
Member Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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Question (A)	Council Meeting on 27 November 2025
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(A) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“What advice have you received from the police regarding their support for your proposals for 20mph speed limits in various locations across West Berkshire?”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways answered:

Thank you for your question.

When we make a proposal to change a speed limit, the police are consulted and make their comments on the specific proposal that is in front of them, so it is difficult for me to answer as the Police have not yet been consulted on all locations.

They have, however, provided some general comments in previous correspondence, stating:

“Thames Valley Police welcome the opportunity to engage on plans for road safety improvements and acknowledge that 20mph limits can be a useful road safety tool. The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria set in the Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on introducing speed limits when responding to Highway Authorities in an effort to promote consistency and to reduce the burden of constant and unnecessary enforcement.”

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Ross Mackinnon asked the following supplementary question:

“Have the Police advised you against any specific proposals which are now being progressed?”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways answered:

We are current in the process of reviewing the consultations for Thatcham and other areas and there are some that are coming via an Individual Executive Member Decision in the coming weeks. We are also working on the Thatcham consultations.



Member Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Question (B)	Council Meeting on 27 November 2025
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(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Communications by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“Residents have complained that when responding to consultations on the Council portal, they are required to provide additional details if they do not support Executive proposals, which are not required if they do support the proposals. Why is this?”

The Portfolio Holder for Leader of Council, Strategy and Communications answered:

Thank you for your question, Councillor Mackinnon.

As mentioned previously, the consultation was done in line with the regulations for statutory consultations, which state that the Council must inform objectors of the decision at the end of the process, hence why details were asked for in this instance.

However, you may have heard from earlier in the meeting, and I repeat it now, we acknowledge we can make it better and so we will amend future consultations to ask for details of all respondents, not just the objectors as per the legislation.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Councillor Ross Mackinnon asked the following supplementary question:

“You said you didn’t think the consultation was flawed – if however, at the next local elections, voters had to provide more details in order to vote Lib Dem than Conservative, would you consider that a fair result, and it was enough to say that you would do better next time?”

The Portfolio Holder for Leader of Council, Strategy and Communications answered:

This is a not a serious question. I repeat the answer I have given you, we are adapting the process as people have asked us to do.
