

**Council****Thursday, 13 November 2014, 10.00 am****Agenda**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page No</b>
11	<b>Question Time</b> To receive answers to any questions asked by Councillors ( <b>orange pages</b> ).  <i>Seven further questions received following the publication of the agenda on 4 November 2014.</i>	73 - 74

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All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk>

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## **11. QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED**

### **Question 2 – Employment with the County Council**

2. Mr A T Amos will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Would the Leader of the Council :

(a) confirm that, in its recruitment and selection procedures, the County Council does not in any way, directly or indirectly, discriminate against any group of people,

(b) confirm that the appointment of staff is done purely and solely on the basis of merit, experience, and ability, and not on the basis of any irrelevant factor such as gender, skin colour, or ethnicity, and

(c) agree with me that where discrimination does occur, the organisation itself and the country are the losers and end up with third-rate people rather than the best?"

### **Question 3 - Teaching Assistants and unqualified teachers**

3. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families please inform me over the last two years how many hours teaching assistants have spent teaching? Also, how many unqualified teachers are employed to teach by this Council?"

### **Question 4 – Working from Home**

4. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning please inform me of the number of hours now spent by senior officers (Head of Service and above) working from home?"

### **Question 5 – Council Website**

5. Mr P Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"I was pleased to read in Worcester News on Wednesday 5 November that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning has arranged to consult users of the new WCC website via a 'public feedback group'. Can he please advise Council what consultation took place with partners of the County

**Question 6 – Street lighting**

Council prior to the release of the county's new website?"

6. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways explain whether he thinks that it makes sense and provides long term savings, to change some of the light sensors in the light columns in roads such as Hewell Road Redditch, thus removing the current unfairness of newer roads providing brighter lights than older ones during the switch off period?"

**Question 7 – Motorway traffic**

7. Mr W P Gretton will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure:

"Reports of traffic congestion on Worcestershire's motorways are broadcast on national and local radio all too frequently, usually due to vehicle breakdowns or accidents. Can the Cabinet Member ascertain from the Highways Agency why this is the case and what can be done to reduce the inconvenience to Worcestershire residents and others using the motorways? Will he urge the Highways Agency to take action accordingly?"

**Question 8 – 'Better Roads for England'**

8. Mr G J Vickery will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways care to comment on the 'Better Roads for England' report from the Local Government Association?"

**Contact Points**

**County Council Contact Points**

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**Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.