

Questions and Answers

Executive

Thursday, 18th December, 2014

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Executive Meeting

18 December 2014

Questions and Answers



Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

(a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision by Mrs Judith Bunting:

"The Flood and Water Management Act, introduced in 2010, made the Council one of the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) responsible for managing the flood risk associated with surface water runoff, ordinary water courses and groundwater. These responsibilities are in addition to the duties also imposed on the Borough Council as the Highways Authority.

In light of this Council's duty as a Lead Local Flood Authority and the recent floods, will this Council apply for European Union Regional Development Funding to develop flooding prevention infrastructure to alleviate the risk of flood damage in the future?"

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision answered:

In the recent Autumn Statement West Berkshire Council has been awarded almost £4m of Defra Grant funding for flood defences and mitigation over the next six years and, where possible, the Council will look to supplement this funding with other local contributions.

I understand that there is a small amount of European Union Development Funding available for 'Green Infrastructure' which can include measures to mitigate flooding and this funding is administered by the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, and there is £500k available across the Thames Valley Berkshire area over the period 2014 to 2020. Where appropriate we will seek some of this funding to supplement our existing programme of works and we already have some schemes planned for the next three years and these include: flood alleviation schemes in Great Shefford and Dunstan Park, Thatcham; a flood defence scheme at Tull Way in Thatcham; and we are working on behalf of the Environment Agency to carry out surveys for property level protection in Purley.

The Chairman asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?"*

Mrs Judith Bunting asked the following supplementary question:

"With respect to the European funding as well as the rest of it, who would be the main individual we can check with as we go forward in the New Year to find out what applications are made, would that be yourself?"

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision asked: Do you mean what applications West Berkshire Council will be making?

Mrs Judith Bunting replied: *"Yes, and through the Thames Valley LEP, who would we be speaking to in order to find out what applications do go through?"*

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision answered:

Yes, there will be an Officer responsible, but I should think it is probably our representative on the LEP who would be making such applications – Councillor Law. Between us we will probably be able to answer. I wouldn't expect that we'd be making any requests in the short term because, as I say, we have the funding for the schemes that we have scheduled.

Mrs Judith Bunting asked: *“So you'll be rejecting possibilities for money from Europe?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision answered: No, I said we'll seek a contribution when we need it. We can't just go and say we want some money, we have to seek money for a specific purpose.

Mrs Judith Bunting asked: *“Indeed, and we have quite a few specific purposes about flooding. Could I ask for a named individual?”*

The Chairman replied: I think it's been answered in terms of the individual - Councillor Bale or Councillor Law.

Members' Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

- (a) **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision by Councillor Jeff Brooks:**

"Can the portfolio holder tell me the income received to date from the new on street parking charges implemented in the summer at the various on street locations around Newbury such as, but not confined to, Newtown Road, Faraday Road and Catherine Road."

Councillor Brooks was unable to attend the meeting and therefore received the following written response from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision:

The first phase of on-street charging at 12 locations in Newbury was implemented on 28 July 2014 and the income figure to 30 November 2014 is £27,693.

I hope that this response has addressed your query.
