

# Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday 6th July, 2023 at 5.00 pm  
in the Council Chamber Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury

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*Sarah Clarke.*

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](mailto:sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk)

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



**Supplemental Items**  
**Executive to be held on Thursday, 6 July 2023** *(continued)*

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If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Sadie Owen on telephone (01635) 519052.



## Item 4:

### **Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 6 July 2023.**

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 Gareth Beard to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity:**

*"What top three environmental improvements is the Liberal Democrat Administration going to deliver on top of the existing environment strategy. When will the improvement materialise and what benefit will it have on the West Berkshire Environment?"*

**B. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"The Bond Riverside website May 23 states Ardent are putting final touches to their SUDs plans. How can you design SUDs without a surface water management plan?"*

**C. Question submitted by Brandon Mosconi to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"It's no secret that we are in need of more housing. However, new housing must be sustainable, dense, and close to amenities to reduce already dire traffic, increase active travel, and affordability of homes. Therefore, will the council commit to looking at brownfield areas close to town centers, such as the LRIE, for dense housing rather than extending suburbs out into our green spaces and forcing those living there to use cars?"*

**D. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"What additional infrastructure has been planned for the new houses at the end of Speen Allotments."*

**E. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"The West Berkshire Council Website, with respect to "Bond Riverside" updates, stated in May 2023 that: "Following a review of the programme Hemingway Designs have been given an extended 3 months to produce the final placemaking report. This will allow for a better integration with other ongoing council strategies such as Parking".*

*Please can you confirm:*

*a) That the Hemingway Designs brief has been amended to reflect that the Football Ground at Faraday Road will remain as a football ground with the associated stadia?*

*b) The cost (if any) associated to the Council of this 3-month extension.*

*c) That the final placemaking report will be delivered in August 2023?"*

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**F. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader, Governance and Transformation:**

*"On the day of submission of this question, the WBC Forward Plan did not include the Executive Item relating to a New Sports Pitch at Manor Park Newbury which had a Public Consultation, the results of which have never been FULLY Published yet the Consultation has been archived, therefore when can we expect the results of the further work due in Spring 2023 to come onto the Forward Plan for an Executive Decision please?"*

**G. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"When using a drainage strategy to develop the LRIE that incorporates third-party land downstream being used to store urban runoff, and that land is subject to man-made property flooding in a one-hundred-year storm event. Please can the Council give a cost estimate of implementing its current policy EX4219 London Road Industrial Estate Project Refresh "3 Implications and Impact Assessment, Financial: The site currently has a book value £9.2 m (as at 32.3.2021) with an annual income from the site of £0.4m pa" together with its current policy EX3978 London Road Development options "Recommendations 2.1 a. a phased approach option to development of the site with an overall vision for the development as a whole"?"*

**H. Question submitted by Gareth Beard to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"What improvements to rural electric vehicle charging (ie rapid charge points) does the council envisage over the next four years?"*

**I. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"In what way (if any) are the plans for the regeneration of the LRIE different from the previous administration?"*

**J. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"What new car parking arrangements are being made for the loss of parking in Station Road."*

**K. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"My question relates to Agenda item 10. "Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement". Why does the report not acknowledge the fact that the retention of the Faraday Road site as a football Ground / Stadium (which is the new administration's declared policy) replaces the need*

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*for the Newbury Sports Hub and the need for additional grass pitch (at Manor Park/ Linear Park)?”*

**L. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity:**

*“The proposal to use the Manor Park ANGS – Accessible Nature-based Green Space (with no buildings) – was to provide a football pitch lost elsewhere, which no longer applies as Saturday & Sunday League Football is returning to Faraday Road (Paul Hendry announcement of 21st June 2023), therefore please can we keep this space to enhance BIODIVERSITY, as part of the Local Nature Recovery Network for this part of North Newbury, thus helping to mitigate the loss of a next door Greenfield at the Coley Farm Housing Development?”*

**M. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:**

*“Question for Executive meeting 6th of July 2023. Agenda Item 10. Please can the Council confirm which members of the OSMC and / or the Executive read and approved the EX4332 report before it was published? (Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement).”*

**N. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*“The council has said it will be using a herbicide on the Faraday rd pitch can the council name this herbicide and confirm it contains none of the following chemicals which if used incorrectly are dangerous to the aquatic environment Glyphosphate, Imazapr and Triclopyr?”*

**O. Question submitted by John Bibbings to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*“Could a loading only parking spot be created, in Station Road as burning is not allowed and heavy loads can be involved with waste and gardening equipment? Many of the gardeners are 80 years old +”*

**P. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*“My question relates to Agenda item 10. “Call-In of Executive Decision EX4332: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement”. At the OSMC meeting on 20th June 2023 the justification for the upfront spend for the “Newbury Sports Hub” of £4.128 Million (£3.878M + £250K for additional costs) was to fulfil the No 1 Priority of the PPS (which as minuted). Why is there no reference to the No 1 Priority of the PPS in this report?”*

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**Q. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"A recent Update Announcement on the Bond Riverside Regeneration Project, which was not replicated on the WBC Main LRIE web page, states: 'Ardent have begun putting together the final drawings and locations for the SUDS environmental improvements, ready for work to begin later this summer'. As the Clayhill Flood & Drainage Warden and currently the lead on these aspects until a handover can be achieved, I have not been kept informed on these developments, therefore how do they fit into the WBC SFRA (2022) Requirements for the whole of the lands within the red lines of the Regeneration Site to have a full Flood Risk Assessment and a whole site (old LRIE) Surface Water Drainage Strategy? Nb. SFRA Level 2 – Appendix B Pages 105-109 refer"*

**R. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"Does the executive realise that pedestrianisation and car parking charges has been bad for the small businesses in the town centre. Are you serious about causing further damage to the local economy by extending pedestrianisation?"*

**S. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"The recent much welcomed Announcements of the Return of Football at Faraday Road and a video on the preparation of the Sports Pitch (Paul Hendry announcement 21st June 2023) fails to mention how the Rest of the Requirements within the 'Return of Football at Faraday Road Project Implementation Plan' will be undertaken by very early in September 2023 so please can the Portfolio Holder outline who will manage the Plan and how the Changing Rooms, Showers/Toilets, Fencing, Connections to Sewage & Surface Water Drainage might be achieved in the Timescales, together with how the Land outside the pitch area, which is part of the bigger Public Open Space, will be maintained and enhanced for Nature Recovery given that it includes an SSSI Buffer Zone?"*

## Item 11:

### **Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 6 July 2023.**

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 Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"On 24 November, you, Cllr Vickers, stated "The Liberal Democrats are broadly content with the district-wide policies in the Local Plan that we'll be asked to vote on next Thursday. We certainly won't be voting against the motion to publish it for the Regulation 19 consultation." Why then, one week later, did your group vote against publishing the Local Plan for the Regulation 19 consultation?"*

**B. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"In the Liberal manifesto you promised to "fix the local plan". Given that the plan has already been approved by expert senior officers and submitted to the Inspector, how do you propose to fix it?"*

**C. Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"At the Executive meeting on 8th June, you stated that "empty homes should not be allowed in this day and age". How many properties in West Berkshire meet your definition of empty homes?"*

**D. Question submitted by Councillor Paul Kander to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"How much will it cost the council taxpayers of West Berkshire if you withdraw the Local Plan and start again from scratch?"*

**E. Question submitted by Councillor Carlyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity:**

*"Is West Berkshire Council ready to fulfil its impending obligation from the Environment Act to create a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?"*

**F. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"Further to her comments at the last Executive meeting about the problem of long-term empty properties, will the portfolio holder undertake that the council will: 1 Take rigorous action under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure that owners of buildings left empty, and which pose an environmental hazard to neighbours as well as "adversely affecting the amenity of the area", are held responsible for restoring them to an acceptable level? 2 Where the owner refuses to do this, and where a property has been left empty for at least two years, take out an EDMO (empty dwelling management order) under the Housing Act 2004 on the property? 3 Where both these approaches are unsuccessful, serve a CPO (compulsory purchase order) so that suitable properties can be brought back into use as much-needed homes?"*

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**G. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"The Liberal manifesto promised to fix all potholes "first time", and dangerous potholes within 72 hours of notification. What specific changes to the Council's highway maintenance processes will you make to keep this promise, and how much will they cost?"*

**H. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"If you are successful in removing housing from the North East Thatcham strategic site in the Local Plan, will the housing be placed instead in our rural villages without the infrastructure to support it?"*

**I. Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"On 24 May the Council announced on its social media channels that work had begun to get the former football pitch at Faraday Road ready for organised football, along with photographs of Cllrs Dillon, Lewis and Colston. At that time, the new Executive had not been appointed. Lynne Doherty remained Leader of the Council. On 21 June more announcements were made presenting the decision to cancel commercial development and use the site for football as a fait accompli. The commercial development of the site was agreed by the Executive on 9 June 2022 as part of the London Road Industrial Estate Refresh (EX4219). How can an Executive decision be set aside, with significant economic and financial implications for the District and the Council, before the new Leader and Executive were appointed, and without due consideration and publication on the Forward Plan?"*

**J. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Services:**

*"The Liberal Democrat manifesto promised to remove the Garden Waste charge. How much income did this charge generate in 2022-23?"*

**K. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"Cllr Colston, commenting on a possible extension of pedestrianisation hours in Newbury town centre, you were quoted in the Newbury Weekly News recently as follows: "We made a commitment in our manifesto to trial extended hours of pedestrianisation in Newbury town centre from 10am through to midnight. The idea is to support the night-time economy and enhance the town centre for pedestrians and those eating/drinking outside in the evening. Deliveries to businesses can take place between midnight and 10am, and those who shop by car, including the disabled, will still be able to do this up to 10am as they do now." Will you commit to consulting with local residents and businesses before making*



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*any changes to pedestrianisation hours, and how extensive will that consultation be?"*

**L. Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"The outstanding, state-of-the-art new Sports Hub facility was eagerly anticipated by both Newbury Football Club and Newbury Rugby Club. How will you provide a home for high level football in West Berkshire with the same FA Step Level as the Sports Hub given your election promise to cancel the development?"*

**M. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Services:**

*"At the Budget Council meeting on 2 March, where the Liberals failed to suggest any amendments to the Conservative administration's budget, Cllr Abbs promised that if the Liberals won control of the Council at the election, they would present an emergency budget detailing what their amendments would have been. Will there in fact be an emergency budget, or is this the first broken promise of the new Liberal administration?"*

**N. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"Since GWR introduced charges in both their car parks at Aldermaston Station, rail travellers have been parking in every available space in Station Road, Aldermaston Wharf, causing considerable inconvenience to nearby residents. For example, one young family with small children are consistently unable to park within a reasonable distance from their home, which severely affects their wellbeing and the quality of their lives. Residents, Beenham and Aldermaston Parish Councils and I have persistently asked Highways to address this problem, without success. What commitment will the Portfolio Holder make to consider the problem of parking at Aldermaston Wharf?"*

**O. Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"How many hours of football will the pitch at Faraday Road be capable of hosting, compared to what would have been available at the proposed 3G pitch at the Sports Hub?"*

**P. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"The Council has announced that it will not commercially develop the former pitch at Faraday Road and instead use it for football matches, despite a superb alternative facility being shortly available at the Sports Hub. Leaving aside the constitutional propriety of that decision, approximately how many jobs would have been created on the Faraday Road site if it were commercially developed by 2026 as planned by the previous administration?"*

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**Q. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*"Following Readibus' decision to discontinue operations in West Berkshire, how many residents were unable to access alternative community transport services?"*