
Member Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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Question (A)	Council Meeting on 26 March 2024
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(A) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

“The discussions between Berkshire local authorities on the transfer of funding from LEPs were entered into in response to technical guidance given by government in August of last year. What involvement from WBC members has there been in these discussions and what contribution, if any, was made?”

The Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council answered:

“The Leader and now myself have been involved in a series of meeting with other local authorities over the last nine months (and I understand the previous Council Leader also attended those meetings) to enable the Berkshire Prosperity Board to be set up and receive the funding previously received by the LEP. The Chief Executive and I have kept the Executive Members updated and I also understand the Chief Executive has kept the opposition party updated.

The Berkshire Prosperity Board, (when formed) will be agreeing a set of themes to help deliver our ambitions across the whole of Berkshire. We are at the very early stages of discussing how to develop and progress these themes into specific delivery plans, including setting up a Business Board. It has been agreed by the Berkshire Leaders that all our constituent Members will be updated when these delivery plans are developed further and I'll give an extra assurance that I'll make sure assuming I remain in this position I will make sure that the prosperity board reports back here a great deal more than your Local Enterprise Partnership representative used to report back I'll do better than that and I'll remind you it was Councillor Alan Law for several years and we heard very little about it in this chamber we're going to do better than that”

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Dominic Boeck asked the following supplementary question:

“Councillor Alan Law is not here to respond to that so I'd like to make that clear. Thank you I'm pleased to hear you committing to report back Councillor Brooks very happy about that. Government issued guidance on the 4th of August and a letter to the Local Authority leaders went out at the same time. LEP funding is going to be withdrawn next month the equivalent announcements have already been made by I think everybody but us and Slough and I just wonder why are we so far behind the other authorities”.



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The Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council answered:

"I don't think we're behind at all. Look I was at a meeting where this got agreed by the Berkshire leaders only about three or four weeks ago and crikey we've met as soon as we can after that meeting with the Berkshire leaders with the Chief Executive sat in the room and said this will work. Now take it back to your authorities and get it approved and that's what we're doing we ain't late on this at all Councillor Boeck I can tell you that thank you".

Question (B)	Council Meeting on 26 March 2024
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(B) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"How will council ensure that Delivering Better Value Programme targets are achieved in the one-year period proposed for the new Service Director post?"

Councillor Dominic Boeck withdrew his question at the meeting.

