

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

13 June 2023

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors

Questions from: Laurence Cable

To: Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Street Scene, and Flooding

Statement

The current Cycle Infrastructure Design standards (LTN 1/20) from the government were published in mid-2020. LTN 1/20 represents a very significant shift in how highways authorities need to think about and design cycling infrastructure.

It is essential that the council's excellent officer teams who work in this area are equipped with the right skills to ensure Wiltshire Council has in-house ability to design and deliver cycle schemes in line with the latest standards and principles, and to ensure that the same is consistently demanded of developers building in Wiltshire (many developers continue to propose cycle infrastructure based on pre-LTN 1/20 standards and principles).

I understand that many of the teams involved in this area have not had formal training in LTN 1/20.

Question 1 (23-47)

Please could the Cabinet Member therefore provide assurances that the council will, as a matter of priority, arrange for suitable LTN 1/20 training for the following teams?

- Highways Development Control
- Traffic Engineering
- Major Highways Projects
- Sustainable Transport/Transport Planning
- Any other teams who plan/design/oversee highways and public realm works

Response

LTN 1/20 provides guidance to local authorities on delivering high quality, cycle infrastructure including:

- **planning for cycling**
- **space for cycling within highways**
- **transitions between carriageways, cycle lanes and cycle tracks**
- **junctions and crossings**
- **cycle parking and other equipment**
- **planning and designing for commercial cycling**
- **traffic signs and road markings**

- **construction and maintenance.**

Officers providing advice on these matters are familiar with the guidance, as they are with all national guidance. Where bespoke training needs are identified, they are met in partnership with our consultants, contractors, and regional or national partners.

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Questions from: Cllr Ian Thorn

**To: Cllr Caroline Thomas - Cabinet Member for Transport,
Street Scene, and Flooding**

Question 2 (23-48)

What more can be done to address the record number of potholes in Wiltshire?

Response

The rapid increase in the number of Potholes we have experienced is also reflected nationally.

We have reacted to this increased demand by deploying additional resources to carry out repair works. Wiltshire Council was awarded £22.9M from the Government's Highways Maintenance Fund for 2023/24 to pay for a range of highways maintenance and improvement programmes, including resurfacing, new road markings, replacing traffic signs and signals, and filling potholes.

Looking at this specifically at resurfacing, this will enable carriageways that are beyond their service life to be repaired. We are also undertaking a significant program of surface dressing, this process arrests deterioration and has a net effect of reducing the future propagation of potholes. We have also received an additional £3.6M from the Department for Transport's (DfT's) Pothole Fund.

This funding will be used to target areas that have been identified as pothole "Hot-Spots". To do this, we are creating heat maps of the areas with the most reported pothole problems and using this data to identify the roads and local pothole hotspots in most need.

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Questions from: Cllr Ian Thorn

**To: Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling Cabinet Member for Public Health,
Leisure, Libraries, Facilities Management, and Operational
Assets**

Question 3 (23-49)

What can you do to bring a new health centre to Calne?

Response

This is not a question for the Local Authority. It is an NHS matter. Please contact the BSW ICB.

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Questions from: Cllr Ian Thorn

To: Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council

Question 4 (23-50)

When do you hope to bring your ‘an evening with Richard Clewer’ to Calne?

Response

The Ask the Leader event in Calne is currently due to take place on October 26th at Calne Library.

Dates and locations for these events have been announced on a month-by-month basis in case diary commitments mean they have to be moved for any reason. Formal communications confirming the event are due to be sent out in September to provide sufficient time for residents to get the date in their diary.

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Questions from: Nick Parry

To: Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council

Statement

Reference: The Local Plan and Future Chippenham
Taken from 21st Feb 2023 Council meeting agenda.

12.To cover the unfunded costs of the Future Chippenham programme Cabinet recommends to Full Council to approve a sum of £1.848m to be funded by Future Capital Receipts. These costs will likely not be abortive subject to the use of the paid for work being used to support a scheme if allocated as part of the Local Plan review.

13.To continue to work with adjoining landowners to the South of Chippenham to masterplan and promote the sites as part of the Local Plan review process, Cabinet recommends an increase to the Capital Programme of £0.500m to be funded from borrowing.

Question P23-05 Given the statements above please advise what other landowner has access to in excess of £2.3 million of public money to promote housing development on their land?

Response

The Council does not hold this information.

Question 5 (23-51)

At the meet the leader event in Chippenham you gave the indication that the Local Plan was expected to be available in June/July of this year. Could you please advise if this is on schedule and when the public will be able to view it and how long you expect this to be consulted on?

Response

The Local Plan Review is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting in July. The report will set out details of the consultation.

Question 6 (23-52)

Given the amounts of council tax payers money being spent on promoting Future Chippenham I do not feel your council's response to my question which was also put to you personally at the ask the leader event has been answered just fobbed off. Perhaps as you have had 3 Months to consider this I can now get an honest answer to my question. Given the statements below please advise what other private landowner has access to in excess of £2.3 million of public money to promote housing development on their land?

Response

Private landowners have access to funding from Homes England and other government agencies subject to meeting specific criteria, the council is not party to further information on this other than that which is in the public domain.

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Questions from: Celia Beckett – Hilperton Area Action Group

**To: Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance,
Development Management and Strategic Planning**

Statement

Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS) adopted by Wiltshire Council

With reference to the Local Plan Review the strategy states that:

“It will be critical that assessment of impacts on important bat populations and provision for essential mitigation measures is factored into any future allocation of housing for Trowbridge”

All of site 5 in the Trowbridge Plan is in the Yellow Zone of the Special Area of Conservation.

The future survival of the rare bat populations in the Trowbridge area: the Greater and Lesser Horseshoe and Bechstein Bats depends on the following elements:

Woodland, hedgerows, water courses and grazed farmland and the protection of wildlife corridors.

Question 7 (23-53)

Please can you confirm that Wiltshire Council will support the survival of these rare bats whose stronghold in Britain is in the South West of England by promoting the retention of hedgerows, woodland and livestock farming within this area?

Response

In preparing the Local Plan Review, full consideration is being given to ecology and the importance of bats, including any mitigation measures that might be required to ensure no adverse impacts on them.

The Draft Plan is due to be reported to Cabinet on 3 July.

Question 8 (23-54)

The TBMS also states that the density of development in the Yellow Bat Zone is expected to be at a lower level. Can Wiltshire Council confirm that there will be limits to the density of housebuilding in the Yellow Zone?

Response

See response to Question 7.