

Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday, 24th March, 2022 at 5.00 pm
in Second Floor Meeting Area Council
Offices Market Street Newbury

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4. Public Questions	3 - 6
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.	

Sarah Clarke

Service Director (Strategy & Governance)

For further information about this/these item(s), or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Sadie Owen (Principal Democratic Services Officer) on 01635 519052, e-mail: sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk

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Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 24/03/2022.

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 Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:

"This council is about to spend around £4Million to build a 'Sports Hub' which has approval only as a stand alone facility. Yet the Executive clearly intend it as a replacement or part of a replacement strategy for the Faraday Road Stadium (see answer to Q6 in Exec 16th December 2021). Could you please clarify what exactly is the replacement strategy being referred to?"

B. Question submitted by Nigel Foot to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:

"What is West Berkshire Council's ambition for its senior football teams, in terms of progression up their respective football league pyramids?"

C. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"What information has been gained from the LRIE environmental study that wasn't already known?"

D. Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"The London Road Industrial Estate: Development Brief (Final) produced by Avison Young in 2020 included the risk that a £10 per square foot increase in build costs and 10% decrease in sales values would produce a deficit on both Plot 2 and Plot 4 (Faraday Road Stadium) and they would therefore be considered unviable (point 9.48). Build costs went up by over 12% in 2020 and over 23% in 2021 (according to the Department of Building, Energy and Industrial Strategy). With Energy costs going through the roof this will only increase costs significantly further. On top of this the changes in working practices post Covid will also have an impact on viability of any proposed commercial units in the scheme, thus possibly affecting Sales Values. Would you agree that the fiscally responsible thing to do would be to review the brief to reconsider the viability of the development on Plot 4 (the Faraday Road Stadium) before signing off the £4Million to build and provision the Sports Hub, which this Executive body is gambling on being accepted as a full or partial replacement for the Faraday Road Stadium?"

E. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"How do the central governments plans for levelling up, affect the need to carry on the relentless planning to build new flats / homes in the area?"

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8A. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"On the 7th December 2021 the Government released the new Natural England Green/Blue Infrastructure Framework with a new Web site, interactive Mapping tool, and Principles, and I do not see this specifically reflected in the new Leisure Strategy, so please may I ask that sufficient emphasis is placed on the new Framework when working up the more detailed Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan, especially Principle 2?"

8B. Question submitted by Stuart Gourley to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:

"Agenda item 8, draft Leisure strategy refers, as part of the objectives, to 'delivering the playing pitch strategy'. The playing pitch strategy refers to a large deficit of rugby and football pitches across the district. This deficit will be hindered by the Monks Lane Sports Hub removing a grass rugby pitch as part of the construction; one of the planning recommendations for the Monks Lane Sports Hub lists the need to find a site for a replacement grass pitch for the rugby pitch that will be lost to the new sports Hub. What will be the public consultation process for replacement pitch locations?"

8C. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:

"Some Local Authorities have a combined Sports & Active Leisure Strategy which then produces a Combined Delivery Plan which ensures that there is no conflict of interest between the creation of Playing Pitches and good sized existing Open Green Spaces which have unique Active Leisure opportunities in their own right, so will this Council please consider amalgamating the Delivery Plans for the Playing Pitch Strategy and this new Leisure Strategy to ensure there are no conflicts of interest between the 2 Strategies, given that the Green/Blue Infrastructure Framework is now in the public domain, and the top level picture would be easier for residents to understand?"

8D. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"Under 5.4 , the new Leisure Strategy implies it will work with Parish & Town Councils when looking at greater accessibility to Open Green Spaces, so will the Service Director for Place please ensure the teams involved, including Estates Managers, work closely with Newbury Town Council when putting forward schemes which impact existing Open Green Spaces managed by WBC, yet are within the Town Parishes?"

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8E. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture/Planning, Transport and Countryside:

“Do the 2 new Residential Developments North of Newbury which straddle the A339– known locally as the Shaw 401 – include an area which would fall under the Leisure Strategy and possibly be sufficient to create a new pitch identified as being required by the Playing Pitch Strategy, and if no, why would that be please?”

8F. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture:

“If push comes to shove in the Hierarchy of Strategies will the Leisure Strategy take preference over the Playing Pitch Strategy as implied by the chart under 3.1 on Page 7 of the Leisure Strategy?”

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