

Item 14:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 25 September 2025.

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 Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"I'm sure you'll agree with your 2023 manifesto that said "The Liberal Democrats know that a good Council is one that can be held accountable for its decisions, and is transparent about decision-making". Given that a majority of residents told you that they could not cope with or would struggle at certain times of the year with 3-weekly black bin collections, can you be transparent now with residents and tell them what criteria they must meet to qualify for a larger black bin?"

B. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Leader of the Council:

"Will the administration join the Conservative Group in calling on our MPs not to support Government's proposals to increase gambling tax which would cause severe harm to West Berkshire's racing industry?"

C. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Capital Projects (Built Environment):

"What steps will the council take to ensure that there is no repeat of the "rave" that took place on Friday/Saturday September 5/6, which was allowed to continue for approximately seven hours, until 6.20am, denying a night's sleep to many thousands of residents of Newbury Wash Common ward and beyond?"

D. Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

"Will you apologise to service users and staff of West Berkshire's resource centres for the months of uncertainty and stress caused by the administration's decision to review the provision of these centres?"

E. Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Rag Hill is a single lane country road in Aldermaston which is used by articulated lorries servicing an industrial logistics hub. The surface of the road and its verges are being destroyed and residents fear for their safety and their children's. What is being done to protect our residents and council's assets?"

F. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"How much has the council spent on publicising the change to three-weekly black bin collections, up to and including the recent "Changes That Count" leaflet, personally addressed to residents and delivered by Royal Mail?"

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

"Regarding the sale of the Council's commercial property assets, which have always generated a net profit to ease the burden on Council Tax payers, do you agree that a balance must be struck between the lure of a one-off capital receipt which could potentially fund some additional transformation spend in the short term or reduce the impact of EFS borrowing versus the long-term revenue streams we might be sacrificing which, under current PWLB restrictions, cannot be replaced and that all rental income sacrificed will need to be replaced with income generation or savings proposals to offset the lost revenue stream?"

H. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"The all-party Speed Limit Review panel agreed in February 2024 to recommend a decrease from 50mph to 40mph on the stretch of the A339 from Newbury College to the Swan roundabout, which passes two schools and the Newtown Road recycling centre. Why has it taken 18 months for this proposal (and three others from the same meeting) to be sent out for consultation?"

I. Question submitted by Councillor David Marsh to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:

"Why are parked cars still being allowed to obstruct the north side of the Andover Road cycle path (and adjacent footpath) between Buckingham Road and St John's roundabout, Newbury, more than three years after the council, following a consultation with residents, provided parking spaces on the other side of the road and agreed that there would be "no parking" on the north side?"