

**CABINET 22 November 2023
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Question from:	Jamie Russell	
Subject:	NWRR	
Portfolio Holder:	Dan Morris	Approved
<p>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 responsible for the quality of the water".</p> <p>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/</p> <p>1. Could Councillor Morris please confirm how many minuted meetings exactly the council has held with Severn Trent Water over this issue?</p> <p>The Council and STW Ltd have been in contact regularly since 2019 by email, telephone and also through more formal minuted meetings. These interactions number into many hundreds in total, and there are c.125 minuted meetings alone as part of this engagement.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Whilst the Environment Agency does indeed have statutory responsibilities around protecting groundwater resources, including the SPZ1 at Shelton, it is wholly accurate to say that only Severn Trent water have a responsibility for the supply of clean drinking water to their customers.</p>		

Question from:	Trefonen Rural Protection Group	
Subject:	Local Plan Examination	
Portfolio Holder:	Chris Schofield	Approved
<p>We would request an update on the Local Plan Examination, in particular:</p> <p>1. Progress on Council's response to the Inspectors' questions (D28) (ID36)</p> <p>The Council has formally written to the Local Plan Inspectors with a request for clarification on a number of points arising from their recent ID36 letter. This letter is available to view on the Examination Library webpages (ref GC41) and can be viewed here gc41-council-request-for-clarification-to-id36-nov23.pdf (shropshire.gov.uk). The Inspectors have indicated they are working on a</p>		

response to this request, and once the Council receive this we will be able to provide a definitive timeframe for a response.

2. Assurances that Officers are being provided with the necessary resources and expertise to address the Inspectors concerns (particularly considering third party legal pre-actions)

It is considered the Council currently has adequate resources and expertise available to progress the Local Plan Examination, but we will of course keep this under review as we understand more fully the extent of any further work required.

3. 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

It is considered the Inspectors are now only seeking additional material related to the Sustainability Appraisal work supporting the Local Plan, although clarification on this point is being sought. Should there be a need to review the strategy of the Plan, including any further main modifications, the Council will do this in due course.