

Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday 14th March 2024 at 5.00 pm
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

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| 4. Public Questions 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. | 3 - 4 |
| 13. Members' Questions Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution. | 5 - 6 |

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

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at

www.westberks.gov.uk



Supplemental Items
Executive to be held on Thursday, 14 March 2024 *(continued)*

West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

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 14 March 2024.

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 Peter Tompkins to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:

"Can you advise what measures have been put in place to help planning officers avoid potential conflicts of interest? For example conflicts of interest may arise where officers have involvement across the various functions of providing pre-app advice, policy making, enforcement action and decision-making on applicaitons."

B. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Regeneration:

"With the LRIE regeneration once again at a standstill has the money spent on consultants been a waste of money?"

C. Question submitted by Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:

"As Leader of the Council, how many times has Councillor Dillon met with Thames Water Management to discuss the many issues with sewage in rivers, drains and homes in the district?"

D. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Regeneration:

"With the realisation that there is a lack of infrastructure on the LRIE would it be true to say that there are no plans on the table that can realistically take the project forward?"

E. Question submitted by Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:

"Given the situation surrounding the sabbatical, it is clear the Lib Dems intend to run the Council simply by having the elected Leader of the Council - Lee Dillon - not turn up. How many meetings is he allowed to miss before he must resign his seat on the Council?"

F. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Regeneration:

"Regarding the 2023 Winter Groundwater monitoring on the LRIE carried out by Geo-Environmental. What has been done to address the excessively high pollution readings? What impact will this survey have on the viability of regenerating the LRIE?"

G. Question submitted by Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader; Strategy, Communications, Governance and Transformation:

"Does the Council feel Cllr Dillon is delivering value for money by collecting his Councillor allowance and Special Responsibility allowance but having not attended a meeting of the full council since December?"

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Item 13:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 14 March 2024.

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:

"Your Local Plan withdrawal report says "Planning applications for sites proposed to be allocated in the Plan are highly likely to come forward as demonstrated by the North East Thatcham Consortia which has confirmed its intention to submit an application in mid 2024. Other developers have also confirmed that they are preparing to submit applications. As the current evidence base for the Local Plan Review supports these proposals in principle, it will be difficult for the Council to substantiate refusal against the principle of development. If allowed at appeal, the Council will have limited control over the development reducing the quality and infrastructure provision." (Page 11/12). Who would you have blamed when the residents of Thatcham started asking questions about how this happened?"

B. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services:

"You will know from correspondence with parents of pupils at Falkland Primary that they are furious with the Administration for refusing to bring forward Capital funding for the refurbishment to 2024/25. You have said that "if the project can be completed in the coming year then it will be". Why then did you refuse to allocate Capital funding in the Budget to enable this?"

C. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services:

"What steps have been taken to ensure that the flat roof at Falkland Primary School will be able to withstand water damage of the kind that forced the school to close last month? Specifically, what works have been instructed and undertaken regarding repair and/or replacement of the roof?"

D. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:

"Do you agree with the line in your Local Plan withdrawal report that says: "Removal of a plan led system and the lack of policies in an up-to-date plan undermines the ability of the Council to manage development positively to secure quality development and infrastructure delivery." (Page 7)"

E. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services:

"You have said that the delays to the Falkland Primary refurbishment project were in part due to the lack of a project manager. Given your administration were willing to waste nearly £2million on a new local plan (a figure which does not include the costs of defending numerous appeals which your own local plan withdrawal report admitted were virtually certain), why is it that you were unwilling to recruit a project manager for this vital work at Falkland Primary?"

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F. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services:

"Will the water-damaged electrical equipment at Falkland Primary School be fully replaced, rather than simply allowed to "dry out"?"

G. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement:

"Do you agree with the line in your Local Plan withdrawal report that says: "Therefore, greater numbers [of houses] above the current LPR would need to be allocated [if the plan were to be withdrawn]." (Page 4)?"

H. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services:

"Can the council reassure Falkland Primary School that it will not be left out of pocket after the recent water and electrical damage, and that the council and/or its insurers will cover all the costs incurred, including the hiring of an emergency generator, as well as fully funding the repairs?"

I. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader; Strategy, Communications, Governance and Transformation:

"The absent Leader of the Council remains on the Executive with a tiny portfolio, yet residents of West Berkshire are expected to pay a full Executive Allowance in respect of his position. What would you say to residents who are doubtful that they are receiving value for money for this tenth Executive role?"