

Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 16 July 2026.

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 Keren Ben-David:

“Given that the Council's current HAF payment structures, specifically the lack of upfront funding and reimbursement delays of up to three months make delivering special needs summer clubs a high financial risk for providers. While families face high out-of-pocket costs and inconsistent respite care. Will the Council, in light of the new commissioning manager coming on board to reform short breaks, commit to replacing these delayed payment terms with a formalised framework that ensures frontline funding is deployed efficiently?”

(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by John Gotelee:

“How much has been spent (including any scheduled work that has not been carried out) on maintenance and repairs to the Faraday Rd rain gardens”

(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services by Katie Mills:

“What safeguards does West Berkshire Council use to ensure that Children's Services referrals concerning children missing education are not influenced by active SEND complaints, section 19 requests or Tribunal proceedings, and how does the council audit outcomes where no significant harm is found?”

(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Graeme Sheppard:

“In February I submitted a signed petition asking that the council make its disused site in Newtown Road into a community nature reserve. In June I was informed by email that the petition had been unsuccessful. Despite my many previous attempts to ask for an update, and in clear contravention of the council's constitution, at no point during the intervening period was I informed of what body or persons would consider the petition, I was not told when the meeting to consider it would occur, I was not invited to attend the meeting or provided with an agenda, I was not afforded the 5-minute opportunity to speak and present the petition, nor was I able to answer questions. Nor was the petition entered onto the council website. Given these many failings and clear breaches of its own constitution, will the council rectify the situation by running the petition consideration process over again in order that fairness and local democracy are correctly served?”

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- (E) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Ben Holden-Crowther:**
"The Monitoring Officer's Annual Report (Agenda item 12) mentions a Social Media Protocol as part of the Members Code of Conduct. Are there also policies to ensure that social media content published by officers on behalf of the Council complies with the law?"
- (F) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Paul Morgan:**
"My question relates to Agenda item 15 - 2026-2027 Council Strategy Refresh Why is the Council's "ambition to open a new Community Sports Stadium in Faraday Road in 2027" not included in 2026-2027 Council Strategy Refresh?"
- (G) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Paula Saunderson:**
*"Agenda Item 9 - Updates from Committees B.) Extraordinary Personnel & Standards Cttee
Qu: The Meeting included:
1. the Monitoring Officers Annual Report 2025-2026
2. the Annual Update on HR Activity 2025-2026
However, only Item 1 has come to this Full Council for Consideration so why is this please and does a Years HR Activity have less importance for feedback from All Councillors than the MO Officers Annual Report?"*
- (H) **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 John Gotelee:**
"With reference to the LRIE, going forward, do you think it has a future as an industrial estate, or does its future lie in residential housing?"
- (I) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Paula Saunderson:**
*"Agenda Item 12. Monitoring Officers Annual Report for 2025-2026
Qu: The Purpose of the Report is to bring to the Attention of Members a Summary of Complaints or other Issues within West Berkshire. Therefore, why does the Report only include Complaints Against Councillors, and it does not include Stage 1 & Stage 2 Complaints against Officers and/or Services?"*