

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 18 November 2021.

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

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

"In the interests of averting a planning fiasco far greater than St Modwen would it be better to abandon any plans for regeneration of the LRIE and just reinstate the football pitch and clubhouse until such times as you have personnel with the expertise and ability to put forward a competent, comprehensive, masterplan following a logical and structured approach that can pass both policy and planning rules?"

(b) **Question submitted by Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Strategic Partnerships and Transformation:**

"Given the changes announced in the budget, will the council reverse its long standing refusal to directly fund and build homes for social rent, to address the acute shortage of social housing in West Berkshire?"

(c) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for planning and transport:**

"Does the Council have any plans to update its 'Supplementary Planning Document: Part 5 - External Lighting', which dates from 2005, does not contain any guidance that can be used as a planning condition, and describes obsolete lighting technologies?"

(d) **Question submitted by Alison May to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection / Adult Social Care:**

"Violence against women participating in politics encompasses all forms of intimidation and aggression resulting in significant societal and democratic consequences. How will West Berkshire Council lead by example in addressing such challenges?"

(e) **Question submitted by Darius Zarazel to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

"At the last Planning & Highways Committee meeting on the 25th of October, Newbury Town Council resolved to ask whether the WBC Executive could conduct a final public consultation on the Monks Lane Sports Hub application, reference 21/02173/COMIND.

The reason given is that, as the newamended application has been validated, and the full costs associated with building and operating the Sports Hub is now known, the public should have a final opportunity to have a say as to whether they agree with the proposals."

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(f) **Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

"Since you have chosen to remove the high protective net which was installed to prevent balls from being kicked into the Kennet are you planning to prevent ball games being played on the new open recreational pitch?"

(g) **Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:**

"Councillor Woollaston is quoted as stating that the Council is intending to borrow funds from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for the Monks Lane Sports Hub proposal (assuming that it gets the go ahead).

Can the Council please provide full details of the arrangements including:

- *The amount the Council plans to borrow from the PWLB for this proposal and be clear regarding what capital items it will cover, upfront and ongoing.*
- *The period of time it will be repaid over.*
- *The interest rates (variable or fixed).*
- *When the principal sum will be repaid.*
- *The process / governance which needs to be followed by West Berkshire Council before any PWLB borrowing contract is entered into."*

(h) **Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:**

"What do you estimate would be the financial consequences to the taxpayer of failure to be able to build houses / flats on the Faraday Road football pitch?"

(i) **Question submitted by Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Strategic Partnerships and Transformation:**

"Does the fact that over 1860 applications to the new Housing Register have been rejected since January indicate that the social housing policy is not meeting the Council's objective of 'Enabling every resident to have access to a home that meets their needs?'"

(j) **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for planning and transport:**

"Will the Council follow the recommendation of the Institute of Lighting Professionals in its guidance note 01/21 'The Reduction of Obtrusive Light' that 'Local Planning Authorities specify the following environmental zones for exterior lighting control within their Development Plans'? (there are five zones: urban, suburban, rural, natural and protected)."

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

“Could you please confirm the total costs of preparation of Faraday Road Football Ground to be reopened as a recreation pitch, inc. demolition of the burnt down clubhouse, removal of fences, site clearance, resurfacing works, etc.”