

Council**Thursday, 12 November 2015, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester****Additional Questions**

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COUNCIL
12 NOVEMBER 2015**QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED**

Question 7 – Young Drivers

7. Mr P A Tuthill will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"The Chief Officer of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has consistently promoted the successful *Dying 2 Drive* Programme (<https://www.hwfire.org.uk/safety-and-advice/road-safety/dying-2-drive/>). Dying 2 Drive is a free multi-agency road safety scheme aimed at reducing death and serious injury amongst young road users in Herefordshire. The events involve a realistic reconstruction of a road traffic collision followed by powerful interactive workshops. The scheme is aimed at Year 11 students who will currently be car passengers and soon become young drivers.

Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways agree that the same format and dramatic Programme title should be launched here in Worcestershire? I am sure all members will agree – particularly those who have young drivers in their families and Divisions.

Having had notice of this question has the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways been able consider how this might be replicated in Worcestershire and are there any funding issues associated with it?"

Question 8 – the Council's Carbon Footprint

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

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment support the aim of the forthcoming Paris Conference on reducing climate change and global warming, due to the major risks both pose to the forthcoming natural and economic well-being of Worcestershire? How does he think that the County Council can continue to take a lead by further reducing our own carbon footprint?"

Question 9 – Pupil Premium Payments for Looked After Children

9. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families tell me when another local authority places a Looked After Child with foster parents in Worcestershire and passes the Pupil Premium payment for the child to this council what is the procedure for passing that payment on to the school attended by the

child and how soon after Worcestershire County Council receives the payment can the school expect to receive it?"

Question 10 – Services for blind and partially sighted people

10. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care tell me what services does the Council provide for the rehabilitation and support of blind and partially sighted people? Has there been any change in the level of service over the last five years?"

Question 11 – Transfer of client groups from the NHS

11. Mr G J Vickery will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Would the Leader of the Council say how the impending transfer of responsibility for people with learning difficulties above the age of 18 from the NHS to local authorities is to be funded?"

Question 12 – Maternity Services at The Alexandra Hospital, Redditch

12. Mr G J Vickery will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Does the Leader of the Council share the concerns of many about the latest decisions of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust to close maternity services at the Redditch Alexandra Hospital?"

Question 13 – Service personnel returning to civilian life

13. Mr R C Adams will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Members of the Worcestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant Working Group are extremely grateful for the support of the Worcestershire Partnership Relationship Manager in the production of the booklet "Service to Civvy Street". Would the Leader of the Council accept our thanks and endorse the contents which will inform ex-service personnel and their families of the support available in Worcestershire?"

Question 14 – Use of bus lanes by other vehicles

14. Mr P Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"At our Council meeting on 9 July 2015 the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways agreed to investigate the possibility of permitting taxis to use bus lanes, in response to a motion tabled by me which was widely supported by members.

I recognise that proper investigation is not simple or easy but can Council be advised whether we employ sufficient suitably qualified staff to undertake this work within a reasonable timescale and when we can expect to see a report on this important matter?"

Question 15 – European Union fines

15. Mr P Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"It seems likely that the UK will be fined by the European Union for failing to meet targets designed to reduce air pollution. It is also likely that these fines will be passed on by national government to local councils which continue to have air quality action zones.

Has there been any estimate of this county's potential financial risk in these circumstances and what has Worcestershire done to mitigate this risk?"

Question 16 – Safety lines on the highway

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

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways agree with me that six months is far too long for a local community to wait for safety lines to be repainted on a busy local road outside a children's centre?"

Question 17 – Reductions in social care staff

17. Mr C J Bloore will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care:

"What reassurances can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care give the public and members of this Council that the cutting of 100 adult social care workers will not affect the level of service offered to our county's most vulnerable residents?"

Question 18 – Food waste

18. Dr K A Pollock will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"The 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak cost £8 billion and led to the banning of pig swill. This was due to the failures of individuals and has resulted in a huge amount of food waste being dumped, digested or burnt.

Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for the Environment agree that, despite his sterling efforts to cut food waste in Worcestershire, it is now time to lobby for a change in the regulations about food waste, so that this country, if not the whole EU, emulates the situation in Japan and South Korea where centralised sterilisation is used to ensure that waste food can be safely fed to pigs and chickens?"

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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.