

Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 28 November 2024.

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

(A) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways submitted by Alison May:

“West Berkshire District Council's current Waste PFI (Private Finance Initiative) contract with Veolia expires in 2032. As a consequence West Berkshire District Council will need to commission new service arrangements. Waste Contracts are complex and costly. In order to deliver a 'fit-for-purpose' and cost effective contract for West Berkshire citizens will the Council agree to develop and release a Waste Commissioning Strategy including an associated programme of activity which will influence and shape the forthcoming new arrangements?”

(B) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways submitted by Alison May:

“Baroness Humphreys, a member of the House of Lords, has recently stated Conwy County Borough Council's (North Wales) switch to four-weekly collections of residual waste, resulted in an 11% spike in the tonnage of recyclables collected and a reduction of 12% residual waste. A Conwy Council member put this down to residents being incredibly motivated to recycle combined with the local and global benefits of recycling. West Berkshire citizens are equally motivated to ensure their valuable waste resources remain in circulation for as long as possible and wish to avoid them being incinerated. West Berkshire District Council's burning of waste continues to increase - in the reporting year 2014/15 - 30% of collected waste was incinerated, the reporting period 2022/23 resulted in 42% of waste being incinerated, this is a notable upward trend representing a 13% increase in less than 10 years.

These increases suggest WBDC are yet to implement the necessary changes to reflect their continued assertions about their overall recycling successes. Moving to a four-weekly collection is a small step for West Berkshire citizens and a wise leap for WBDC. Will WBDC's new administration reverse the previous administration's trend towards the increased incineration of waste and agree to implement four-weekly collections of residual waste?”

(C) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways submitted by Alison May:

“Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas of known wildlife rich habitat designated as non-statutory protected sites. Proposed Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS) are sites identified as presenting comparable rich habitats to LWSs however are yet to benefit from the relevant professional ecological survey(s) and panel review assessment.

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Will West Berkshire District Council join other environmentally responsible Councils and add pLWS to West Berkshire District Council's countryside portfolio and maps?"

(D) Question related to item 10 to be answered by the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Paula Saunderson:

"The Inspector required additional sites to be put forward as Site Allocations within the Plan and the dates to be changed from 2023-2041, yet nowhere in the Main Modifications & Calculations for the Housing Trajectory on pages 198-200 of the MM Document are these sites included:

- a. Newbury Gardens Day Nursery (5 Flats),*
- b. Kennet Centre (427 Flats) ,*
- c. Pound St. including Jewsons Yard (79 dwellings with 69 Flats),*
- d. Land East Of Newbury College at Monks Lane (75 Dwellings with 42 Flats)*

So why were these be considered as Windfall and not proper Site Allocations with their own Policies?"

(E) Question related to item 10 to be answered by the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Paula Saunderson:

"Under MM31 Pgs 101-103 at the bottom of Pag 102 the modifications helpfully clarify the New Name for Bond Riverside and its positioning within the Plan, however the wording is still erroneous in its reference to the Title of the DEDICATED EMPLOYMENT AREA that it sits with, as the DEA is actually called the LONDON ROAD ESTATES as Listed in Appendix 4 of the Original Submission, so can this be rectified please?"

(F) Question related to item 10 to be answered by the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Paula Saunderson:

"With a large number of Newbury Settlement & Greenham Parish Planning Applications considered by WAPC in 2024 coming forward as FLATTED DEVELOPMENTS of increased Density does the Council feel it has adequate Policies within the LPR 2022-2038 submission and these Main Modifications to properly cover:

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- a. *Design and Density of Tall Building Developments in terms of maximum densities and heights in line with the new National Model Design Code (NMDC)?*
- b. *A Policy covering Build To Rent similar to other Reg 19 Local Plans?*
- c. *Cumulative Impact of lack of provision for Public Open Spaces and not meeting the Natural England Doorstep and Neighbourhood Criteria for Access to Natural Green Spaces (ANGS)?*
- d. *How these Cumulative Numbers of Flats are reflective of the latest identified Housing Need and how will they be reflected in the Authority Monitoring Review?"*