

## 25 February 2025 – Council: Questions to the Leader (Item 9)

No	From	Question
1	Councillor Evans	<p>Homelessness remains a significant issue in Wales, with thousands still housed in temporary accommodation and little progress made in reducing the number of people sleeping rough.</p> <p>Behind these numbers there is a very real human cost that cannot be ignored, with the number of individuals rough sleeping unchanged and the number of people in temporary accommodation remaining persistently high.</p> <p>A Newport Council housing officer told the BBC back in November : "We do our very best to help everybody, but we're restricted by budget, lack of housing, lack of provision and lack of other services."</p> <p>So can the Leader of the Council tell us, what is the estimated number of individuals sleeping rough in the city, how many adults and children are currently in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, what this costs, and what you intend to do to address the understandable concerns?</p>
2	Councillor M Howells	<p>The leader will be aware of the recent press coverage around crime and anti-social behaviour in Newport, particularly the city centre. As well as Newport being 'dubbed' the most dangerous place in Wales to visit.</p> <p>What are your plans to bring the crime rate down, particularly in the city centre and how will we know if this is working?</p>
3	Councillor Whitehead	<p>Can we be updated on the progress of our enquiries to City Services more frequently please? Normally we receive an acknowledgement of our enquiries via a do not reply email stating the request will be dealt with in 5 working days. Sometimes we will get a "new note" email and that's good, but it can still end up being drawn out. Explaining this to residents can be frustrating.</p>
4	Councillor Reeks	<p>In a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting where the proposed Newport Culture Strategy was discussed one section of the strategy suggested that venue owners encourage people attending events to make use of public transport in order to help Newport become a net Zero city by 2030. If the leader thinks that it is acceptable for the council to encourage venue owners to take such steps, then will he lead by example and request that attendees at the next Cabinet meeting are required to travel to it by means of public transport only?</p>
5	Councillor Routley	<p>Are you aware of how a number citizen's view of City centre.</p>

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		<p>The reality or perception of the public is It's worse than I expected.</p> <p>While we're talking about how to improve things, we really need to deal with the serious problems we're facing right now.</p> <p>Many people feel unsafe on our streets due to problems like aggressive begging, drinking in public, and groups of hooded gangs on bicycles Marauding throughout our City centre with lack of regard for the well-being of others, with potential for violence and destruction. Thereby producing fear or its perception amongst our citizens for their own safety</p> <p>How can we ask businesses to invest in an area that projects the possibility of being out of control regarding Law and order No wonder there is hesitation when it comes to investment</p> <p>Do you agree with me Leader we need to rebuild trust and make everyone feel secure, so families, friends, and individuals can move freely in our City without the fear of harassment or attack.</p> <p>To make this happen, we need to take back control; of our streets and focus on proper law enforcement.</p> <p>Will you as Leader use your influence to encourage the police to detain and arrest those who disturb the peace in our community.</p> <p>Do you agree together we can make Newport Safe and Great again.</p>
6	Councillor Mogford	<p>On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 you posted on Facebook a short bullet point summary of the 25/26 NCC Budget with the promise of more to follow.</p> <p>Amongst other items that weren't quantified you announced the 'biggest investment in roads and pavements' resurfacing for over 10 years'.</p> <p>Newport's roads (and dare I say in this context trunk roads) are subject to a huge amount of stress with rising volumes of traffic across the city, exasperated by the M4 no longer being fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century demands. Add to that regular flooding on some of our roads then clearly other measures will no doubt need to be taken to make the road system sustainable for a growing city.</p> <p>Can you now add some further detail to your fb post (copied below for reference) and in particular:</p>

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="587 271 1364 367">1. Re-iterate (for the purpose of this question) just how much this <b>secured road and pavement investment</b> is and over how many years it will be carried out.</li><li data-bbox="587 367 1364 568">2. Assure residents of Bishton &amp; Langstone Ward that the long-awaited investment will really make a difference to each of their concerns, particularly to those long-suffering residents who have put up with years of substandard attention to their 'highways and bye ways' concerns.</li></ol>