Item 6:

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 19 July 2022.

Members of the Executive to answer the following questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by John Bibbings:**

  "At the next Full Council meeting, I would like to understand the logic of making major road changes for a 300 yard cycle lane, on the A4 between the Co-Op and Waitrose. The cost must have been triple that of extending the existing pathway and any excess could have been used to fill pot-holes. The project looks OTT for such a short cycle way. Poor value especially as a similar cycle path has been made on the opposite side of the road. At least the cheaper cycle path, links up with other cycle paths whereas the very expensive cycle lane disappears after Sandilands school. All the lane has achieved is 1. Expense 2. Narrowing of the traffic lane. 3 Making it more hazards for cyclist to use the roadway! This is at the expense of the numbers game to be able to show X number of cycle paths have been provided".

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships by Paul Morgan:**

  "Can the Council please share with us the reason, justification, business case and financial sign off associated with the massive increase in spend on "Agency & Temporary Staff" that since January 2022 is now averaging at just under £1 Million per month. Thank-you"

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Lee McDougall:**

  "Why does the Council believe "it would not be appropriate to fund the infrastructure and booking system necessary for the re- introduction of organised children's football" at Faraday Road, when the investment requited would be under £10k for goals and a portaloo and allow organised children's football to be played for several years?"

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:**

  "At the recent public webinar on Manor Park, it was stated there has been significant growth in football teams (from 344 to 382), with 59 teams having to play outside the West Berks District. All this since this council unnecessarily closed Faraday Road football ground in 2018. Yet the council is planning to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to put a football pitch on Manor park field which will provide only 6 hours of organised sport per week. There are already plans approved to redevelop the Faraday Road Stadium with a 3G pitch at a cost to the council of around £600,000 that could provide over 50 hrs/week. Why does this council refuse to take the option that is obvious to everyone but itself and redevelop the Faraday Road Football Stadium and give the town the first class facility it deserves as part of your revised LRIE regeneration plans?"

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- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Paul Morgan:**

  "Considering the recently published London Road Industrial Estate Project Refresh report will the Council now review its decision to spend a huge amount of taxpayer's money (upfront and ongoing) on building one small 3G facility at the rugby club, which the Council is now understood to be saying is not a replacement for the Faraday Road Stadium?"

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:**

  "In his recent letter to the NWN, council member Jeff Brooks, finance spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, demonstrated that the council could save AT LEAST £9.4 MILLION if it redeveloped the Faraday Road stadium rather than build the small stadium out of town at Monks Lane. In these straightened times when everyone is being advised to tighten their belts does the council insist on wasting public money on this expensive folly?"

- **Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:**

  "In a time when every family and business are making choices to get more value from the money they spend, does the council insist on spending around £4 to 5 Million on building one small stadium at the rugby club, when it could build a 3G pitch at the rugby club AND a BETTER stadium at Faraday Road for around £2 to £2.5 Million?"