

COUNCIL
14 JANUARY 2016**QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED**

Question 4 – Supporting the LGA Climate Local Initiative

4. Mr M E Jenkins will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"Following the agreement made at the recent International Climate Talks in Paris to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment inform me when Worcestershire County Council will be joining other councils in signing up to the Local Government Association's Climate Local Initiative?"

The Climate Local Initiative (<http://www.local.gov.uk/climate-local>) aims to support councils both to reduce carbon emissions and to increase resilience to a changing climate."

Question 5 – "Choose How You Move" survey

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

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways explain when the "Choose How You Move" survey report about Redditch is due to be published? What has caused the delay?"

Question 6 – Energy from Waste

6. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"When the Energy from Waste Plant being built at Hartlebury was planned it was intended that non-recyclable plastics would be burnt. The Paris Climate Change Conference appears to rule that out.

Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment inform me what the change to materials to be incinerated will have on the facility when it comes in to operation and what the medium- and long-term impacts are likely to be on the business case?"

Question 7 – Public Transport

7. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"In view of continuing problems with Diamond Bus what steps are being taken to ensure that bus services across the county, and in particular in the Wyre Forest area are provided by a competent, reliable and responsible company?"

Question 8 – Provision for refugees

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

"It has been a full year in coming, but it was wonderful news last week to learn that the Worcestershire Leaders have at last agreed to go ahead with a formal bid to the Home Office to relocate Syrian refugees across the county. Indeed, it is pleasing that negotiations are set to begin this month with the Home Office and West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership to host up to 50 people in Worcestershire by the end of 2016.

But can I emphasise to the Leader that this whole initiative began in Malvern with the local Amnesty group who have worked tirelessly on this issue to keep the momentum going, in compiling an ever growing database of voluntary offers of assistance from the community – including from many professionals with highly relevant expertise and experience to ensure a successful relocation, rehabilitation and recovery process for the arriving Syrian families after so much tragedy and trauma in their lives.

While being delighted that our councils of Worcestershire will be providing leadership and expertise in the process, it is equally important that local community and voluntary organisations in our county are also empowered and welcomed as key partners with the statutory bodies on this initiative, and that we tap into the fund of enthusiasm, energy and expertise that volunteers have will bring to the process of providing help and support to Syrian families relocating in the county. Particularly in these austere financial times for local government, when money is so tight, it would indeed be opportunity lost were councils to fail to take full advantage of the voluntary contributions on offer. In Malvern, for example, the group which started it all - Malvern Welcomes Syrian Refugees – is in the process of establishing a charity specifically to spearhead the work of planning, co-ordinating and delivering support to families when they arrive. So will the Leader please therefore give his assurance that groups like 'Malvern Welcomes...' will indeed be invited to play their part alongside this and the other councils in ensuring the success of this initiative?"

Question 9 – Funding settlement

9. Mr C J Bloore will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Could the Leader of the Council tell me when he intends to meet with Greg Clark to discuss this Council's funding settlement from the Government?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

John Higginbotham, Committee and Appellate Officer

Tel: 01905 766607

Email: jhigginbotham@worcestershire.gov.uk

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.