

## Item 4:

### **Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 3 July 2025.**

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 Lee Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

*"Given a majority of Newbury residents who responded to the council's survey (almost 60%) opposed the extension of pedestrian hours in the town centre to 10AM - 11PM from the previous 10AM - 5PM why did the council continue with it?"*

**B. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

*"On 11 June 2025 I received an email from the Council advising me of "Changes to Garden Waste subscription pricing for 2025/26" which informed me that "instead of a flat fee for the first bin, the charge will now be based on your property's Council Tax band". Based on the total number of subscribers staying the same can you please provide the calculations undertaken by the Council and total revenue received / anticipated for*

*i) the existing flat fee arrangements (i.e. total number of households / subscribers x £55.00) and*

*ii) the new variable fee based on the property Tax bands (A @ £40 through to H @ £75)"*

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

*"Please can you confirm that the revised / updated Playing Pitch Strategy is still on schedule to be issued / published within the next month or two."*

**D. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

*"Regarding the extended pedestrianisation. I believe the objective was to increase footfall and help local restaurants and bars. What modelling was done to see if there was a likely positive financial outcome?"*

**E. Question submitted by Lee Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

*"Why did the council choose to move to a 3 week bin collection despite, 70% of the 5,000 residents who responded to this council's survey saying they did not want to change from 2 to 3 week bin collection?"*

**F. Question submitted by Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:**

*"We are being invited to partake in an engagement exercise with respect to 'Ridgeway Council' a proposed new unitary council covering the districts of West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire, and Vale of White Horse. This feels like we*

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*are being presented with a "fait accompli" without any reference to or discussion regarding any alternative options. What other options could, should and will be considered?"*

**G. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

*"Regarding resurfacing of London Rd. I noticed many of Volkers men stood around doing nothing while the resurfacing work had been subcontracted to IMJ Ltd. In what way is over manning jobs a good use of taxpayers money?"*

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

*"My question relates to Agenda Item 6 and 7. The council has borrowed £70 Million from the PWLB in FY 2024/25 and used £13 Million from the EFS. What additional loans / funding is forecast to be required (and from what Sources) in FY 2025/26."*