

Agenda Item 22

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 18 July 2024.

Members of the Executive to answer the following questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the [Council's Constitution](#):

(A) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

"I asked at the last Executive why the Council borrowed £25 million from the PWLB

With inflation down to 2% and the indication of three ¼% cuts in Bank interest rates in the rest of 2024 what was the need to borrow so much at what is likely to be the highest PWLB borrowing rates , albeit thankfully for only 18 months- it is still costing millions at a time of council budget stresses. The Portfolio Holder was not present, and I received what can only be described as a non – answer which did not address what the money has been spent on. Nor did I Receive a response to my supplementary which this question repeats.

For an administration which supposedly prides itself on transparency I am appalled. Please answer the question what has this vast amount of money, costing millions in interest, been spent on?"

(B) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"Members are increasingly frustrated by the poor performance of WBC's Planning Department in respect of enforcement issues. In Aldermaston Ward, which I represent, there are several active enforcement cases about which residents and parish councils are very concerned, yet it is near impossible to obtain updates on these cases even after escalation to the highest level.

What action will the lead member take to improve significantly the performance of this important service?"

(C) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Chris Read:

"For each of all the options described in the Statement of Common Ground of the Local Plan, at which stage(s) would elected Members of the Council be asked to formally (i.e. in a meeting open to the public) consider and/or approve the emerging plans for a North East Thatcham development?"

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- (D) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Chris Read:**

“In his Action Point 15, the Inspector for the Local Plan examination asked the Council to consider whether the agreed masterplan for a North East Thatcham development should be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). If the draft Local Plan presented to Full Council for adoption does not specify the adoption of an SPD, does national planning legislation and guidance and the Council's Constitution allow the elected Members to amend the Local Plan to specify the adoption of an SPD for the North East Thatcham development?”