

Item 6:

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 3 December 2020.

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

- (a) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by John Gotelee:**

"What consideration was made for the obstruction downstream (Tesco culvert) which has far lower capacity when allowing surface water run off into the Thames Water sewer?"

- (b) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by Susan Millington:**

"Will West Berkshire Council agree to set a tree planting target to double the amount of tree cover in the district by 2045, in line with the step recently taken by Oxfordshire County Council?"

- (c) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How much funding, and under which schemes, has WBC received from Central Government to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic?"

- (d) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How has each Central Government fund, received in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, been distributed?"

- (e) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How many recipients have benefitted from the different funding schemes established as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic?"

- (f) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Ros Clow:**

"Has the Council considered setting up a 'Working from Home Hub' in the town centre?"

- (g) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by Alan Pearce:**

"Regarding the Swale situated on land west of Tesco, London Road, Newbury, and flash flooding in the area, please would it be possible to give a brief explanation for what purpose was the Swale constructed?"

- (h) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by John Gotelee:**

"Will the council commit to testing the quality of the water at the outfall of the Thames Water sewer to establish why the wildlife seems to have died off?"

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(i) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Paul Morgan:**

"Can you please provide a full breakdown of what additional spend (actual, committed and proposed) has been made on the LRIE project on top of the £946,000 reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission as the total cost of the project and litigation?"

(j) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Stuart Gourley:**

"Will this Council abide by the 'development principle' in the Avison Young LRIE Master Plan and provide 'an alternative and suitable replacement football ground' prior to the 'disposal and potential redevelopment' of the site it currently occupies?"

(k) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by Alan Pearce:**

"Regarding the London Road, Newbury, Catchment Study, Project No. 195110, produced by ARDENT Consulting Engineers. Please would it be possible to confirm the total cost paid to Ardent together with the main reasons for commissioning the study?"

(l) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Lee McDougall:**

"Can the Council explain why it won't re-open Faraday Road Football Ground for organised youth football, even on a temporary basis, given it would cost no more than the current scheme for the recreational space?"

(m) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Will the council work collaboratively with the Newbury football community to explore all options to make the current ground available for the next 3 years for youth and ladies organised football?"

(n) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Could the council provide details of how it expects its proposed Recreational Sports Pitch in Faraday Road to work?"

(o) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Vaughan Miller:**

"Can the council provide a list of which sports organisations in or around Newbury it expects to book the proposed Recreational Sports Pitch?"

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(p) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Maria Morgan:**

“Would the Council agree that the current flats that can now be seen rising from the ground at the old Sterling Cables site and at the old bus station would be more appropriate and in keeping with somewhere like Basingstoke rather than the historic market town of Newbury?”

(q) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by John Stewart:**

“Please can the Council provide a full breakdown since 2014 on what it has spent, and what it is still committed to spend, with St Modwen Developments Ltd?”

(r) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Jason Braidwood:**

“From a health and well-being perspective how can the Council possibly justify the closure of the area's best football ground at Faraday Road when the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) clearly states “current supply and demand analysis for secured and accessible pitch provision shows there is a large deficit across West Berkshire”?”