

Item 10:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 2 September 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 Finance and Economic Development:**

"What are the additional costs, given the fire at Faraday Road, as contractors have needed to secure and make safe the area?"

(b) **Question submitted by Councillor Phil Barnett to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Strategic Partnerships and Transformation:**

"Drones have become part of society during the past few years. They come in various shapes and sizes and although of great benefit in surveillance, the noise generated by some and intrusion above properties have not gone unnoticed recently during the weekends of Newbury races. Therefore, can the Executive Member for Highways and the Environment establish whether these drones were operating legally and whether there is any mechanism in place for residents to report incidents such as those that have happened during these recent events."

(c) **Question submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Planning Transport:**

"What were the reasons behind taking the contract for the Council's Car Club away from Co-Wheels?"

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

"How much money has been collected from developers since the start of the Newbury Car Club and how much of that was unallocated at the time the Council changed its service provider from Co-wheels to Enterprise this month?"

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

"Can the portfolio holder provide details of West Berkshire Council's highways maintenance programme and policy for cutting back over grown shrubs and trees on urban roads e.g. Floral Way, Thatcham?"

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

"Has any consultation been undertaken regarding the effectiveness and popularity of the booking system at our two HWRCs OUTSIDE of the centres themselves?"

(g) **Question submitted by Councillor Royce Longton to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

"How do people make a booking to visit our HWRCs if they do not have Internet access?"

- (h) **Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“What decision path was taken in deciding to maintain the HWRC’s booking system and restrict residents to one visit per week until the change to the once per week restriction was lifted recently?”

- (i) **Question submitted by Councillor Owen Jeffery to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Why have the HWRCs not extended their hours this spring and summer as they have done for many, many years?”

- (j) **Question submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Why is it considered to be unfair on other users if a resident visits the HWRCs more than once a week?”

- (k) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

“What communications have taken place with Vodafone regarding Vodafone’s retrenchment of their office space at their Head Quarters?”

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

“Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the booking system for its HWRCs ended on 19 July and, from this date, people are now able to visit a site without booking in advance – why then is the Portfolio Holder for Waste intent on maintaining it here, as people were used to tending to their garden and then heading to the HWRC immediately, but his booking system is a barrier to doing so and is thus more likely to lead to fly tipping or burning of waste?”

- (m) **Question submitted by Councillor Phil Barnett to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“How did the Portfolio Holder’s Officers know that one visit per week to the HWRCs was enough per household, particularly in the spring and summer, as they have stated?”

- (n) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeremy Cottam to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport:**

“Can the portfolio holder provide details of West Berkshire Council’s footpaths maintenance programme and policy for cutting back over grown shrubs and trees on urban paths owned and managed by West Berkshire Council?”

- (o) **Question submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Could the portfolio holder explain why the Waste Department is making it difficult for residents to pay for the annual Green Bin tax by methods such as BACS, cheque and phone payments, rather than Direct Debit?”

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

“What, if any, Member involvement or public consultation of Car Club members took place before the decision was made under delegated powers to change the Car Club contract to a significantly more expensive company for the existing Car Club members?”

- (q) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeremy Cottam to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Is the Direct Debit payment process for the Green Bin Tax being implemented for other services?”

- (r) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Has the Portfolio Holder negotiated reductions in payment to Veolia as a result of the restricted service that has, until recently, been provided and if so, how much has been saved?”

- (s) **Question submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“Is it not the case that it is mainly commercial operators who the Portfolio Holder for waste was trying to restrict from using the HWRCs more than once a week, rather than residents who were principally affected by this restriction?”

- (t) **Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste:**

“What has been the cost and effort of providing a telephone contact within the Waste Department in order for a resident to try to book extra visits to our HWRCs in a week?”