

# Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 5.00 pm  
in Council Chamber Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury

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*Sarah Clarke.*

Sarah Clarke

Service Director (Strategy & Governance)

For further information about these items, 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, 2 November 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 2 November 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 John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Growth and Strategy Development:**

*"The LRIE regeneration has been at a standstill for 18 years. Apart from football what is different from a planning perspective about the Lib Dems proposals from the previous administration?"*

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

*"The Bond Riverside Regeneration Programme Review was scheduled on the forward plan for a decision by the Executive on the 2nd of November 2023 and was subsequently deferred. Please would the Council explain why it was deferred, and when the decision is now likely to be taken?"*

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

*"Agenda item 8. The Leisure Management contract is mentioned at least 20 times in the report, but no detail is provided with respect to the Sports Hub "Impact on the Leisure Centre (contract)". In answer to a public question (item N), specifically regarding the Sports Hub inclusion within the new Leisure Management Contract, at the Executive Meeting on 23 March 2023 Councillor Woollaston confirmed that visibility of the ongoing costs would be provided but not until the contract is awarded. When was the Leisure Contract with Everyone Active (EA) signed?"*

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

*"Are the councils plans for the LRIE ambitious enough to attract modern businesses and investment?"*

**E. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:**

*"Any redevelopment of the Faraday Road Football Ground will require planning permission where the drainage strategy does not include man-made property flooding downstream to comply with drainage law. The town does not have a surface water management plan which can take up to 15 years or more to put in place and to provide any critical drainage infrastructure that has been identified by the plan. Is the Council being transparent by not explaining to the public how any delay in providing new facilities at Faraday Road will alter the planning balance regarding the planning policies that protected the site when it was a fully functioning Football stadium?"*

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

*"Agenda item 8. Not all the elements / costs associated with the Sports Hub project have been covered in this report. Please can the Council provide the details / information with respect to the following specific costs / items and confirm when these costs would be payable (one off and ongoing), for example:*

- a) "Lease Premium" payable to Newbury Rugby Club*
- b) Annual Sinking fund for (3G) pitch replacement*
- c) Building Insurance*
- d) Equipment costs*
- e) Cost of the Interim Consultant*
- f) Cost of Officer's time*
- g) Capital required for a grass mitigation pitch - Manor Park*
- h) Annual loan repayment for Capital items (Public Works Loan Board)*
- i) Annual WBC Revenue Support (if not included in the EA leisure contract)*
- j) Annual lease costs payable to Newbury Rugby club ((if not included in the EA leisure contract)*
- k) Ongoing Costs (Annual running costs for the grass mitigation – Manor Park)"*

**G. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:**

*"Is Councillor Abbs defection to Independent after only 6 months a sign of cracks in the new administration?"*

**H. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"Question for the Executive meeting 2nd of November 2023 Agenda item 8. Review of the Newbury Sports Hub Development.*

*Section 7.5.4 of the report states that the "Newbury Sports Hub is the principal priority within the current action plan". Is the "principal priority" the same as the "No.1 Priority" of the PPS action plan?"*

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

*"Now that the Leisure Contract has been awarded, please can the Council provide the following visibility, details / information: What are the specific costs / charges for the total and all individual elements of the Sports Hub, for example: WBC Revenue Support; Premises costs (rental to Newbury Rugby Club); Utility Costs (gas, electricity, water etc.); Personnel (staff costs), marketing,*

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*maintenance, bookings, sports programme development, EA management costs / profit, etc.?"*

**J. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:**

*"Why was the Sports Hub included in the new Leisure Centre Management contract (EX4221) when the main contract to build the Sports Hub (EX4332) was under the "call in" process and the Liberal Democrat's and Green's had clearly documented in their election manifestos that the existing Faraday Road football pitch would be retained / developed if they were elected?"*

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

*"Now that the Leisure Contract has been awarded, please can the Council provide the following visibility, details / information: What Income (if any) was assumed by EA in the contract for the Sports Hub?"*

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

*"Now that the Leisure Contract has been awarded, please can the Council provide the following visibility, details / information: When would the charges / fees apply (years 1 – 10)?"*

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## Item 14:

### **Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 11 November 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:**

*“At the Executive meeting in September, you assured us that the idea of planning officers hand delivering neighbour notification letters for nearby planning applications was an example of out-of-the-box thinking which had got out, would clearly be more expensive, and that officers had come up with a more sensible solution. Can you confirm categorically that planning officers will not be asked to hand-deliver these letters?”*

**B. Question submitted by Councillor Stephanie Steevenson to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:**

*“Given that the report by Hemingway for Thatcham made a recommendation of a 20 mph speed limit on the A4 through the Town Centre, will the Council consider including this section of road as a pilot in addition to the suggested trial in Theale?”*

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

*“At the Council meeting in October, you proposed a motion, which was passed with Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour votes, containing the false statement that the Home Office had cut the notice period given to successful asylum seekers to leave dispersal accommodation from 28 to 7 days. Will you now issue an apology on behalf of the administration for misleading the Council and residents of West Berkshire?”*

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