

## Item 15:

### **Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 9 February 2023.**

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

**A. Question submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:**

*"Nearly two years after the Housing Strategy Action Plan committed the Council to funding a specialist contractor to carry out a private sector housing stock condition survey and over a year after it was supposed to be completed, what can the Executive Member tell us about the sector and the work that will be needed to keep private renters in particular in healthy warm homes?"*

**B. Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships:**

*"The government has announced that voters will be required to show a photo ID when they attend a polling station to vote in the local elections on 4th May. Many residents will not have one of the approved forms of photo ID. Such residents may apply for a "Voter Authority Certificate", however, the application process for this must be initiated online. Many of these residents will either not have the IT equipment or the confidence to do this. Will the council therefore do the following to minimise the risk of residents being disenfranchised: 1. Train public library staff on the Voter Authority Certificate application process, 2. Equip public libraries with digital cameras or smartphones to enable library staff to take the required photo, 3. Encourage residents to attend public libraries to apply for the Voter Authority Certificate?"*

**C. Question submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care:**

*"The Phoenix Centre in Newtown Rd. Newbury has a sizeable performance space which is under used because of the restrictions on hours and the planning condition which limits its use to a Day Centre as this is such a valuable resource. Could the Council consider reviewing its hours of use, particularly in the evening, so that it can be used by local performing arts groups?"*

**D. Question submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:**

*"If the Executive had taken account of the economic impact of a prolonged planned closure of the Kings Road / Boundary Road / Hambridge Road intersection being necessary in order to connect utility services to the new Sterling Gardens development, would you not agree that the planning of the works should have made a much stronger attempt to insist that the Construction Management Plan Planning Condition included provisions for keeping traffic flowing, or building the Hector's Way before the utility connection works were done, or negotiating with the Racecourse to have their private road used – for a substantial fee – while the works took place?"*

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**E. Question submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:**

*"Following the tragic death of a two year old due to mould in the family home Michael Gove has written to Council Leaders and Chief Executives highlighting the need to ensure rented properties in all sectors are of a decent standard. What is this Council's response to this letter?"*