

COUNCIL
17 JANUARY 2019**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Superfast Broadband

1. Mr A D Kent will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure:

"The successful Superfast Broadband roll out in Worcestershire continues to provide a clear message that Worcestershire is Open for Business. Can I ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to clarify the opportunities available to those communities, that haven't yet benefitted from the roll out of a Community Fibre Partnership assisted by their local County Councillor and Worcestershire County Councils officers?"

Question 2 – Non-disclosure agreements

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

"Would the Cabinet Member please inform me how much money over the last three years has been paid out regarding: Non-Disclosure Agreements/Settlement Agreements and the individual amounts?"

Question 3 – Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme

3. Prof J W Raine will ask the Leader of the Council:

"I feel proud and grateful that our County of Worcestershire has made such a positive response over the past two years to the Government's call for local authorities to provide welcoming and safe resettlement for refugee families from war-torn Syria and surrounding countries. Indeed, against a background of unrelenting financial austerity, this Council's efforts to resettle fifty refugees in each of two years through the Home Office-led Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme has surely been one of its most worthwhile and heartening initiatives of recent years.

Sadly, of course, there remain many thousands more displaced refugee families waiting and hoping for their opportunity for resettlement in this country too. So will the Leader please commit this Council to continuing the good work and agreeing to accept and resettle a further fifty refugees in our County during the coming year 2019-20?"

Question 4 – Gypsy and Traveller Service

4. Mr R M Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities provide an outline of any proposals she has for the Gypsy and Traveller Service for the 2019/20 financial year?"

Question 5 – Mobile classrooms in Local Authority controlled schools

5. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

"Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills inform Council how many portable classrooms are in the grounds of the remaining Local Authority controlled schools?"

Question 6 – Availability of sanitary products in schools, colleges and community centres

6. Ms C M Stalker will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills:

"It has been a year now since we raised a motion asking Council to look at the possibility of helping to alleviate Period Poverty by agreeing to investigate the placing of sanitary products into schools, colleges and community centres for all girls and young women aged up to 18 years old. This motion was rejected due to the perceived lack of need in Worcestershire. Period poverty is a real issue for many females and other local authorities - e.g. Bristol have agreed to provide products for those who need them. Sanitary products cost every female around £7 - £13 per month and for those on low income this is a significant amount of money, and with other pressures is hard for many to meet this cost; periods are not a choice, all females have to deal with this aspect of their lives. I hope that we in Worcestershire can make the decision to help in this matter very soon.

Could the Cabinet Member with Responsibility please advise me of what has been done to look into this matter and what results have been found?"

Question 7 – Speeding and dangerous driving on the Redditch Road in Bromsgrove

7. Mr C J Bloore will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways will know of the ongoing problems of speeding and dangerous driving on the Redditch Road in Bromsgrove because of emails and letters he has received from local residents and from Sajid Javid MP. Would he agree to meet with me and local residents on site to see the problems first-hand and plot an acceptable way forward?"

Question 8 – Residential 20mph zones

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

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways update Council as to how the pilot for residential 20mph zones progressing? Would he also consider extending the pilot to cover Smallwood and parts of Batchley in Redditch?"

Question 9 – Forced marriages

9. Mr C J Bloore will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"Worcestershire County Council has a legal responsibility under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to look to reduce crime against its residents when exercising its core duties. In recent years, this has included partnership work to help prevent forced marriages. In light of this responsibility and work on a local level, does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility agree with me it is unacceptable for victims of forced marriages to be charged by the Foreign Office for airline tickets to escape forced marriages and that some of the most vulnerable members of our society should not be 'paying for their protection'?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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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.