

Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 1 December 2022.

Members of the Executive to answer the following questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the [Council's Constitution](#):

- (A) Question related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside submitted by Simon Pike:**

"What were the conclusions and recommendations of the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for North East Thatcham, commissioned by the Council in relation to the Local Plan Review?"

- (B) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by Ruth Steedman:**

"I very much welcome the new electric charging points in Newbury and Hungerford. What plans are there to extend this rollout beyond these towns to West Berkshire villages?"

- (C) Question related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by Anthony King:**

"The B4000/Ermin Street in the Woodlands area of Lambourn and Shefford is experiencing a significant growth in traffic, particularly HGV's. It is basically a country lane used as the primary access to Membury Industrial Area.

There have been a growing number of incidents, including on the 7th and 16th November, in the same location, when 5 vehicles were written off, including 2 HGV's, and a property nearly demolished. The Emergency Services had significant resources at both including the Air Ambulance.

These happened with current traffic volumes which will grow exponentially when recent approvals for Walkers, Putnams, Gearshifters and the continuing uncontrolled business operations generate huge volumes of additional vehicles from Membury.

Are the council aware that your recent planning decisions and lack of control at Membury, will lead to fatalities on this road and impact the lives of all residents, other road users and your own Environmental targets?"

- (D) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Graham Storey:**

"Is the council confident that all social housing within West Berkshire meets the Decent Homes Standard to avoid the health of tenants suffering due to poor quality accommodation?"

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- (E) Question related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by Sam Coppinger:**

"In light of the fact that very tall distribution HGVs are frequently seen travelling in the middle of the B4000 and following an increase in serious accidents that have caused long road closures, can the council confirm that they will no longer be seeking further B8 development at Membury as the local, rural road network is unsuitable for such vehicles and road closures have a detrimental impact on the local economy?"

- (F) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paul Morgan:**

"Can the Council please provide a copy of the written brief / terms of reference, timescales and fees agreed with Hemingway Design for their engagement / involvement with the London Road Industrial Estate Project Refresh?"

- (G) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transformation submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Does the Council have a roadmap for improvements to its kerbside recycling collections. In particular, when does it plan to join the numerous other councils who collect all plastic and metal cartons and not just plastic bottles?"

- (H) Question related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by Sam Coppinger:**

"Why is the council continuing to allow development on the Membury Industrial Estate (MIE) without a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) when there may be a requirement to develop a site in a certain way, for instance, to comply with common drainage law, increase water quality and bio-diversity and to produce a positive contribution to the district's carbon neutral aspirations?"

- (I) Question related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paul Morgan:**

"It was recently reported in the NWN that "There is a £15.8m hole in West Berkshire Council's budget forecast and that Council officers have been

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instructed to find additional savings of £9.2m". Can the Council please confirm whether this is in fact the case and what root and branch review process has now been initiated (and by whom) to find the additional savings required?"

- (J) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by John Gotelee:**

"Councillor Somner stated (03/11/2022 exec meeting) that there have been no planning applications on the LRIE to test the theory that the plot by plot planning can or cannot meet common drainage law. Is this not a criminal waste of taxpayers money to have already spent thousands without even checking whether their plans are even possible?"

- (K) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Why does this Conservative administration have such a limited ambition for Newbury Football Club that it is planning to build a stadium that is too small to allow the club to grow beyond Step 4, which is 4 levels below the National League?"

- (L) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport & Countryside submitted by Sam Coppinger:**

"Why is the council continuing to allow development on the Membury Industrial Estate (MIE) without a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) when there may be a requirement to develop a site in a certain way, for instance, to comply with common drainage law, increase water quality and bio-diversity and to produce a positive contribution to the district's carbon neutral aspirations?"

- (M) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Does this Conservative administration feel that spending £4.5M and over £10M respectively on the Lido and the Sports Hub is a good use of tax payers money when it is expected that the council will need to find upwards of £15M of cuts next year?"