

Question Submitted by Cllr Wilce re Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road

The question presents an understanding of a specific significant cost increase on the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road project and states that additional cost will fall to this Council. It is difficult to understand why such information is so confidently stated.

DCC is currently going through an internal process of reviewing costs estimates with specialist consultants. DCC have not yet tendered the infrastructure work or dealt with the land assembly. So, any suggested costs that may have been even informally mentioned at this early stage must be seen as far from final, subject to further revision.

Of course, such infrastructure projects, like any project, face a range of variables and risks. There are several key milestones in the delivery plan. At each stage the Council will reappraise initial estimates / outcomes. As stated in my fellow-Cabinet Member's response, such decisions would be brought to Cabinet for consideration, retaining appropriate control.

It is fundamentally wrong to assert that any additional costs would simply fall to this Council's bottom line. If additional funding was required, then the Council would look at a range of available funding options as part of determining whether or how to continue. The Council always has in mind opportunities for such funding from a range of sources both to support routine project costs and as risk mitigation for possible cost increases. This project is no exception.