

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 23 March 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 Ian Hall to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships:

"Is it appropriate for a councillor who now lives outside England but within a country in the United Kingdom to be allowed to have a say in what happens in West Berkshire?"

B. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships:

"If a conservative councillor failed in his duty to do case work or answer emails as in the case of one of Clayhills councillors would he / she be sacked and a by election called?"

C. Question submitted by Richard Almond to the Leader of the Council:

"Can you tell us how the Household Support Fund that West Berkshire Council has been given by the Government has been spent here to help people in need of financial support and, following the announcement of more funding to come, how will this be used?"

D. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Can you please provide a full breakdown of what Capital (upfront) costs and Revenue (ongoing) costs has been spent (and allocated) on the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) to date, i.e., in the financial years 2020 to 2023 and what further funds has been allocated for the PPS for Capital (upfront) costs and Revenue (ongoing) costs (please provide a year-by-year breakdown) for the next 10 financial years, i.e. 2023/24 to 2032/33."

E. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"Some Councils are considering or are involved in banking land to provide credits for developers to off-set the needs of the Nutrient Neutrality Directive and Biodiversity Net Gains which cannot be achieved on-site, so is WBC involved in such provision locally from their own or other lands?"

F. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"It appears the construction of the Monks Lane Sports Hub has been delayed. The number one priority of the Playing Pitch Strategy is the 'Relocation of the single sized adult grass pitch at Faraday Road' and 'This site will be available before any construction work starts at Faraday Road'. The EX4219 London Road Industrial Project Refresh is proposing to have the 'Playing field site redeveloped for employment use' by 2026. It appears the only potential replacement for Faraday Road is Monks Lane, and currently there's been no

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public consultation regarding moving Faraday Road to Monks Lane. Would now be a good time to carry out that public consultation?"

G. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"What is the cost to the Council of providing temporary accommodation for the residents of the Four Houses Corner Gypsy and Traveller site while it is being refurbished?"

H. Question submitted by Lee McDougall to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Has the Council subsidised (such a reduced rates for pitch hire) or contributed financially to any senior men's or women's football team since June 2018 and does it plan to in the future?"

I. Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"York House has huge potential for local charities to provide and enhance their services. Why has the council decided to auction off this vital asset?"

J. Question submitted by Denise Gaines to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care:

"Can I ask the executive member for Adult Social Care "what progress has been made into the review of the future of the Notrees care home?"

K. Question submitted by Tom Kirby to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"If you pedestrianise Thatcham Broadway, you will kill the weekly market. What compensation are you going to give already struggling traders if you pedestrianise the Broadway?"

L. Question submitted by John Stewart to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Regarding Executive Thursday 23 March Agenda Item 15 (Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement- EX4332), as the purpose of the EX4332 report is to provide an update on revised capital costs, why has the £35K per annum sinking fund and the £250K lease premium to the rugby club not been included?"

M. Question submitted by Ian Hall to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"As football matches and rugby matches will be played on separate days, why do the tax payers of West Berkshire have to pay for the construction of what will surely be to be a duplication of social facilities post match, when these are already at the Rugby Club?"

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N. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"My question relates to Item 15 on the Agenda (Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement-EX4332). Section 4.5 of the report states that "the Sports Hub has been included within the new Leisure Management Contract". Can the Council please confirm what elements this will cover, e.g., personnel costs, utility costs (gas, electricity, water etc.); management costs / profit ; equipment maintenance / replacement, insurance, security etc as well as premises costs (rental to Newbury Rugby Club) and WBC Revenue support?"

O. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"Qu. Re Town Centre Strategies: The REPORT to Exec states its PURPOSE as Overview, Context and outlining the NEXT STEPS for delivery of the Strategies and seeking endorsement to take the NEXT STEPS forward, however RECOMMENDATIONS then state that Exec should ENDORSE the 2 Draft Strategies AND Take Forward Delivery of the Strategies, therefore is this Committee Session actually to ENDORSE the Draft Strategies AND the included Action Plans without the proposals going back to Residents for Comment, bearing in mind that the Next Steps are not actually summarised in the Report?"

P. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development:

"The Executive decision EX3978 of 17th of December 2020 approved the commissioning of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the London Road Industrial Estate. Two years have elapsed, please would the Council give an update on the progress of the SPD and the exact area contained within the outline, or if there's been a delay, give the reason why?"

Q. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"How many representations did the Council receive on the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Local Plan?"

R. Question submitted by Lee McDougall to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Reports from a local children football team suggest that in poor weather children's matches at Henwick are cancelled to save the pitch for mens Sunday League football, who still play. As mens football pitch hire rates are double those charged for children's football, is the Council sacrificing local children's access to sports facilities for financial gain?"

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S. Question submitted by Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"In ref. to agenda item 15 (EX4332): The Lib Dems have publicly stated that, should they win control of the council in May, they would cancel the Sports Hub and allow the redevelopment of the Faraday Road Stadium by the applicants of the planning application that was passed by this Planning Authority in 2021. Therefore, why would you not consider pausing the decision to push through the £4MILLION+ spend for the development of the Sports Hub until after the election?"

T. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"My question relates to Item 15 on the Agenda (Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement-EX4332). The report states that the overall costs and contingency excludes VAT. Will the Council have to pay 20% on top of all eventual costs or will it be exempt from VAT?"

U. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Question in relation to Item 15 on the agenda. EX 4332 (5.14) states that "The current budget requirement reflects an increase of £527,000 as a result of the Judicial Review application and subsequent appeals". Please can the Council confirm that this statement is misleading as £345K of the increase in costs is due to 29 planning conditions and not the Judicial Review?"

V. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"What is the Council's assessment of the 'impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics' resulting from the delay in completion of the refurbishment of the Four Houses Corner Gypsy and Traveller site?"

W. Question submitted by Lee McDougall to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"Re 6.1 of the Newbury Sports Hub Report: Will the Council retract this factually incorrect statement, a site clearly has been identified with sufficient space to develop a ground to step 4, as it granted 2 planning permissions for a football stadium and 3G pitch in the centre of Newbury (RG14 2AD). Namely 20/01966/COMIND "Renewal and expansion of the existing football pitch to form a new 3G main pitch and a smaller 3G training / practice pitch", approved on 21/11/21 and 20/01530/OUT "permission for replacement of clubhouse and new spectator stand on the 25/11/21", both applications clearly state the ability to go Step 4 standard and higher."

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X. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Countryside:

"How many Council Officers are assigned to the review of the representations on the Regulation 19 consultation, and when is this review expected to be to have been completed?"

Y. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Leisure and Culture:

"What are the reasons for the delay in completion of the refurbishment of the Four Houses Corner Gypsy and Traveller site?"