

Cabinet – 6th April 2022

MEMBER QUESTIONS

1 Councillor Rob Wilson

Mile End roundabout was rebuilt in 2014 at a cost of £4m; at the time the Highway's Agency said: "This £4million scheme will help tackle congestion and make the road safer by increasing capacity. Road users will experience improved journey times as a result." 4 years later in 2018, further changes were required because drivers found the layout confusing. Also in 2018 the Council stated "Previous improvements to the junction addressed only existing traffic issues, and there has been a significant increase in traffic unrelated to proposed developments." Another 4 years later, and the third attempt at improving the junction has just been completed. The former MP for North Shropshire said "There is £16m of funding from Shropshire Council, the Marches LEP, and other agencies and it will massively improve traffic on the A5."

Between 2014 and 2019, traffic on Shropshire's roads grew 12%. It is not possible to build capacity at this rate. What faith can residents have that Shropshire Council understands how to address congestion?

2 Councillor David Vasmer

Following the report about the proposed use of an ANPR camera on Crowmeole Lane and its approval by Cabinet on 23rd March I would like to a questions:

1. Was consideration given to the use of APNR cameras in other locations across Shropshire when the new regulations allowing their use outside London comes into effect on May 31st?
2. Could all councillors be asked to suggest locations where ANPR Camera's might be helpful which would give the Council a range of different situations where the use of APNR cameras could be assessed. In my own division traffic is not allowed to come from Abbey Foregate up Underdale Road because this has been used for many years as a short cut bypassing the traffic lights at the junction of Monkmoor Road and Abbey Foregate. However the No Entry signs are regularly ignored.
3. Was consideration given to the use of mobile ANPR cameras?

3 Councillor Kate Halliday

The Ockenden Report is damning regarding the practices and culture of Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust (SaTH) maternity services over the past 20 years. It highlights poor clinical practice, an inability to learn from mistakes, a culture of not listening to staff and patient concerns, and underfunding and understaffing all of which led to the avoidable deaths and injury to children and women in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. It is the families' bravery in to continuing to fight for answers that led to the review of maternity services. This cannot happen again. Shropshire Council is an important partner with SaTH. In July we will form part of the Integrated Care Board together with our health partners in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. We owe it to our residents to maximise our scrutiny of services on their behalf. What can Shropshire Council do to ensure that in the future health services do not repeat the tragic mistakes of SaTH maternity services?

4 Rosemary Dartnall

Rescuing, Replacing or Redesigning Arriva's bus services?

The fifteen erstwhile commercial Arriva bus services under threat are being retained by Shropshire Council short-term subsidy. Everyone hopes for good news on the BSIP bid but even the best news is unlikely to impact positively on these Arriva services.

The situation is grave: the cancellation of eight services but elsewhere in Shropshire, public transport provision is balanced on a knife-edge. There is an urgent need to reconsider Shropshire public transport for residents who rely on the cancelled and threatened services to get to and from work or school or appointments, but long-term there exists a fundamental requirement to reimagine our public transport network as critical in achieving our decarbonisation strategy.

In short, the people of Shropshire face a crisis in public transport with devastating immediate impacts and long-term consequences for our communities.

1. Will the council consider, instead of picking up Arriva's bill, taking all fifteen threatened bus services in-house, now, and operating them as a viable service which would later serve as a pilot?
2. Specifically, will the council turn a negative into a positive and immediately review the threatened bus services, embracing the opportunity to include new methods, e.g. re-rerouting to high-traffic sites, providing on-demand connections for less used spurs and similar responsive measures?
3. Is this council ready to move beyond Shropshire's creaking 1970-style bus system to enable the redrawing of an integrated public transport network operated under a model suitable for the 21st century?

5 Heather Kidd

In the light of the Ockenden Review the Council's role in holding our NHS to account needs to be strengthened. Joint HOSC is a statutory body set up to hold the NHS in our area to account. Will Cabinet lobby Government to upgrade the role of Joint HOSC and make real links with the CQC and Healthwatch Shropshire? All our roles need to be reviewed and strengthened. Scrutiny within the Council also now needs a dedicated Scrutiny officer to help make health Scrutiny more effective alongside improved powers. Will Cabinet act to find the funds for that too, please?

6 Roger Evans

A paper was presented to Shropshire Schools Forum meeting on 4th November proposing alterations that would need to be made by Shire Services to the catering contract they have with 60 schools in Shropshire. It stated that these would need to be adopted by April 2022.

Can the Cabinet member please give an update post 31st March 2022 and include in it:

- How many of the 10 Secondary Schools that Shires had contracts with have renewed them.
- How many of the 50 Primary Schools that Shires had contracts with have renewed them.
- It was noted in the paper that only 9 of the 38 Primary Schools with a kitchen were achieving a break-even position regarding the provision of dinners. How many of the 38 Schools still with the council's schools catering service are predicting a break-even position.
- Have all the 12 dining centres signed new contracts and have any other schools become dining centres.
- The recommendations made in the paper were as result of a report provided by Consultants employed by the council. It was stated that they would be asked to look at alternative service models. What are their recommendations.
- Did any school fail to reach an agreement with Shires?
- Has a termination notice been sent to any school?
- Will Shire Services achieve the financial target set by the Cabinet for this new financial year?
- Does the cabinet member agree and support the final sentence in the summary section of the report presented to the Forum meeting?