

Supplemental Item for Executive

Thursday 29 April 2021 at 5.00pm

Part I

Page No.

4. **Public Questions**

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Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.

Sarah Clarke
Service Director (Strategy and Governance)

For further information about this item, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Democratic Services Team on (01635) 519462
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Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 29 April 2021.

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(a) **Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"Could Councillor Hilary Cole provide the details, rationale, objectives and timescales behind her statement (made at the last Executive meeting) that West Berkshire Council will be "developing our own housing company"?"

(b) **Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

"The West Berkshire Water Cycle Study Phase 1 Study highlights the need for considerable infrastructure spending on the LRIE. Without any costings was the Avison Young viability study an expensive exercise in manipulation rather than viability?"

Public Questions received in relation to agenda items 8 and 11 (Newbury Sports Ground – Joint Land Deal)

(c) **Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Why are items, which are not related to negotiations with the Rugby Club, such as the estimated budget for upfront capital costs, ongoing running costs, sinking funds etc being covered in part 2 rather than being made available to the press and public as they should be?"

(d) **Question submitted by Lee McDougall to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"What are the forecasted key milestone dates for the new football ground proposals, including the planning submission and decision date, the tender process start and finish dates and the construction start and completion dates that will enable this new facility to be operational by March 2022?"

(e) **Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Is the 40 year lease (joint land deal) with the Rugby club the only contract that the Council are requesting to be approved by the Executive at this meeting?"

(f) **Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"It is welcome that the plans have been upgraded from a Step 6 to a Step 4 facility from the start. However Hungerford and Thatcham (populations 10k & 25k) have grounds which enable them to currently play at the higher levels of Steps 2 and 3 respectively. The Faraday Road Ground has the capability to be upgraded to Step 2. It looks like the footprint of the proposed ground at the rugby club is too small to be upgraded any further. Therefore how can this be a like for like replacement?"

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(g) **Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Please can the Council confirm the Executive is aware the present draft forward plan contains all the necessary financial approval requirements to commission the construction of a Football Ground at Monks Lane to move it from Faraday Road?"

(h) **Question submitted by Gary Norman to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Can the executive confirm when the total development and ongoing costs to the council tax payer of the new football ground development at Newbury Rugby Club will be available for scrutiny in the public domain?"

(i) **Question submitted by Lee McDougall to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Could the Council please confirm that once full details and supporting documentation are available with respect to the Rugby club proposal it will undertake a public consultation that complies with the Government's Consultation Code (specifically the seven consultation criteria as detailed on the Local Government Association (LGA) website?"

(j) **Question submitted by Nigel Foot to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Could the Council please confirm exactly what additional details and documentation will be made available to the public with respect to the Newbury Rugby Club proposal prior to any legally binding documents are signed?"

(k) **Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance/Leisure and Culture:**

"Is it the Council's intention to make a decision (in Part II) at this meeting with respect to item 8 and 11 on the Executive Agenda "Newbury Sports Ground – Joint Land Deal (EX4010)" that will commit it to enter into various land agreements with the Rugby Club without putting this on the forward plan first?"