

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 12 December 2024.

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.

A. Question submitted by Alison May to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Noting the inter-relationship between WBDC's Waste Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy combined with WBDC's commitment to the Environment will WBDC agree to commission an Environmental Report which at a minimum will provision Councillors with the assurance WBDC's Waste Strategy will be determined upon an imperative and necessary evidence base?"

B. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"What is the cost to the taxpayer of servicing the council's borrowing?"

C. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"I understand that the Council, within the last six months, placed an order with consultants to provide a report regarding the viability of installing a 3G pitch at the Faraday Road Football Ground. If this is the case, please can the Council confirm the cost of this work and where it has been documented in the response to Executive public question (E) on the 7th of November 2024"

D. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"In March 2024 (the "Settlement Date") the Council received a £25 Million (£5 Million x 5) loan from the PWLB. In response to questions from a member of the public and a Councillor it was advised that this money was to be "used to finance capital expenditure" but also "to fund short term cash requirements" and "for an overdraft for high needs block". Please can the Council clarify and provide full details of how much of £25 Million has been used / allocated / spent and what it has been specifically used for.

1)How much of this £25 Million has been spent / utilised year to date?

2)What are the specific capital projects that have or will be funded in this FY from the £25 Million?

3)Specific details on how much has / will be required to fund short term cash flow requirements?

4)Specific details on how much has / will be required for high needs block overdraft?"

E. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"Given the amount of National Press coverage of Local Planning Authorities concerns over the increase in Housing Targets, and in line with other LPAs, will

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WBC LPA please consider publishing its Response(s) to the recent NPPF Consultation and any response given to DHCLG correspondence on the doubling of our Housing Delivery Targets?"

F. Question submitted by Richard Bobrocki to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"Please can the Council confirm the current and former members of the Procurement Board together with the board meeting dates and attendees, during this current administration?"

G. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration:

"What was the cost of Ardent designing the Rain Gardens in Faraday rd and as they are clearly flawed in design is there any way of getting that money back?"

H. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"I understand that the Council, within the last six months, placed an order with consultants to provide a report regarding the viability of installing a 3G pitch at the Faraday Road Football Ground. If this is the case, please can the Council describe the Invitation to Tender (ITT) / brief, so I can understand what the report is going to cover."

I. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"As part of the forthcoming additional Public Consultation on the Local Plan Review 2023-2041 Main Modifications please will WBC LPA consider holding Local Staffed Exhibitions for Areas with significant impacts from Site Allocations, especially those added later in the plan cycle which have not been included in previous Consultations?"

J. Question submitted by Richard Bobrocki to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"With respect to the Faraday Road Football Ground, it looks like the Council, since June 2023, has placed a significant number of contracts valued at over £9,999. Can the Council please confirm: a) how many contracts in total have been placed that are over £9,999 but less than £49,999, and b) how many contracts in total have been placed that are over £50,000."

K. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration:

"In what way has economic regeneration made a positive or negative contribution to the councils finances?"

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L. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Leader of the Council:

“My understanding is any member of the public that is not a member of Newbury Community Football Group can have no input into decisions taken by the Faraday Road Football Ground steering group. Please would the leader of the Council (Who is also the Chairman of the steering group) consider allowing me to join the steering group so there can be some input from someone not associated with any football group or political party, but who has a vested interest in how the Faraday Football Ground and surrounding designated employment area (DEA) is developed?”