

**Bromsgrove District Council – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
**Member Questions**

**1. From Councillor H. Rone-Clarke**

**Question for the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Licensing and WRS:**

“In April 2021, in response to a petition with 5000 signatures and a motion submitted by then Cllr Mallett, calling for an urgent feasibility study R.E. a potential Western Relief Road, then portfolio holder for planning Cllr Kent told this council he had commissioned a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) to be released to the public by 'the end of the summer (2022)'.

In September 2022, 17 months after the STA was first promised, I made an FOI request in response to the lack of communication on this from BDC...it returned nothing of substance, not even a draft overview of findings...

At a subsequent meeting in late 2022, I asked Cllr Thomas, my 2<sup>nd</sup> planning portfolio holder, to comment on the status of the STA...he informed me that the STA didn't really exist and was merely a small extension of the local plan; despite the fact that in March 2021, Bromsgrove District Council went out to tender for a contractor to carry out a strategic transport assessment, advertising this on their website and social media!

Then, on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, two years after this issue was first raised in this chamber, The Bromsgrove Conservatives tweeted 'pledge #4 for Bromsgrove: we have commissioned a strategic transport assessment for the district...' My question, put simply: what on earth is going on?"

**2. From Councillor D. Nicholl**

**Question for the Leader**

“To ask the leader, following information from the Royal British Legion, why are benefits assessments for veterans in Bromsgrove being means-tested more harshly compared to other Councils?

In councils such as Walsall Metropolitan Council, Cannock Chase DC or Warwick DC, there is no means testing of veterans over a range of benefits (ie Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payment and Disabled Facilities Grants), whereas in Bromsgrove, Discretionary Housing Payments in both the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pension Scheme are means tested for armed forces veterans.

As we head towards Remembrance Sunday, do not those who have been in service of the defence of our country and Bromsgrove deserve to be fairly treated compared to military veterans in other areas?

I agree with the Royal British Legion that this is fundamentally unfair to the veterans of Bromsgrove.”

**3. From Councillor R. Hunter**  
**Question for the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety**

“I am continuing to find it very difficult to get firm commitments from this Council about repairing broken bus shelters. Please could you confirm that residents can expect broken bus shelters to be repaired or replaced and the timescale within which they can expect this work to be completed?”

**4. From Councillor J. Robinson**  
**Question for the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety**

“I understand the Council is working on a solution where a forward look of intended road sweeping rounds can be published, although there will be no guarantee as to exact dates due to the responsive nature of the service. Do you have a timescale for when this is likely to go live please and could you confirm if the council is also intending to publish backdated information of roads that have already been swept.”