

Item 16:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 14 December 2023.

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 Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"You postponed the imposition of extended pedestrianisation in July because you hadn't taken into account planned roadworks elsewhere in Newbury. Have you checked the roadworks schedule this time?"

B. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"When was your last communication with the Department for Transport regarding the ETRO required for the extension of pedestrianisation?"

C. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"At the Council meeting on 20 July regarding the proposed (and later postponed) extension of pedestrianisation in Newbury Town Centre, I asked you "What will you say to residents with mobility issues who say that a failure to consult with them before the scheme is a failure of duty of care towards them. They should be asked their views before the council experiments with their lives". You answered that "We will continue to work with all representatives, organisations and local residents to find the best way forward." Now that you again plan to impose this experiment on residents and visitors to Newbury, can you tell me what work you have done since 20 July with all representatives, organisations and local residents to find the best way forward?"

D. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"At the Council meeting on 20 July regarding the proposed (and later postponed) extension of pedestrianisation in Newbury Town Centre, you said to Cllr Woollaston, "We will actually talk to local businesses, local residents, all of the statutory services that we're required to talk to, before we put this process in place" (2.00.45 – 2.01.00 on the YouTube recording). Will you actually talk to local businesses, local residents, all of the statutory services that you're required to talk to, before you put this process in place?"

E. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

"The Equalities Impact Assessment for the extension of pedestrianisation states, regarding residents with disabilities, "There has been no survey undertaken to understand how many could be affected." You've had 5 months since you had to abandon your last attempt at this. Why has no survey been conducted in that time?"

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F. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel:

“The Equalities Impact Assessment for the extension of pedestrianisation states, regarding residents with disabilities, “The proposed trial would restrict access in the evenings to those with disabilities who currently are able to be dropped off or park within the pedestrianised area”. But it also states that there are no aspects of the proposed decision which could contribute to inequality. How can both statements be true?”