

MEMBER/PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET SCRUTINY 23 June 2021

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

6.1	Question from Sandra Bogelein	Answer Provided by
	Members of the public, including myself, are extremely sceptical about the claim that the NWL will reduce carbon emissions. Related to call-in items 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, will the Chair of Scrutiny obtain and make the relevant traffic models, and all related assumptions, data and emissions calculations, available to the committee and public, and arrange for a second opinion or verification by independent consultants in the field for the scrutiny committee?	
	Response	
	The traffic model reports, including validation of the model used, will be included with the Outline Business Case (OBC) submission to the Department for Transport (DfT). The reports will be subject to detailed independent review along with the OBC by specialists at DfT. The forecast traffic flows from the model have been used to complete the Greenhouse Gases Workbook, which is a standard DfT tool to value the impact arising from the change in carbon emissions from vehicles as a result of the scheme.	NWL Team
6.2	Question from Martin Schmierer	
	Can the chair of scrutiny committee confirm that he has, and will make available to the committee for the meeting, sight of the legal advice produced to the Council on the planning issues relating to the construction and operation of the road through and over the Wensum SAC? If not, please can he confirm that he will make every reasonable effort to seek sight of the said advice for himself and the committee	
	Response	
	As a matter of standard practice, a project team promoting an infrastructure scheme on the scale of the NWL will necessarily seek legal advice. That legal advice is then used to inform the project team's approach to progressing the project, and as such will be reflected in the information presented by officers, to inform key decisions on the project. In terms of the decisions which Cabinet was asked to make on 7 June 2021, Cabinet members were provided with all of the information (by way of the Cabinet Report and accompanying background papers) relevant to the decisions Cabinet was being asked to take at that time.	NWL Team & NPLaw

	<p>The matters which were the subject of the Cabinet meeting on 7 June 2021 and which were referred to Full Council on that date, and which are now before the Scrutiny Committee, by virtue of their nature necessarily precede the work involved in preparing a planning application. Legal advice on planning issues relating to the construction and operation of the NWL through and over the Wensum SAC will be sought in due course, as part of the process involved in preparing a planning application for the NWL. The Council has appointed external legal advisors in relation to the NWL planning application, the preparation of which will involve consideration of issues arising in connection with the Wensum SAC. The Council does not routinely share its legal advice with the public or interested parties given that such advice is subject to legal advice privilege.</p>	
6.3	Question from Catherine Rowett	
	<p>Can the chair of scrutiny committee confirm that he has, and will make available to the committee at the meeting, sight of the Council's 'Plan B' proposal for relieving traffic congestion in the Norwich Western Quadrant (which it is known is the subject of ongoing discussions), to cover the event the NWL project does not go ahead? If not, please can he confirm that he will make every reasonable effort to seek details of the 'Plan B' proposal for himself and the committee?</p>	NWL Team
	Response	
	<p>The Council has undertaken a comprehensive options assessment which has concluded that the chosen route is the optimum solution.</p>	

7. LOCAL MEMBER QUESTIONS

7.1	Question from Cllr Paul Neale	
	<p>A letter was recently sent to the head of paid service by Andrew Boswell and David Pett about the potential unlawfulness of recommendation 1 of the agenda at the June 7th Extraordinary Council Meeting. Will the chair of Scrutiny ensure that the issues raised in the letter are discussed by the committee and resolved at call-in item 2 on the agenda?</p>	Not for CES
	Response	
	<p>A response has been provided to Dr Boswell.</p>	