

CABINET
17 JULY 2024
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Colin Sheward

Question on Job losses understand 300 jobs in line for redundancy a) will be in FTE or will it be actual workers in post (60% of SC staff are P/T) obviously this would cause variation to eventual savings. b) does it cover Educational as well as "general" posts c) as SC employs more women workers are there special/worries about making 20-300 women redundant d) will people in apprenticeship training be safeguarded? e) likewise people with declared disabilities (already low number in employment) background to these questions found SC work force strategy 2022-2025

Dr Jamie Russell

How much money will have been spent on the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road by the end of 2024? Will all of this cost to date be included in the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), or excluded as 'sunk costs'?

Mike Streetly

Re the CPO documentation section headed NWRR - SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRANSPORT: The planning application for the proposed North West Relief Road included plans for extensive improvements to facilities along Welshpool Road for people on foot or bike. These were described as an important mitigation for the extensive negative impacts of the proposed new road. The CPO and SRO documents submitted to the cabinet meeting on 17th July do not appear to show these measures being progressed. Could you please confirm whether Shropshire Council still plans to implement these measures as part of the overall NWRR package? Could you also please confirm that the roundabouts on the proposed new road will have at grade crossings for people on foot or bike and that these are not compliant with LTN1/20?

5.3.15. of the Statement of Reasons says that "The Proposed Scheme could significantly reduce the journey time for the last 3-4 miles into the Town Centre which would make bus travel more attractive." Could you please confirm how many of the current bus services that use the town centre will have more than a 10% reduction in journey time?

David Macey

At April 2024 Cabinet Portfolio Holder Dan Morris updated the proposed car parking increases report. This update, and the original January report, make no reference to increases on 31st October 2022, just 14 months prior to the January report. By including this wouldn't this have given Cabinet a better-informed perspective highlighting significant increases, well above high inflation, in a short period of time comparing charges prior to October 2022 increases to the proposal? In this short period Band 6 will have a 100% increase since pre 31/10/22 moving from 30p/hour to 60p. A 1-year permit before 31/10/22 was £192 increasing by 33% to £256 on 31st October 2022. The proposal is an additional 50% increase to £384. A 100% increase since before 31/10/22. St Julian Friar Permits increasing 71% from £448 to £768 for the same period. Other carpark increases range from

40% to 60%. Compared to inflation, compounding the highest inflation of 11.1% 2022, 10.4% 2023, a permit costing £192 before 31/10/22 would be £235 in 2024 up 22.7% (worst case) The Band 6 proposal is 100% increase, 4.4 times highest compounded inflation and 5.8 times the average compound inflation rate of 17.2% (2022 Ave 9.1% 2023 7.4%). Whilst appreciating this is still to go to public consultation can the Portfolio Holder give justification to recommending these disproportionately high increases compared to high inflation over the last few years and why 31/10/22 increases were omitted from the reports as they are surely relevant from a full cost increase perspective?

Graham Betts

Planning application 13/03285/FUL, for Darwin's Walk development in Shrewsbury, detailed to the Planning Committee in section 6.9.1 that £3,595,554 was raised for 'infrastructure' projects. This included £519,480 for a bus service through the estate in accordance with section 6.6.8, and £151,000 for the local road network. There has been no bus service introduced and the roads through the development include a cycle path that remains unmarked and unsigned. After more than 5 months, a Freedom of Information request made in January 2024 (RFI#6141), appears to indicate Shropshire Council is unable to account for the sums quoted in 6.9.1 and how they have been used. The information provided to date only accounts for approximately half of the sums quoted. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, several review requests have been made to the Council and the information has still not been provided. Because the requested information remains outstanding, the Council is in breach of the law. Can the Cabinet please explain 1) Why the Council cannot account for the apparently missing sum of approximately £2 million, 2) Why it has difficulty complying with a straightforward request for information, 3) Why the bus service has not been brought forward as indicated in the Planning application and therefore expected by the residents who ultimately paid the sums detailed?

Robert Jones

My youngest child was diagnosed with a speech delay in 2022 and was referred for an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) assessment, and although the initial assessments were begun within 20 weeks, the plan was not completed and issued until 58 weeks after the referral. Although, due to the efforts of his primary school, my son was not significantly disadvantaged by this delay, many children and their families are not so lucky. According to the latest data published by the government for 2023, Shropshire Council's performance in issuing EHC plans for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities within the statutory 20-week period has fallen, with just 38% completed on time, worse than the 46% of the previous year, and this has been consistently worsening over the years since 2019. Shropshire's performance is below the average across England, and falling more sharply than the English average. Meanwhile, neighbouring authorities such as Telford and Wrekin issue nearly 100% of EHC plans on time, even though all areas have seen similar increases in requests and councils across England face a similar conditions as Shropshire both in terms of rising requests and limited financial resources. Why has Shropshire Council so continued to fail children and young people with SEND? What concrete steps have been or will be taken to ensure 100% of EHC plans are completed within the 20-week deadline in future?