

Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday 3 July 2025 at 6.00 pm
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

Part I

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| 14. | 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.

Sarah Clarke

Interim Executive Director - Resources

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

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Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 3 July 2025.

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 Lee Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Given a majority of Newbury residents who responded to the council's survey (almost 60%) opposed the extension of pedestrian hours in the town centre to 10AM - 11PM from the previous 10AM - 5PM why did the council continue with it?"

B. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"On 11 June 2025 I received an email from the Council advising me of "Changes to Garden Waste subscription pricing for 2025/26" which informed me that "instead of a flat fee for the first bin, the charge will now be based on your property's Council Tax band". Based on the total number of subscribers staying the same can you please provide the calculations undertaken by the Council and total revenue received / anticipated for

i) the existing flat fee arrangements (i.e. total number of households / subscribers x £55.00) and

ii) the new variable fee based on the property Tax bands (A @ £40 through to H @ £75)"

C. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"Please can you confirm that the revised / updated Playing Pitch Strategy is still on schedule to be issued / published within the next month or two."

D. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Regarding the extended pedestrianisation. I believe the objective was to increase footfall and help local restaurants and bars. What modelling was done to see if there was a likely positive financial outcome?"

E. Question submitted by Lee Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Why did the council choose to move to a 3 week bin collection despite, 70% of the 5,000 residents who responded to this council's survey saying they did not want to change from 2 to 3 week bin collection?"

F. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

"We are being invited to partake in an engagement exercise with respect to 'Ridgeway Council' a proposed new unitary council covering the districts of West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire, and Vale of White Horse. This feels like we

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are being presented with a "fait accompli" without any reference to or discussion regarding any alternative options. What other options could, should and will be considered?"

G. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Regarding resurfacing of London Rd.I noticed many of Volkers men stood around doing nothing while the resurfacing work had been subcontracted to IMJ Ltd. In what way is over manning jobs a good use of taxpayers money?"

H. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"My question relates to Agenda Item 6 and 7. The council has borrowed £70 Million from the PWLB in FY 2024/25 and used £13 Million from the EFS. What additional loans / funding is forecast to be required (and from what Sources) in FY 2025/26."

Item 14:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 3 July 2025.

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 Housing:

"Does the administration agree with the comments made during the Extraordinary Council meeting by the Executive Member for Transformation that Conservative councillors selected sites for inclusion in the Local Plan because they were in "Liberal Democrat" areas?"

B. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"A small charity in my ward is being charged double council tax on two cottages while they are unoccupied. This is a heavy burden that cannot be sustained. What can Council do to support this and other charities who find themselves in a similar situation?"

C. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"Would the selection of sites for inclusion in the Local Plan based on the voting patterns of the electorate rather than on planning considerations amount to misconduct in public office?"

D. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"When applications for major developments in AWE's DEPZ are approved, conditions relating to emergency planning are usually imposed. What responsibility does Council have to ensure such conditions are complied with?"

E. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"Does the administration consider that planning officers employed by the Council between 2019-23 were complicit in the selection of sites for the Local Plan based on voting patterns of the electorate?"

F. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"Why has the Council not published details of expenses paid to Councillors since the Liberal Democrats took office?"

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