

Agenda Item 16

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 28 November 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 Public Safety and Community Engagement submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck:**

“Incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to terrify residents in Aldermaston ward and to have highly detrimental effects on the viability of local businesses. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee on 7 November, the portfolio holder for Public Protection, Cllr. Jason Pemberton, said he will help anyone affected by this behaviour and Council Leader, Cllr. Jeff Brooks, promised to meet me with Cllr. Pemberton, to discuss these matters. Will they both tell Council what progress they have made against their promises?”

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

“At the District Parish Conference on 29 October, parish council members were invited to consider paying for higher service levels in highways gully cleansing and sign cleaning than the proposed, cost saving levels. A member of Aldermaston Parish Council asked whether WBC will consider paying for appropriate service levels on the busy A340 that passes through Aldermaston Village and Wharf, rather than expect residents to pick up the tab. Cllr. Jeff Brooks promised to look into the matter; what conclusions has he made?”

- (C) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck:**

“What effect has the recent changes to community bus services had on rural isolation?”

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

“I have been written to by the largest employers in my ward of Bucklebury, Brockhurst School and Elstree School regarding the policy of tax on education.

I also met a parent today who stated that with two children in public schools in the area this will put their annual fees bill up by £12,000 per annum – on money that has already been taxed by PAYE and National Insurance. They, like many other parents, are looking to Ireland or English-speaking private schools in Spain for public school education, whilst many will have no option but to request places in schools in West Berkshire or join the queue of parents

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spending money on private tutoring to hothouse them into the Reading boys and girls grammar schools.

The UK will be one of the few countries in the world to tax private education when it introduces a 20% VAT on fees in January 2025.

West Berkshire has many public schools; what impact will the potential closure of private schools have on the education system and, if known, employment within West Berkshire District and are any steps to mitigate being taken?"