

## Item 12:

### Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 10 June 2021.

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 Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport/ Environment and Waste:**

*"Given the Appellant's QC's argument during the Sandleford enquiry that if West Berkshire Council planning was serious about Net Zero carbon it should have been applying CS15 since 2016, could the executive explain how many missed opportunities there have been to implement net zero homes since then?"*

(b) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

*"Given the mistake made by central government in cancelling Zoom meetings before councils could resume face to face in safety, will the Council help Parish and possibly Town councils by making the Market Street Chamber available for critical meetings?"*

(c) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"Will the Executive Portfolio Member tell me how many hours of work have been taken up by officers and attendant staff working on the two CIL cases that are in dispute, namely the Maltshovel Public House and the property at 3 Blandy's Hill, Kintbury?"*

(d) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

*"What discussions has the Council had with Readibus to resolve the contractual impasse over the "gagging clause" in the Service Level Agreement since Readibus announced drastic reductions in their services in the district as a result of the Council withholding grant?"*

(e) **Question submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"Further to draft emerging Local Plan and the response to public questions, it stated that mitigation measures will alleviate traffic congestion from the 2,500 proposed Thatcham NE development on the A4, Floral Way, Heath Lane, and Bowling Green Road. Will the Council make public those mitigation measures in advance of the Reg19 consultation?"*

(f) **Question submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"In the HELAA site assessment (2020) for Thatcham NE the significant volumes of additional traffic identified the need for significant improvements to roads in the North of Thatcham including Heath Lane and new routes, yet in response to public questions it is stated there are no plans for new routes. These routes are already dangerous as the residential lanes are being used as a rat-run to avoid*

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*the A4. What has changed since 2020, or has the Council failed to perform a traffic assessment for this area?"*

(g) **Question submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"Given the flooding on the A4 following recent rain, what actions are the Council taking to reduce the flooding occurrences on the A4 London Road, Newbury?"*

(h) **Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

*"Which areas of West Berkshire are regularly monitored for air pollution?"*

(i) **Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

*"Which air pollutants are regularly monitored?"*

(j) **Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"The council's proposals to allocate sites for 170 new homes in Theale, in addition to over 450 already given planning permission, plus a site for 20,000 sq m of office space will greatly increase the traffic on roads in the area. The proposal to allocate 2,500 homes in Thatcham will add to this. What plans are there, therefore, to carry out detailed traffic modelling in the Theale area?"*

(k) **Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

*"Can the portfolio holder determine whether the astroturf proposal at the Newbury Rugby Club site is intended as a replacement for the Faraday Road football ground or is to address the shortfall of artificial pitches as outlined in your Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in February 2020?"*

(l) **Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education:**

*"Does the Council find it acceptable that over 8% of local children are living in poverty within its own area?"*

(m) **Question submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"What is the view of the Portfolio holder as regards landowners remaining in control of the public domain forming part of major new housing developments, for example Newbury Racecourse and now, as proposed by the Sandford Partnership, for a whole new country park, Local Centre and all playgrounds on their strategic site?"*

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**(n) Question submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

*"What progress has been made so far this year in respect of the LRIE Master Plan, including the component known as Gateway Plaza?"*

**(o) Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

*"How can the replacement of a grass football ground at Faraday Road with an artificial pitch at Monks Lane involving replacement of a grassed area used by Newbury Rugby Club be in accord with Core Strategy policy CS18, which says 'Developments resulting in the loss of green infrastructure or harm to its use or enjoyment by the public will not be permitted'?"*

**(p) Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

*"As the new settlements proposed in the Local Plan will not be carbon neutral (as disclosed in WBC public responses), what steps are WBC taking to perform a carbon audit in order to dimension the necessary carbon offsetting that ensures net zero carbon by 2030 remains on target?"*

**(q) Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

*"How will the council be ensuring damage to ancient trees, hedges etc in and around the proposed Sandleford proposal is avoided given the growing evidence of lack of enforcement along warren road?"*

**(r) Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Strategic Partnerships and Transformation:**

*"Can the administration explain how we are supporting local taxi companies vs how neighbouring councils are doing so during these current pressures?"*