

## **COUNCIL**

### **12 JANUARY 2023**

## **QUESTION TIME**

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### **Question 1 – Promotion and exhibition of local artists’ work in libraries**

1. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Local Worcestershire artists have been struggling since Covid lockdowns and some have been unable to promote and sell their work. Will he consider allowing a rolling programme, throughout 2023 of supporting and encouraging local artists by allowing individuals to have a month of free access to local libraries, to promote and exhibit their work and to promote local art; it would allow artists to place their skills on show throughout the county. Libraires are more than just a place to borrow books, such a scheme would increase footfall into our libraires and could be showcase for the service, a dedicated and organised campaign to support local artists would be appreciated?"

### **Question 2 – Leader’s Christmas message**

2. Cllr Lynn Denham will ask the Leader of the Council:

"I am grateful to the Council’s communication department for sharing the Leader’s Christmas message reflecting on ‘another exceptional year’. That means it has been an unusual year and the Leader seems to believe the Council has done rather well in 2022. Parents who struggling to get an Education Health Care Plan for their child and those waiting for home assessment of their care needs may disagree.

The Leader states that the ‘local economy is on course to grow by a third by 2025 from 2015 levels’. What measures is he relying on for this prediction? How are they likely to be affected by the increase in energy costs and inflation?"

### **Question 3 – Improvements to the junction of Bilford Road and Astwood Road, Worcester**

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

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport give me an update on the progress of improving the junction of Bilford Road and Astwood Road, to both reduce congestion and improve the safety for pedestrians?"

#### **Question 4 – Worcestershire Iranian community**

4. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility aware that according to the 2011 census, over 200 Worcestershire residents were born in Iran, even more are descended from or have Iranian heritage. Will he agree to consider how to celebrate the growing Iranian community in Worcestershire by celebrating Iranian culture, food and history and the close historic ties between Worcestershire and Iran. Many Worcestershire Iranians are currently very concerned about the current problems in Iran, which includes mass arrests, torture and extensive use of the death penalty for those who are protesting against the current government of Iran; many local Iranians have been unable to contact their friends or family for months and are worried about their safety and welfare. Will he agree that by celebrating our support for the Worcestershire Iranian community, at this difficult time for Iran, it would help to offer our solidarity and sympathy with Worcestershire Iranians and would help them at this difficult time?"

#### **Question 5 – Bus stop on Brickfields Road, Worcester**

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

"I have been on the case of the Brickfields Road disappearing bus stop since I was elected to this chamber in May 2021. Various explanations have been offered by officers but there has been no progress on delivering the promise made to my predecessor. Installation of the zebra crossing was to include relocation of the bus stop. In response to a Worcester News journalist at the beginning of December 2022, the Cabinet Member with Responsibility said he was 'confident a solution can be found'. So am I. What do we have to do to get a solution in place?"

#### **Contact Points**

Contact Points for this report  
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#### **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.