Item 9:

Member Questions to be answered at the Executive meeting on 12 November 2026.

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 Martin Colston to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"Can the portfolio holder for housing and planning explain why we, West Berkshire Council, are now beginning to produce a new Local Plan, given that the council only approved the previous Local Plan a year ago?"

B. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Leader of the Council:**

"Will the Executive reassure the Jewish residents of West Berkshire that they condemn the motion "Zionism is Racism" passed by the Green Party Conference on 4 October, supported by a member of West Berkshire Council in an open letter published shortly afterwards, and that they are committed to fighting all forms of anti-semitism in West Berkshire?"

C. **Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources:**

"Can you confirm the total borrowing levels of the Council from all sources in May 2023 and today together with the likely forecast for the end of the municipal year."

D. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"With Ridgeway Council now back in prospect, how will you ensure that work on West Berkshire's new Local Plan is carried forward and adopted by the successor authority and that the needs of our rural communities, including AWE emergency-planning requirements, are properly reflected?"

E. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"Have officers completed assessments identifying individual schools where closure or amalgamation may be necessary, and if so, when were those assessments completed and when will members and affected communities be informed?"

F. **Question submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways:**

"In my ward , Lambourn, this administration has imposed parking charges on the main car park in the Centre of the village. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm the cost of installation of car park machines and the income that has been derived from the imposition of charging split between parking charges and enforcement. If ,as I suspect the income is negligible will he agree to cancelling the charges with immediate effect and return Lambourn to normality?"

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G. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"What arrangements are in place to bring planning enforcement and community safety officers together when residents reporting suspected unauthorised development also report intimidation, and how will residents be kept informed without putting them at further risk?"

H. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"Has the Executive agreed a timetable for decisions arising from the School Viability Review, including any proposals for school closure or amalgamation, and what factors determined that timetable?"

I. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:**

"Following the withdrawal and replacement of the enforcement notice for land south of Reading Road, Aldermaston, will the Council review whether there has been avoidable delay and identify lessons for other enforcement cases?"

J. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"What assessment has the Executive made of the additional financial pressures arising from maintaining schools with persistently falling rolls while longer-term decisions about their future remain outstanding?"

K. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"What improvements in SEND services will you personally take responsibility for delivering for children and their families over the next six months, and how will you ensure that this work is sustained through any changes in Executive responsibilities and the proposed move to Ridgeway Council?"

L. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"In May, the council announced that its SEND reform plan could secure up to £27 million in government financial support. Can the Executive confirm whether that application has been approved, rejected or remains under consideration, and how much funding has actually been secured?"

M. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"We welcome the provision of new secondary SEND places at John O'Gaunt school. What are the implications of the reduction in PAN from 120 to 90?"

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N. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services:**

"What assessment has the Executive undertaken of the financial viability of its SEND reform programme under scenarios in which anticipated government support is delayed, reduced or unavailable?"

O. **Question submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health:**

"In agenda item 11, a reference is made to so-called hard to reach rural locations. In what way are these locations hard to reach?"

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

"Given the continuing growth in the DSG deficit, can the Executive member confirm what confidence the Section 151 Officer have that the council can bring SEND expenditure under control, and what evidence supports that assessment?"

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

"Given the Council's financial pressures, can the Executive confirm whether its commercial services, including schools traded services, are recovering their full costs once staffing, property costs and overheads are taken into account? When were the fees and charges for these services last reviewed against the actual cost of provision, and what net financial contribution are they making to the Council?"

R. **Question submitted by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to the Leader of the Council:**

"Will the Leader commit to formal cross-party involvement in the financial planning, oversight and key decisions associated with the transition to Ridgeway Council?"