

**Council****Thursday, 17 September 2015, County Hall, Worcester -  
10.00 am****Minutes****Present:**

Mr I Hopwood (Chairman), Mr A A J Adams, Mr R C Adams, Ms P Agar, Mr A T Amos, Mrs S Askin, Mr J Baker, Mr R W Banks, Mr M L Bayliss, Mr A N Blagg, Mrs S L Blagg, Mr P J Bridle, Mr M H Broomfield, Mr J P Campion, Mr S J M Clee, Mr S C Cross, Mrs P E Davey, Mr P Denham, Mr N Desmond, Mrs E A Eyre, Ms L R Duffy, Mr A Fry, Mr S E Geraghty, Mrs J L M A Griffiths, Mr P Grove, Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Ms P A Hill, Mrs A T Hingley, Mrs L C Hodgson, Mr C G Holt, Mr M E Jenkins, Ms R E Jenkins, Mr R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P M McDonald, Mr A P Miller, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr J W Parish, Mr S R Peters, Dr K A Pollock, Mr D W Prodger, Prof J W Raine, Mrs M A Rayner, Mr A C Roberts, Mr J H Smith, Mr J W R Thomas, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall, Mr G J Vickery, Mr T A L Wells and Mr G C Yarranton

**Available papers:**

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated).
- B. Seven questions submitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (previously circulated).
- C. The Minutes of the Council held on 9 July 2015 (previously circulated).

**1694 Apologies and  
Declaration of  
Interests  
(Agenda item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C J Bloore, Mr W P Gretton, Mr R J Sutton and Mr C B Taylor.

Six declarations of Other Disclosable Interests were made by:

Ms P Agar - Member of Worcester City Council (Agenda item 5(a) Cathedral Square).

Mr M L Bayliss - Cabinet Member, Worcester City Council (Agenda item 5(a) Cathedral Square).

Mr S E Geraghty - Member of Worcester City Council (Agenda item 5(a) Cathedral Square).

**1695 Public Participation (Agenda item 2)**

Mrs L C Hodgson - Member of Worcester City Council (Agenda item 5(a) Cathedral Square).

Prof J W Raine - Work colleagues who were members of the IRP (Agenda item 7).

Mr J H Smith - Wife was the nominee for Vice-Chairmanship of HOSC (Agenda item 6).

Two petitions were presented at the meeting:

- Mrs Sue Wolfendale addressed the Council on the continuing plight of refugees fleeing the hostilities in Syria. She made reference to attempts being made both locally and nationally to offer homes to the displaced and to the Government's recent promises of assistance. She presented a petition.
- Mr Tom Hall addressed the Council on problems being experienced by full-time students in relation to fares for public transport. These related mainly to cross-border difficulties experienced by students attending courses not available within Worcestershire. He presented a petition.

The Chairman thanked them both for taking part in the public participation process. The petitioners would receive responses from the appropriate person in due course.

**1696 Minutes (Agenda item 3)**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**1697 Chairman's Announcements (Agenda item 4)**

The Chairman referred to the printed Announcements which had been circulated to all members. He drew attention particularly to the Charity Day being arranged on 2 October 2015 and to Mr T A L Wells running for charity in the Worcester 10 kilometre race. The Chairman also made reference to Mrs E B Tucker's Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

**1698 Reports of Cabinet - West Mercia Youth Offending Service - Youth Justice Plan 2015/16**

The Council had before it a report on the Youth Justice Plan for 2015/16. The report contained the Cabinet's recommendations for approval of the Plan with reasons and made reference to an electronic link to the full document.

**RESOLVED that the West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 be approved.**

<p><b>(Agenda item 5(a)(i))</b></p> <p><b>1699 Reports of Cabinet - Matters which require a decision by Council - Capital Programme Additions - Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund (Agenda item 5(a)(ii))</b></p>	<p>The Council had before it a report on two recommended additions to the Capital Programme one of which related specifically to the Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund. The report contained details and costings of both proposals being recommended for inclusion by the Cabinet.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that the Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund addition to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 13 of the report be approved and that the capital budget cash limits be updated accordingly; and</b></p>
<p><b>1700 Reports of Cabinet - Matters which require a decision by Council - Capital Programme Additions - Cathedral Square (Agenda item 5(a)(ii))</b></p>	<p>The Council had before it a report on two recommended additions to the Capital Programme one of which related specifically to the scheme for the development of Cathedral Square in Worcester. The report contained detailed costings of both proposals being recommended for inclusion.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that the Worcester Cathedral Square addition to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 17 of the report be approved and that the capital budget cash limits be updated accordingly.</b></p>
<p><b>1701 Reports of Cabinet - Summary of decisions taken (Agenda item 5(b))</b></p>	<p>The Leader of the Council reported the following topics and answered questions in relation to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-17</li> <li>• Malvern Vale - Development of a New School Facility</li> <li>• Public Health Ring Fenced Grant</li> <li>• Corporate Risk Update</li> <li>• Balanced Scorecard - FutureFit Performance Update</li> </ul>

- Resources Report
  - FutureFit Programme Update
  - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 Outturn Forecast as at 31 May 2015
  - Cabinet Programme Budget Monitoring: 2014/15 Actual Expenditure as at 31 May 2015
  - Annual Statutory Financial Statements 2014/15.

**1702 Constitutional Matters - Vice Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) (Agenda item 6(a))**

The Council had before it a report containing the nomination of the district council members of HOSC, Mrs Frances Smith, for Vice-Chairmanship of that Committee.

**RESOLVED that the nominee of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Mrs Frances Smith, be appointed as Vice-Chairman of HOSC.**

**1703 Constitutional Matters - Council Meeting date in July 2016 (Agenda item 6(b))**

The Council had before it a report recommending a change in the date of the meeting in July 2016 owing to a clash with the recently announced date of the 2016 Local Government Association conference.

**RESOLVED that the Council meeting in July 2016 be now held on Thursday, 14 July 2016 and not 7 July 2016 as agreed previously.**

**1704 Interim Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances (Agenda item 7)**

The Council had before it the interim report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances (IRP). A covering report within the main agenda papers outlined why the IRP report had been commissioned, a reference to the conclusions of the IRP, a reference to a further report to be made in Autumn 2016 by the IRP and proposals to extend the term of office of the current members of the IRP to conclude the in depth work currently being undertaken.

The Leader of the Council commented that members' allowances had been frozen in 2008 and not increased since and the recommendation of the Panel in relation to a 1% uplift in the basic allowance was both realistic and sensible. He paid tribute to the members of the IRP and supported the extension of their term of office to allow them to conclude their further review of Special Responsibility Allowances.

**RESOLVED that:**

**1705 Notices of Motion - Notice of Motion 1 - Devolution (Agenda item 8)**

- (a) the interim report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowances Scheme be endorsed,
- (b) Council notes that the Panel will report again in Autumn 2016; and
- (c) the term of office of the current members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be extended for the remainder of the life of this Council.

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mrs S Askin, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs F M Oborski.

The Notice of Motion was moved by Mrs E B Tucker and seconded by Mrs S Askin who both spoke in favour of it.

The Council then agreed to consider and deal with the Motion on the day.

An amendment to the effect that a full debate be conducted on this issue by the end of November rather than the end of September was moved by Mr A I Hardman and seconded by Mr M L Bayliss. The amendment read:

*"Emerging legislation includes provision to allow for the devolution of powers from the UK Government to some of England's towns, cities and counties. Worcestershire County Council and the six district councils have commissioned consultants KPMG to work on the county's future devolution options and assist in the drawing up of firm recommendations to the Government.*

*So far any formal involvement and input from County Councillors into the process has been confined to members of the controlling administration. The devolution debate includes consideration of important options for the future of our county.*

*It is vital that the views of all Councillors be heard on this matter so that they can be considered and included in the KPMG recommendations to Government and therefore this Council requests that a full debate be conducted on this issue by the end of November".*

Council then debated the amendment during which the following principal points were made:

- members needed to be in a position sooner rather than later to respond to the issues raised by the devolution debate
- all members should be involved in formulating the Council's response at the earliest stage not just a select few
- a suggestion was made that the OSPB could be involved in the development of policy on this issue
- that the new timescale proposed by the amendment would allow a full consideration of the options open to the County Council and a full and open debate on what was best for the people of Worcestershire
- the Leader clarified that this would allow a debate at November Council and he also committed to a cross-party member briefing during October.

**On being put to the meeting this amendment was carried and became the substantive Motion which was subsequently carried.**

**1706 Notices of Motion - Notice of Motion 2 - Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme (Agenda item 8)**

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr M E Jenkins, Mrs S Askin and Mr T A L Wells:

*"The County Council notes the recent Government statement that the 'Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme', in place since early 2014, will be expanded, with an additional 20,000 people currently living in camps in Syria, Turkey and Jordan being resettled in the UK by 2020.*

*The Council recognises the urgent need for action and is determined to play its part, together with partner agencies and authorities, in accommodating an equitable and realistic number of refugees here in Worcestershire as soon as it is practicable to do so.*

*Accordingly, we would ask the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning to press the Government that adequate funding will continue beyond the first year and to use their delegated authority to work with partner authorities and local agencies, to formulate*

*an application to the Home Office's Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme".*

The Notice of Motion was moved by Mr T A L Wells and seconded by Prof J W Raine who both spoke in favour of it.

The Council then agreed to consider and deal with the Motion on the day.

A number of members spoke in favour of assisting refugees fleeing from the conflict in Syria and the general tenor of the debate was to offer to help and supporting the Motion.

**On being put to the meeting the Motion was carried.**

**1707 Notices of Motion - Notice of Motion 3 - Training Costs (Agenda item 8)**

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P M McDonald, Mr C J Bloore, Mr R M Udall, Mr L C R Mallett and Ms P Agar.

The Motion was moved by Mr P M McDonald and seconded by Mr R M Udall. The mover then spoke in favour of the Motion.

The Council agreed to consider and deal with the Motion on the day.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning told the Council that the Motion was based on an incorrect interpretation of the information. The total training budget was less than the figure quoted (£3.9m) and had provided training for nearly 75,000 individuals. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility quoted the actual number of redundancies over this period (322) and therefore using a unit cost measurement, believed that actual cost was £17,000 at most. He also pointed out that in some instances the Council had a legal duty to train staff.

**On being put to the meeting the Motion was lost.**

**1708 Notices of Motion - Notice of Motion 4 - Combined Authority**

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P M McDonald, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr C J Bloore, Mr R M Udall and Ms P Agar.

The Notice of Motion was formally moved by Mr P M McDonald and seconded by Mr R M Udall who both

**(Agenda item 8)**

reserved their right to speak.

The Council then agreed to consider and deal with the Motion on the day.

The Leader of the Council explained that there were no current plans to become involved with any combined authority but if we were then perhaps some form of referendum or wide consultation should be undertaken.

With this assurance from the Leader of the Council the signatories present at the meeting withdrew their Motion.

**1709 Reports of Cabinet Members with Responsibility - report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment (Agenda item 9)**

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment presented his report which covered a number of overarching issues:

- Strategic planning and environmental policy
- sustainability
- climate change strategy
- Worcestershire County Council Carbon Management Plan
- Carbon reduction commitment
- Warmer Worcestershire
- Green Deal Communities Fund
- Electric vehicle charge points
- Eco schools
- Resource Efficient Worcestershire
- Environment and Energy Expo
- Public Sector sustainability
- Scientific Services
- Waste Disposal
- Flood risk management.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility answered questions about the report which included:

- whether the Council was going to be in a position to meet its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility said all the signs were that the Council was well on the way and would meet the emission targets set
- a particular problem in Redditch with home insulation schemes going awry. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility said this was an isolated incident which had now been resolved. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility was thanked for the way the scheme had operated in Wyre Forest area



**1710 Reports of  
Cabinet Member  
with  
Responsibility -  
Report of the  
Cabinet Member  
with  
Responsibility  
for Children and  
Families  
(Agenda item 9)**

- the number and location of electric vehicle charging points currently available. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility referred to the process of encouraging provision of such charging points and influencing their location. The absence of a charging point in the town of Bromsgrove was noted.
- uses of high- and low-grade energy from EfW plants and how this might be applicable to the plant in Hartlebury. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility said all possibilities to maximise energy efficiency were being explored
- household waste reduction rates and how they had not improved. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility mentioned several reasons for this and reassured Council that a close eye was being kept on the situation
- energy reduction targets and conversion of street lamps to lower energy types and night time dimming or switch off.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility promised:

- a written response on the extent of grants made available under the Traditional Orchard Restoration Project and what future grants would be given
- to circulate details of eco-schools to all members.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for his report.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families presented his report which covered a number of overarching issues:

- education and skills
- GCSE performance
- commissioned services
- Open for Business agenda
- Connecting Schools and Business programme
- school funding
- early help and prevention
- Safeguarding Peer Review
- Troubled Families Programme

- children's social care
- child protection plans
- multi-agency safeguarding
- provider services
- finance summary.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility answered questions about the report which included:

- the relative pupil performance of Worcestershire students and how this compared to the national average
- how any improvement was to be made in overall performance when the budget was being reduced and commissioned-out services had to contain some form of profit element
- that the area's children should be achieving much better results despite the vagaries of the funding system given the socio-economic profile of the county
- how the Council would deliver effective services given the budget was now 46% lower than its level in 2013/14
- A brief explanation of the role of the virtual headteacher.

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility promised to circulate to all members the Local Government Association publication on tackling child sexual exploitation.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for his report.

**1711 Question Time  
(Agenda item  
10)**

Seven questions had been received by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and had been circulated before the meeting. Questions were asked and answers given. (All answers are enclosed with these Minutes.)

**1712 Reports of  
Committees -  
Summary of  
decisions taken  
by the Planning  
and Regulatory**

The Council received the report of the Planning and Regulatory Committee containing a summary of decisions taken.

**Committee  
(Agenda item  
11)**

---

The Council adjourned for luncheon between 12.45 p.m. and 1.45 p.m.

The meeting ended at 2.43 p.m.

Chairman .....

This page is intentionally left blank

## **COUNCIL 17 SEPTEMBER 2015 - AGENDA ITEM 10 – QUESTION TIME**

***Answers given at the meeting may have been a précis of the full answer which is set out below. In some cases additional information is also included. Where, due to time or other constraints, it was not possible for the question to be asked formally the written response is also included below.***

**QUESTION 1** – Mr R M Udall asked Mr S E Geraghty:

*"Will the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure explain how he can help to promote and support the food production industry within Worcestershire?"*

### **Answer given**

Firstly, can I thank Richard for his question which gives me an opportunity to update Council on a host of initiatives we are doing to support the food production industry in the county.

As members will know, agri-tech was identified as one of three key sectors within the Worcestershire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) produced by our Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and endorsed by partners. The plan recognised the importance of horticulture and food production in the county and has led to a greater focus on this sector. I will highlight just a couple of examples.

### **LEADER programme.**

The County Council has been successful in applying to deliver the LEADER programme, with a total of £1.96m, over 5 years. The LEADER programme will help in a number of ways including:

#### **1. Support to increase farm productivity**

LEADER is looking to support and improve the overall performance and sustainability of an agricultural holding, supporting farmers, growers or land owners with capital grants at a grant rate of 40%. Grants will be available for processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products.

#### **2. Support for micro and small businesses (non-agricultural) and farm diversification**

Provide support for micro and small businesses (non-agricultural) and farm diversification. For example we could support a new start up business in food production, with 40% matched grant of capital items. Grants will be between £2,500 and £35,000.

#### **3. Raising awareness**

The Local Action Group (LEADER project Board) are working with Worcestershire LEP and DEFRA to run a large scale event targeting rural business to raise awareness of the support that is available from Public sector organisations. The NFU and Country Land and Business Association will also be involved to ensure a joined up approach to local businesses.

## **European Agricultural fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

The County Council and partners will promote the EAFRD Growth Programme; this is a larger grant scheme with minimum grant of £35,000. The grant is administered by DEFRA. Worcestershire LEP's allocation of **EAFRD is £2.3 million**; a number of calls will be published by the LEP until 2017 to assist rural development and food production.

### **Food Enterprise Zones**

Worcestershire's 'Vale of Evesham Project' is one of eleven of DEFRA's new Food Enterprise Zones (FEZs). The zones free up food and farming businesses, making it simpler and easier for them to grow local produce, attract new businesses and create jobs. A grant of £50,000 has been made available to set up the FEZ. Based around Local Development Orders, and in line with local priorities, they will make the planning process simpler and easier for food and farming businesses that want to expand.

### **Pershore College**

With agri-tech skills, especially in the fields of crops and horticulture, already a key local strength, the redevelopment of Pershore College will push it forward to become a nationally-renowned centre of excellence.

I hope this summary reassures you that we are actively working to support the food production industry in this county.

### Supplementary Question

Mr Udall raised a supplementary question about the possibility of approaching Heinz, the brand owners of Lea and Perrins, to seek EU Protected Status for Worcestershire Sauce. Mr Geraghty said he was happy to help and highlight any world class brand.

**QUESTION 2** – Mr P M McDonald asked Mr A N Blagg:

*"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment please inform me how many electric vehicles the County Council has now purchased in light of its funding of electric charging points?"*

### **Answer given**

We have had a number of trial vehicles from Nissan and Citroën over the past two years. As a result we are examining the potential to purchase one or two pool cars under the 'Spend to Save' scheme as replacements for the current conventionally fuelled vehicles, and consideration is being given to replacing the courier vehicle used for local journeys with an electric van. Payback in each case appears to be within the five-year battery life guarantee.

Electric pool vehicles would be available for use by both officers and members. The feasibility of acquiring an electric bicycle was also being looked at.

### Supplementary Question

In response to a supplementary question about a charging point in the town of Bromsgrove Mr Blagg explained the rationale for how present locations had been selected and said any further requests could be considered as more potential sites were identified.

**QUESTION 3** – Mr P M McDonald asked Mr M L Bayliss:

*"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning please inform me how much money has been spent on hospitality i.e. beverages, food etc. over the last three years?"*

### **Answer given**

We have significantly reduced our expenditure in this area through the introduction of much tighter rules on when hospitality can be provided.

This is evidenced by how council spend has continued to decrease over the past three years. In 2014/15 we spent £72,935 in this area compared to more than £73,000 in the previous year.

The figures given for 2014/15 include refreshments at meetings attended by external visitors and events to support council activities, such as our apprenticeship scheme and Young Enterprise.

We are continuing to look closely at ensuring value for money from all budgets, including hospitality.

### Supplementary Question

In response to a supplementary question Mr Bayliss reiterated that all budgets were being controlled very tightly.

### **QUESTION 4** – Mr P A Tuthill asked Mr A I Hardman:

*"Surprise, surprise the EU allows tax breaks for micro- breweries and small vineyards but not small cider and perry producers.*

*Will the Leader ensure this Council supports our MEP Daniel Dalton who is campaigning for equal treatment for the custodians of ancient orchards, as well as the subsequent traditional processing of a regional artisan British product?"*

### **Answer given**

Thank you very much indeed for your question - it is of course referring to the tax break that our small cider and perry producers currently enjoy and our latest MEP, Daniel Dalton is spearheading the campaign to ensure that this tax break is maintained. I am delighted to be able to tell the Council that last week the argument that has been put forward by Daniel and other organisations such as CAMRA that we need a rule change to reflect this industry's pivotal role in our community, has made some progress. Currently EU rules allow for a tax break for small vineyards and micro-breweries, but not for cider and perry producers and the Commission has agreed to consider extending the tax break out to cider and perry producers. The producers that we are trying to protect have a turnover of less than £20,000 per year and the European Commission demanding that they pay an additional tax of almost £3,000 I think will affect many of their businesses.

We must remember that they are often custodians of ancient orchards and use traditional methods to make their products and I am sure they are not getting rich on selling the cider that they make, but it is important to preserve our landscape and its orchards and their role in it. So we must do all we can to protect and encourage them.

It would be very helpful if we could, along with all our district councils, make a submission to the EU Consultation which does not close until the end of November and I would encourage other people in Worcestershire to do the same.

### **QUESTION 5** – Mr R C Lunn asked Mrs S L Blagg:

*"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care regret the non-introduction of the cap on lifetime care costs as previously promised by the Government, and how will this impact on the provision of care in Worcestershire?"*

**Answer given**

I respect the democratic process and the right of our elected politicians to set national policy. There will be no immediate impact on the provision of care in Worcestershire because the second phase of changes under the Care Act is being deferred. The Council will continue to plan for these changes to become law from 2020.

Supplementary Question

In response to a supplementary question Mrs Blagg reiterated that this was a matter for the national Government.

**QUESTION 6** – Mr M E Jenkins asked Mr J Smith:

*"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways describe what investment has been made in improving cycling infrastructure and facilities in Worcestershire over the past decade and how successful this has been at improving cycling levels across the county?"*

**Answer given**

Thank you for your question.

We maintain finance records for a period of 7 years and the data regarding investment in cycling schemes is as follows:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Capital spending on schemes predominantly of a cycling nature.	£502,083	£1,726,050	£1,222,633	£241,726	£175,137	£147,470	£35,695
Capital spending on schemes with a cycling element.	£859,443	£1,104,080	£8,234,188	£2,212,242	£1,973,565	£3,073,390	£3,326,729
Spend on schemes of a cycling nature funded by Section 106 contributions.	£95,685	£513,359	£211,086	£423,119	£331,661	£59,772	£28,610
Grants and Recoverable Expenditure	£18,000	£0	£80,000	£133,680	£37,840	£416,718	£195,245
	<b>£1,475,211</b>	<b>£3,343,489</b>	<b>£9,747,907</b>	<b>£3,010,767</b>	<b>£2,518,203</b>	<b>£3,697,350</b>	<b>£3,586,280</b>

Key highlights over the years include schemes delivered under the Choose How You Move schemes in both Worcester and Redditch, plus the Connect2 project incorporating the introduction of significant walking and cycling infrastructure improvements adjacent to the River Severn, including of course the Diglis Bridge.

With regard to cycling levels within Worcestershire, our data is based on the Active People Survey (APS), administered by Sport England and used to derive official estimates of participation in sport and active recreation. The APS has a sample size of over 160,000 persons, thus enabling analysis at local authority level. The next release in this series is due



to be published in Spring 2016 and will contain statistics on walking and cycling from APS9, which covers the period October 2014 to October 2015.

According to the statistics, the percentage of people in Worcestershire cycling at least once per week rose steadily between 2010 and 2013 to over 9%, with significant increases in Malvern Hills, Redditch and Worcester. The 2013/14 results show a slight decrease in cycling levels to around 7% however local counts indicate that activity is still growing.

#### Supplementary Question

In response to a supplementary question about decreasing cycling activity Mr Smith said the Council would do all it could to encourage an activity which held such benefits in terms of better health, less congestion and reduced pollution.

#### **QUESTION 7** – Mr P Denham asked Mr J Campion:

*"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families please advise Council how many science and modern foreign language GCSE examinations were taken per student, on average, in Worcestershire schools in 2013 and 2014?"*

#### **Answer given**

We do not collect information regarding individual subjects such as science or modern foreign languages.

#### Supplementary Question

In response to a supplementary question Mr Campion stated that the Council would continue to support skills providers.

This page is intentionally left blank