated with AI. The board will evolve as this technology develops and the council's reliance on it increases or the way it is used changes...." And earlier that year, at the Scrutiny Management Board in March, the minutes suggest that the board's membership and terms of reference could be shared.	Cabinet member Finance and corporate services
------	------------------------	---	---

Response: AI technology is developing at a rapid rate, and the council takes its use and any associated risks and harms extremely seriously. The AI Ethics & Governance Board has been incorporated into the work of the existing Information Governance Steering Group which meets bi-monthly.

The Board's membership and ToR can be shared and are available through the link below:

[\(Public Pack\)SUPPLEMENT - Attachments to Member Question - MQ3 Agenda Supplement for Council, 09/10/2026 10:00](#)