

Item 4:

Public Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 21 May 2026

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 Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"Please could the Council point out the specific section or line item within the Capital Strategy 2026/27–2029/30 programme where the £1.25 million in capital funding for the proposed 3G pitch at Faraday Road is recorded?"

B. Question submitted by Tracey Fenner to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

"With regard to the recent proposal: "To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers".

Unfortunately I missed the consultation but looking at the results, it appears that 88% of respondents were from a particular ethnicity. Considering that the proposal was denied based on the feedback, I question that this process was sufficiently robust to carry such weight. For example, is it possible that the vast majority of the respondents were related/family members?

I would be interested to understand how a proposal that would save more than £29 000 per annum can appear to be so easily rejected. While I am considerate of the service-users' situation, I am also very mindful of the financial constraints that our council has to try to manage for the benefit of all."

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

"How much has been spent to date on the sports facilities at Faraday Road (including surveys) from the Lib Dems taking control of the council"

D. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"Within the Sites in the Local Plan Review (now adopted), how many new Outdoor Sports Pitches are planned to be delivered via Developer Agreements and/or Contributions?"

E. Question submitted by Keren Ben-David Rostholder to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:

"Under the DfE HAF Statutory Guidance, the HAF programme is an educational tool designed to ensure children return to school 'ready to learn' and to develop new skills and resilience. For a child with an EHCP and complex needs, this enrichment is a critical extension of their education.Can the Executive explain why HAF is currently excluded from West Berkshire's SEND reform plans on the basis that it is 'not education'?"

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F. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council:

"At the executive meeting on 22nd May 2025, The Leader said: "We do try to answer a question with a straight answer". Would there be any caveats that would prevent a member of the public from being given a straight answer?"

G. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"Local Plan Policy SP14 stipulates that the Masterplan for the North East Thatcham development will be "prepared in collaboration with the applicant, relevant town and parish councils, the community and other stakeholders". Following the recent initial community engagement, how will the Council and its consultants developing the Masterplan progress this collaboration with stakeholders, and especially with the relevant town and parish councils?"

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

"In response to a public question raised at the Executive meeting on 7 November 2024, the Council provided details on the costs and commitments spent on the Faraday Road Football ground for the period November 2023 to November 2024. Please can the Council now provide a detailed breakdown of all ADDITIONAL costs, capital, and revenue, that has been, will be, or is planned for periods between:

a) 7 November 2024 and the end of May 2026, and

b) 1 June 2026 and the end of the 2026 / 27 football season (May 2027)"

I. Question submitted by Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:

"Could the Council please confirm if the reprofiling of the £1.25 million capital funding into the 2026/27 financial year for the proposed 3G pitch at Faraday"

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

"Was the stadium that planning permission at Faraday Road (which was allowed to lapse) ever costed against the funds put aside for Sports Hub at Monks Lane ?"

K. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"Is there a Plan using any Existing S106 or CIL commitments to meet shortfalls shown in the new Playing Pitch Strategy, as the Annual Infrastructure FUNDING Statement does not list Development Sites and their agreed commitments?"

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L. Question submitted by Keren Ben-David Rostholder to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:

"Furthermore, given the £38,485.10 surplus returned to the Treasury last year, why has the council failed to use its 15% discretionary funding allowance (approx. £60,172) to commission specialist providers like West Berkshire Mencap?"

M. Question submitted by John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

"Since 2003, there have been many visions to regenerate the LRIE as an economic powerhouse. Is the LRIE an area of missed economic opportunity?"

N. Question submitted by Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:

"Who has the Council engaged to lead on the development of the Masterplan for North East Thatcham and to undertake the studies required in Policy SP14 of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Transport Assessment, Biodiversity Strategy and a Historic Environment Strategy and on primary healthcare and secondary education provision?" By "who", I mean the identity of the consultancy, consultant or other business in sufficient detail to be able to find their professional credentials through internet search (though I recognise that some individual consultants do not maintain an 'internet presence')."

O. Question submitted by Ian Hall to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"Has the council ever thought of allowing another sport such as Lacrosse or Hockey to be played at Faraday Road?"

P. Question submitted by Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside:

"As well as Sources Of Funding via S106 & CIL Developers Contributions, will the Council also be seeking GRANT Funding from various sources including Central Government (e.g., the Football Foundation) to deliver Pitches and Facilities within the lifetime of the new Playing Pitch Strategy?"

Q. Question submitted by Keren Ben-David Rostholder to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:

"Will the council now commit to using this ringfenced funding to secure the specialist 1:1 placements needed to meet the 'urgent' holiday provision goals identified in your own 2024-2029 Strategy?"