

COUNCIL
9 SEPTEMBER 2021**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Speed limits on the A38

1. Cllr Martin Allen will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"The County Council is currently constructing a new roundabout on the A38/A4104 near Holly Green, I am pleased to see this infrastructure going forward, clearly it will be a great help to motorist and makes a dangerous junction much safer. I thank all those concerned in it design and construction. As Cllr Alan Amos is the nicest member of the Cabinet would he please pass on my thanks to all those concerned and also would he please agree to a speed review of the whole length of the A38 from the M50 junction to the A38 Ketch Roundabout within three months of the completion of the new roundabout? I should add that each of my Parish Councils in my division have raised this matter and are all very concerned."

Question 2 – Number of children taken into care during the current year

2. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families confirm how many children from Worcestershire have been taken into care during the current financial year?"

Question 3 – Network Efficiency Board

3. Cllr Lynn Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"What is the membership of the Network Efficiency Board and how often does it meet?"

Question 4 – Funding for Active Travel

4. Cllr Matt Jenkins will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Given the recent Department for Transport Announcement that funding from the Capability Fund, originally allocated to Worcestershire County Council to support

infrastructure plans and behaviour change initiatives in relation to walking and cycling, has been 'halted' until the DFT can be sure of a commitment to active travel.

Will the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport change his current view that 'no loss of road space will be accepted', which is incompatible with Government policy, in order to receive this and future funding?"

Question 5 – University of Worcester Archaeology Graduate Training Course

5. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Leader of the Council:

"The University of Worcester have today taken the decision to no longer offer Archaeology as a discipline with effect from the end of the 2021/22 academic year. This is despite repeated outstanding figures for student satisfaction and graduate opportunities in the National Student Survey. The University of Worcester has consistently attracted the highest number of admissions to Archaeology in the West Midlands. Over the last four years, between 50-80% of UW graduates have gone on to employment in the historic environment sector or further study, compared to the standard (2001) benchmark of 15%. Archaeology graduates from the University of Worcester are placed in a number of strategic positions within the historic environment sector, both locally and nationally. The degree at the University of Worcester is also committed to making archaeology and heritage open to all and is one of few programmes with an impressive track record of inclusion.

Lecturers and staff have been told that now they face redundancy and there is no option to appeal.

The Worcestershire County Council Archaeology Service is a successful and important part of his portfolio, we will continue to require home grown graduates and the demand for our service is likely to increase not decrease. The decision to close these courses could have an impact on our ability to recruit future staff.

The decision undermines our attempt to promote a World Class Worcestershire and will tarnish the academic and historical reputation of the county. Investment and growth could be at risk and new archaeological opportunities for research and development within the county could be lost or sacrificed.

What action will he take to persuade the Vice Chancellor and the University Executive Board to reconsider their decision."

Contact Points

Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846621

Email: slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.