Supplemental Items for Executive

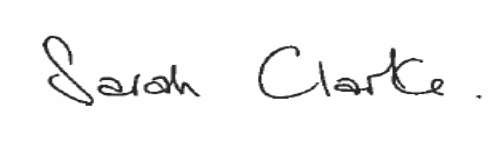
Thursday 24 September 2026 at 6.00 pm

in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

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5. **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.

13. **Members' Questions** 7 - 10
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.



Sarah Clarke
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

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.

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Item 5:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 24 September 2026.

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 Environment and Highways:**

"Have the changes and resurfacing of the Robin hood rounabout represented good use of public money?"

B. **Question submitted by Keren Ben-David to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"Now that the Short Breaks survey has concluded, what is the Council doing to audit the value for money of our most highly funded providers?"

C. **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"Local Plan Policy SP14 stipulates that the Masterplan for the North East Thatcham development will be "prepared in collaboration with the applicant, relevant town and parish councils, the community and other stakeholders". How will the Council and its consultants developing the Masterplan progress this collaboration with stakeholders, and especially with the relevant town and parish councils, and what is the timeframe for this collaboration?"

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

"Can the Council please provide a forecast of the general funds (reserves) position for the end of Quarter 2 (30 September 2026) and a view on what, if any additional EFS, may be required in this 206/27 FY?"

E. **Question submitted by Ben Holden-Crowther to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:**

"What has been the financial and operational impact on the Council following the indefinite suspension (and possible abandonment) of the Ridgeway Council reorganisation, both in terms of total expenditure and officer hours allocated to preparatory work?"

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

"At the full Council meeting on 16 July 2026 the Leader of the Council confirmed that a revised delivery plan for the 2023-2027 Council Strategy will be published, which will include the amendment proposed by Councillor Abbs, to include the enhanced stadium facility at FRS, that was removed from the "Refresh" document. When will this be available?"

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

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"Please could the council give an update as to what steps have been taken to repair and return the Faraday rd rain gardens to their original purpose?"

H. **Question submitted by Keren Ben-David to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"My closest major provider for complex needs in Newbury remains out of reach due to a rigid and outdated booking system, a £23 per hour price barrier and unreliable service, so who is the Council's funding actually supporting?"

I. **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"Condition 16 of the planning approval for the flood attenuation scheme at the Memorial Field in Thatcham (23/02187/FULMAJ) requires that "Within three months of the completion of the hereby approved development a replacement enclosed dog walking area of a similar quality and size to the existing shall be provided in accordance with details that are first submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Details shall include the location, size and boundary treatments for the enclosure." What are the past or expected future dates of the completion of the development, the agreement by the Planning Authority of the details of the replacement area and the provision of the replacement area becoming available for use by the public, and where will it be located?"

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

"Floodlights are currently being installed at Faraday Road Football ground. What is the total cost for this and how is it being funded?"

K. **Question submitted by Ben Holden-Crowther to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance,Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison:**

"In relation to content on the Council's social media platforms, I was assured at the last Full Council meeting that "should anything need to be removed, I will make sure that is done". Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that this has now taken place?"

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

"Has WBC received the re-application from NTC regarding the Asset of Community Value (ACV) for the Faraday Road Football ground?"

M. **Question submitted by Keren Ben-David to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

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"Will the Council review its SEND provision contracts and use its upcoming sufficiency reports to force these organisations to open on weekends and maximise their offerings?"'"

N. **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"The Masterplan for NE Thatcham that is called for by Policy SP14 of the adopted Local Plan will be developed for the Council by external consultants. On what dates does the agreement for this work envisage that a first draft and the final draft of this Masterplan will be delivered to the Council, and has the Council subsequently agreed any amendment to these dates?"

O. **Question submitted by Ben Holden-Crowther to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance,Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison:**

"Does the Council have a policy relating to the use of AI-generated images? For example, does it label these images when it publishes them, particularly when they purport to be of real people?"

P. **Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"What collaboration on the Masterplan for the North East Thatcham development has taken place between the North East Thatcham Partnership (or its members) and the Council and/or the consultancies developing the Masterplan or the studies supporting it, and when did this commence?"

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Item 13:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 24 September 2026.

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 Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"There are about 50 sections of minor rural road in my ward that have "UNNAMED" as their name in the National Street Gazetteer, which causes confusion among delivery drivers and even occasionally with emergency services. I know other rural wards have the same issue with older roads and their Members also don't accept that "what.three.words" and "OneNetwork" are sufficient for all purposes and all road users. Will the Executive Member agree that, now the Government has scrapped the century-old law which made it very difficult to change road names and left it up to Highway Authorities to decide whether - and if so how - to do it, that this Council should devise a bottom-up process that allows parishes to conduct local consultations and then request that a proper name be given to these 'NoName Roads' in due course?"

B. **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"Concerning the withdrawal of service 2 from the Monks Lane section of its former route: Will the Portfolio Holder set out what public consultation, engagement with affected residents, or notification of ward members was carried out before this change was agreed, and under what delegated authority the decision was taken?"

C. **Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"Sandleford Park East holds outline permission for around 1,000 homes, served by two vehicular accesses off Monks Lane, with a new roundabout and infrastructure works scheduled as the first phase. The council's own infrastructure requirements for the site include improvements to the bus service. How does withdrawing scheduled bus provision from Monks Lane sit with the council's commitments to modal shift and to securing bus improvements at Sandleford, and will the portfolio holder commit to reinstating the Monks Lane section as part of the transport package for that development?"

D. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"How does WBC discharge their responsibility for public safety during works undertaken by Thames Water?"

E. **Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"I understand that the Council has spent £1M on an improvement to the Robin Hood roundabout. I have spoken to numerous residents and have failed to find one who can see any discernible difference apart from new tarmac and road markings, some of which are smudged by the way, but complained at the traffic

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congestion caused. I am told that there is a very short stretch which has allowed an extra lane. Could the Policy Holder explain what the justification is, because I struggle to find it. Particularly at a time when the Council is borrowing massive sums from Government to keep it solvent ? Was the work tendered?"

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

"Before the Government's latest announcement, did the administration have a fully developed and costed financial plan capable of returning West Berkshire Council to sustainable finances if Ridgeway did not proceed?"

G. **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"Concerning the withdrawal of service 2 from the Monks Lane section of its former route: Will the Portfolio Holder publish the patronage and punctuality data relied upon in designating the Monks Lane section as "poorly used", and confirm what alternative options were appraised — such as retaining the Monks Lane leg at reduced frequency, retiming, or a peak-only extension — before the section was withdrawn entirely?"

H. **Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"How much do you estimate it will cost residents of my ward in time and money if they follow your advice, should they wish to use public transport to visit the doctor's surgery and pharmacy in Monks Lane, the retail park, and the Tesco triangle, which until recently they could do in one short journey on the No 2 bus? This advice being that they should first get the No 2 in the opposite direction, into town, then wait for a No 8 bus at the Wharf, then get the No 8 back in the direction they came from, to finally reach their destination; and presumably do the whole thing again in reverse should they wish to return home."

I. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"How are works conducted by differing agencies that require authorisation from WBC co-ordinated to ensure minimum disruption to highways traffic and access to and from highways?"

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

"Were any difficult financial decisions put off because the administration expected Ridgeway to happen?"

K. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:**

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"What involvement has Council had with the Berkshire Prosperity Board since it was formed over two years ago?"

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

"What additional savings, income or other financial measures will West Berkshire need if the financial benefits previously attributed to Ridgeway are delayed by one year, two years, or do not arise during the current MTFS period?"

M. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Spoirt and Countryside:**

"What plans does the member have for improving access to libraries in Aldermaston ward?"

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

"We see increasing numbers of unauthorised developments starting in rural settings, some of substantial size were they to go ahead. Will the member tell us about her strategy to prevent such developments?"

O. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"What is the status of Council's local SEND reform plan?"

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