

CABINET 22 NOVEMBER 2023

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

From Dr Jamie Russell

When speaking about the North West Relief Road, Councillor Dan Morris recently told the Shropshire Star: "The local planning authority has met literally hundreds of times, minuted meetings, with Severn Trent Water. Severn Trent are solely responsibly for the quality of the water".

Source: <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/shrewsbury/2023/11/01/council-to-begin-tender-process-for-firm-to-build-north-west-relief-road/>

1. Could Councillor Morris please confirm how many minuted meetings exactly the council has held with Severn Trent Water over this issue?
2. It is my understanding that the Environment Agency has a statutory responsibility for protecting the quality of strategic groundwater resources like the SPZ1 borehole at Shelton. If this is true, please could Councillor Morris correct the public record?

From Malcom Andrews on behalf of Trefonen Rural Protecton Group

QUESTION regarding PROGRESS OF THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

We wish to raise our concerns on the progress of the Examination.

We acknowledge the time Officers spent in preparing their response to the Inspectors' queries of 15th February 2023 (ID28), which you approved at your 19th July meeting and submitted to the Inspectors (GC24)

However, it is clearly apparent from the Inspectors' letter 4th October (ID36) that the Officers response fundamentally didn't address the points they had raised regarding the Black Country housing and employment land provision within Shropshire in the Draft Plan.

At 16th November no reply to that letter from the Council had appeared on the Examination website

Our concern is that unless satisfactory responses are provided to the Inspectors they will consider the whole Draft Plan to be 'unsound' and throw it out.

We are very concerned that any further delay with the Examination or any requirement to revisit large parts of it or, worst case having to recommence, will push

back adoption beyond the current LDS date of June 2024, increasing risk of an 'Out of Date' Plan.

We would request an update on the Examination, in particular

- progress on the Council's response to the Inspectors' questions (ID28) (ID36),
- assurances that Officers are being provided with the necessary resources and expertise to address the Inspectors' concerns (particularly considering third party legal pre-actions),
- what alternative solutions are being considered for potential 'Main Modifications' to address the Inspectors' concerns should those be required to make the Plan for period 2016-2038 'sound' and recommend it for Adoption.