

Item 15:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 9 September 2024.

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 Tony Vickers to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"How are we, as Highway Authority responsible for keeping roads and public footpaths open to all users, balancing the conflicting legal requirements to protect nesting birds and the literally growing problem caused by climate change of vegetation obstructing public highways, including rural road signs and footways beside roads - especially affecting pedestrians of all ages and those with mobility impairment?"

B. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:

"In the light of the imminent imposition of VAT on private education fees, what assurance can the Lead Member for Education give to all West Berkshire parents that their children will be educated in a school of their choice."

C. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:

"Can you explain how clawing back over £2million from Brookfields School, a specialist SEN school, is in the best interests of pupils with special educational needs?"

D. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:

"Do you think it is acceptable that a review into clawback balances for 2024-25 is still ongoing nearly 6 months into the financial year?"

E. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Community Engagement:

"Residents in Bradfield Southend have long reported poor to non-existent mobile signal in many parts of the village and surrounding areas. What can the council do to improve mobile coverage in this and other "not-spots"?"

F. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader; Planning and Housing:

"What assurances can you give residents and campaigners that Pincents Hill will not be developed for housing as part of the Local Plan?"

G. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"How many West Berkshire pensioners are likely to lose their Winter Fuel payments as a result of the Government's withdrawal of the allowance?"

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H. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

“Will you abide by the result of the consultation into the extension of pedestrianisation of Newbury town centre?”

I. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader; Planning and Housing:

“If the Local Plan had completed its examination and adoption process before the Labour Government doubled its housing targets for West Berkshire, what protection would the district have had from these new targets?”