

Bromsgrove District Council – 22nd June 2022
Member Questions

1. From Councillor K. Van Der Plank
Question for the Leader

“It now seems probable that this council will end the financial year 2021/2022 with a surplus of around £370k. So is it now time to revisit the Independent groups budget suggestion of spending £70,000 on the reintroduction of the hugely popular and useful community grants fund which supported many local good and worthy causes?”

2. From Councillor S. Douglas
Question for the Leader

“It is disappointing news that WCC have been unsuccessful in their bid for £84m to invest in bus service. I recall that the expected success of this bid was the reasoning behind the refusal to move forward with the Independent budget proposal to fund a business case to investigate the feasibility of BDC running its own local bus services to connect the outlying centres with Bromsgrove. Will the controlling group now consider writing to the County Council to request that they review the services in Bromsgrove with the potential to provide free bus travel at the weekends?”

3. From Councillor C. Hotham
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling

“Please could the cabinet member for finance give a figure for the net annual running cost of the Parkside building to this council after all income and expenditure is accounted for?”

**4. From Councillor S. Baxter
Question for the Leader**

“On 13 April the Government announced the allocation of £2.8m to Bromsgrove District Council through the UK prosperity fund. This is a great opportunity for levelling up across the whole district and is dependent on an investment plan to be submitted by the Council by 1 August. The guidance, announced at the same time stated that ‘Local partners should support lead local authorities for each place to develop the investment plan’.

Please can the leader advise on who the Council considers are its partners and which local partners have been involved to date in the development of the investment plan?

Parish Councils in Bromsgrove we’re first notified of the fund nearly 2 months later, on 8 June when they were informed that, as stakeholders they ‘are being invited to submit proposals for projects that address a need or exploit an opportunity in the local area’.

The deadline for proposals is 20 June. Does the leader believe that it is realistic for any organisation to conceive, develop and sign off any project within 7 working days.”

**5. From Councillor R. Hunter
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health and Well-Being**

“Right to Buy

The Prime Minister’s recent speech in Blackpool reignited fears over the possible expansion of the Right to Buy to housing association tenants. Whilst genuine efforts to support people to own their own home are to be lauded, the unfortunate consequence of Right to Buy is the loss of badly needed social housing that in reality will never be replaced. How many homes has BDHT sold through the Preserved Right to Buy and Right to Acquire since it was established and how will you protect Bromsgrove’s social housing from any further attempts to sell it off?”

**6. From Councillor J. King
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change**

“Artrix assets

As we get closer to the reopening of our local arts centre, The Artrix, what assurances can you give that assets such as fittings and technical equipment that were removed when the building became a vaccination centre will be fully reinstalled or replaced?”

**7. From Councillor S. Robinson
Question for the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change**

“Sports facilities

Following the loss of the sports hall and the failure to deliver a viable alternative at North Bromsgrove High School, what are you doing to improve the availability of sports facilities in Bromsgrove?”

**8. From Councillor R. Jenkins
Question for the Leader**

"For the safety of pedestrians and to protect shop and market stall frontages this Council urgently should make a case to WCC to update the ruling made in 1987 which allows delivery vehicles on the High Street until 10.30am. This was long before the changes were made to Bromsgrove's chartered market. This should now be for before 09.00am which is the time by which all market stall vehicles have to be off the High Street so the market can commence.

All of the High Street properties except one, no. 110, have rear functional doors. This change would prevent accidents occurring, any additional damage to property happening, and serve the convenience of pedestrians. This even on non-market days when the High Street can be surprisingly busy at that time. The time off the High Street for delivery vehicles should remain at the existing 4.00am timing.

Please could the Leader provide an update on the progress that is being made to address this matter?”