

Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 27 November 2025.

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 submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services by Lee Allen:

“With child poverty in West Berkshire up 54% since 2014 and Lambourn seeing nearly 1 in 5 children affected, residents deserve answers. How is West Berkshire Council addressing this crisis and what’s the plan to tackle the related rise in asthma and childhood obesity among local children? (Which have increased alongside child poverty likely as a result)”

(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation by Richard Garvie:

“I recently conducted an online survey in Calcot, Holybrook, Purley and Tilehurst and the overwhelming majority of residents wish to remain in West Berkshire. Given that Reading wish to change the boundaries, I also consulted residents in Tilehurst and Kentwood wards of RBC who told me they wish to join WBC (91.9% and 87.6% respectfully). Will West Berkshire Council stand up to protect these residents from the Labour Land Grab and conduct a poll of residents in each of these five electoral divisions?”

(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health by Lee Allen:

“Following West Berkshire Council’s recent U-turn on the proposed changes to the resource centres, can the Council now guarantee that it will not, in future, attempt to close, privatise, or reduce access to these vital community facilities?”

(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Communications by Richard Garvie:

“It has been identified that if you support the extended pedestrianisation in the ongoing consultation you can do so anonymously but if you oppose it, you have to enter your personal information. This renders the consultation flawed and although this is probably an innocent mistake, the consultation should be ended and restarted in the new Year to give residents faith that the process is fair. Will the Council void the current consultation and pledge to run a new consultation in the new Year?”

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- (E) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Capital Projects (Built Environment) by Lee Allen:**

“Since the start of the pedestrianisation trial in Newbury town centre in May 2025, there appears to have been a significant rise in reported crime, particularly violent and public order offences. Many residents now feel increasingly unsafe, a concern that seems to be worsened by the dimming of street lighting in the town centre. Is the Council aware of this increase in crime and the growing feeling of insecurity among residents, and will it review the impact that the pedestrianisation trial and reduced lighting levels may be having on public safety in Newbury town centre?”

- (F) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Richard Garvie:**

“When it comes to pedestrianisation, I don't think anyone would prefer Northbrook Street to be a busy traffic thoroughway. If the consultation is scrapped and rerun next year, can we have some public workshops prior to the new consultation - One for elderly and disabled, one for Businesses and an open public workshop where residents can put forward ideas on how to make the new arrangements work prior to a final consultation on the extension?”

- (G) Question withdrawn**

- (H) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Richard Garvie:**

“What percentage of Thatcham residents supported the 20mph Town Proposal in the recent consultation?”