

a) Sajid Khan of Furze Platt ward asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport:

Community groups had been reassured that a surface level crossing across the A4 would provide connectivity to the Town Centre and Hines Meadow Car Park due to loss of parking in Holmanleaze.

Could the Cabinet Member for Planning inform RBWM Residents the details of funding of the surface level crossing and the timeline for the completion of this crossing.

Written Response: The planning consent was granted including the requirement for the developer to contribute £833k to an at-grade crossing of the A4 near the former Magnet Leisure Centre site to ensure good active travel links. We are progressing with the design of the crossing on the A4 which will support connectivity as part of our wider plans to improve walking and cycling across the Borough, outlined in our LCWIP adopted by Cabinet in June. An initial estimate of the timescales to complete the design and build of the crossing is around 18 months, although more will be known once the design work is complete. Until December 2024, some parking will remain open on the former ten pin bowling site to help to mitigate the impact on users.

b) Ed Wilson of Clewer and Dedworth West ward asked the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council:

RBWM has been awarded £40,000 from the Government's Changing Places Fund. This is a very positive development for the Royal Borough and for those disabled residents who need specific facilities at public toilets. Will the Leader of the Council confirm how and where this money will be invested?

Written Response: The Borough has been awarded a sum of £40,000 from the Governments Changes Places Fund, however the scheme we submitted was costs at £65,000 for an installation at Windsor Leisure Centre, the identified best location available for such a scheme. A review is currently underway to seek to identify some addition Capital Funding for this balance of £25,000, to enable the scheme to be implemented. It is hoped that this 'top up' balancing capital funding can be found from slippage in the approved capital programme, that is not required for the original purposes within the approved capital programme.

c) Ed Wilson of Clewer and Dedworth West ward asked the following question of Councillor Stimson, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Sustainability:

HM Government is providing more than £5M for tree planting to local authorities in England and Wales through its Treescapes Fund. RBWM has confirmed to me that it has not applied for any of this funding and has no intention of doing so. Will the Lead Member advise why the Royal Borough appears uninterested in this source of funding?

Written Response: Working with its partner, Groundwork South, the Council has secured external funding to deliver significant tree planting over the last 3 years.

Nearly 20,000 trees alone have been planted at the Ockwells Nature Reserve by Council Officers along with help of hundreds of corporate and community volunteers. Not every funding stream is appropriate for the Council, but we will always look at opportunities to secure external funding to deliver projects and will prioritise those funding streams which align closely with our corporate priorities and that we judge to be most likely to succeed.

d) Hari Sharma of Furze Platt ward asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways and Transport:

If you have a pure electric car and live in the borough you can get a free parking permit, which is a hugely popular scheme. Can I ask the Cabinet Member how many residents have taken advantage of this and what action this council is taking to create more charging points?

Written Response: At the end of June 2022, there were 76 permits issued for use within resident parking zones and 393 permits issued for off-street car parks. As set out in our Corporate Plan we will be developing an Electric Vehicle Implementation Plan, which we expect to consult on later this year. This will set out the plans to deliver more electric vehicle charging points to meet growing demand and our commitments to take action to tackle climate change. This will build on the pilot project of 29 new chargers delivered in Windsor and Maidenhead as well as new charging facilities being delivered within the new Vicus Way Car Park.

e) Hari Sharma of Furze Platt ward will ask the following question of Councillor McWilliams, Cabinet Member for Digital Connectivity, Housing Opportunity, and Sport & Leisure:

As I see cranes and diggers everywhere in the borough, building more homes for our children and grandchildren which is wonderful news for our residents and their children who can live close to their elderly parents, how many developments have agreed to build 30% social and affordable homes to buy or rent, or are paying Council Infrastructure Levy?

Written Response: The Borough Local Plan was adopted on the 8th February 2022 and updated the development plan for the Borough. The objective of policy HO3 is to secure 30% affordable homes on most major residential developments (those containing more than 10 or more units). 40% is sought in some circumstances such as on greenfield sites up to 500 dwellings. The definition of affordable homes includes social rented, affordable rented and intermediate tenures (such as shared ownership or low cost home ownership). The evidence in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment shows that there is a high need (45%) for social rented homes and all qualifying schemes since February will need to provide this. The Housing Strategy 2021-26 outlines our clear ambition to give more local people the opportunity to stay in the area they grew up in.

Since the 8th February the Council has received major planning applications proposing a total of 817 private market homes and 429 affordable homes. On average 34.4% of all housing applied for since the adoption of the Borough Local Plan is affordable. (figures correct on 14th July 2022).

Prior to the 8th February applications were determined under a different policy context. The amount of affordable housing completed and secured in previous years is reported within the Authority Monitoring Reports which are available on the Council's website at: [Monitoring | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](#)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy which is applied to all developments specified within the Council's Charging Schedule unless the development qualified for an exemption under the Council's exemption policies. All eligible development must pay the levy. The Council reports annually on the collection and expenditure of these funds and the annual reports are available on the Council's website at: [Community Infrastructure Levy | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](#). CIL collections are reported through the citizen's portal: [Amount \(£\) of CIL receipted for the reported year \(inphase.com\)](#)

The CIL Charging Schedule was examined by an independent examiner before being approved. The Council keeps its Charging Schedule, which is subject to indexation each year, under constant review.

f) Mohammed Ilyas of Belmont ward asked the following question of Councillor Carroll, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation:

As a teacher by profession, I have some awareness of the effect of Covid and the lockdowns on children's education over the last 2 years in particular. May I ask the Lead Member for Children's Services to share what initiatives RBWM have taken and investments made to support the life chances of our young citizens following the pandemic to date.

Written Response: Thank you for your question Mr Ilyas. The pandemic has impacted many areas of our resident's lives and the disruption to education has been significant. The first response from schools has been fantastic. They have adapted to flexible ways of teaching, including remote learning, and stayed open for children of key workers or otherwise vulnerable children and continue to focus on helping every pupil learn. The council have supported schools with a number of interventions which are detailed below, including early years outreach for social, emotional and mental health support; support with emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA); and access to resources like Fantastic Fred.

We also recognise that some young people need additional support outside of school so we have increased the capacity of the early help team to provide both small group and one to one support.

I would be happy to provide more information should you need it.

School Led Tutoring

School-Led Tutoring is part of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) in 2021/22. Eligible state-funded schools receive a ring-fenced grant to source their own tutoring provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils who have missed the most education due to COVID-19.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069886/Updated_School-Led_Tutoring_Guidance_.pdf#

Early Years SEMH Outreach.

With the evidence that the pandemic has impacted significantly on children in the formative stages of life resulting in schools and nurseries reporting that there are witnessing issues around;

Speech and Language development, Toileting, Sharing and playing, independence, turn taking, dexterity and mark making as well as Social emotional and mental health issues relating to self-regulation and aggressive outbursts. RBWM and AfC have joined with Manor Green School to develop an Early Years SEMH Outreach service for 2022/2023 to provide support for the most vulnerable children at this key stage and increased capacity for the setting that the children are in prior to an SEMH Hub facility being available through Capital Funding later in the year.

ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

ELSA is an evidence based school intervention programme which strengthens school capacity to support CYP with mild to moderate social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. As part of the quality assurance process, all new ELSAs attend the annual training programme (RBWM EPS) and are subsequently supervised by RBWM Educational Psychologists on a half termly basis. Approximately 60 schools in and just outside the borough have an ELSA/s who have been trained and receive continued supervision facilitated by RBWM EPS.

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) became fully operational in RBWM in September 2021.

The teams support children and young people in 14 RBWM schools (and the virtual school) who have emerging, mild or moderate mental health difficulties which may be affecting their day to day life. Depending on the age of the child or young person, The team either work directly with them or with their parents. They also work with school staff and offer support on different levels, with the aim of developing and supporting a whole school approach to mental health.

The Attachment Aware Schools Award Through whole school CPD and coaching delivered by Educational Psychologists for Designated Teachers in all RBWM schools, the programme aims to increase the academic progress and wellbeing of young people in care and c/yp with attachment needs. Attachment and trauma aware schools report less behaviour incidents and improved outcomes for vulnerable children. This programme enhances relational practice in educational settings and

attachment and trauma awareness across the school to facilitate wellbeing and inclusion for all.

RBWM Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) toolkit. *ERSA has doubled during the pandemic; this was preempted by the Educational Psychology and Wellbeing teams. A graduated and multi-agency pathway and toolkit guidance produced by RBWM Achieving for Children has been sent to school Attendance Officers. The guidance and webinar includes information on definitions and causal factors, a universal and intervention levels 1-3 pathway and school-based strategies. We have appointed an ERSA co-ordinator from September to consult with schools and further embed the use of the audit and toolkit to ensure early intervention and support.*

The Link Programme *In January 2022 RBWM education settings and partners were invited to engage in The Link Programme (in collaboration with The Anna Freud Centre). This programme improves joint working in mental health and wellbeing between NHS mental health services, Local Authorities including Public Health, and VCSE services. This consisted of an introductory session and three further targeted meetings with education leads, health professionals, early help teams in RBWM and voluntary sector organisations. An action plan has been collated as a result based upon local considerations for further enhancement of policy and practice within the health and wellbeing remit.*

Fantastic Fred

A free preventative and educational mental health resource for primary aged children delivered by a team of actors. It is specifically designed to inform, equip and build resilience. It delivers simple, practical and memorable ways in which children can look after their mental health and provides links to physical health. The performance is based on the acronym FRED - Food, Rest, Exercise and Devices. It includes follow up resources for parents and teaching staff. This programme was developed as part of the Good Health Matters Campaign and has been offered free of charge to all schools (including independent) in RBWM. A secondary programme will also be developed which will be offered on the same basis.

Area SENCo/Specialist Teacher Service

- *Continuing to support SENCos through training, clusters and networking*
- *Support school leaders with SEND reviews and Inclusion Quality Mark awards*
- *EAL cluster formed*
- *1:1 and small group SEND and EAL support*

g) Lars Swann of Clewer and Dedworth East ward asked the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council:

Given the state of the high street in Windsor and the fact that there are now too many hospitality businesses in Windsor Town Centre, what plans do the council have to

improve the town centre in particularly the area around the Windsor Yards Area in their own right, or in partnership with 3rd parties?

Written Response: A paper was approved by RBWM Cabinet in March 2022 to bring forward a Vision for Windsor. The project, in partnership with the Princes Foundation, will bring together the views of communities, stakeholders and businesses to shape future investment. This will provide a unique opportunity to shape a compelling vision for the town. We encourage as many people as possible to engage in the project which will include a series of workshops to further understand and explore Windsor's current and emerging opportunities, strengths and constraints, alongside people's priorities and aspirations for the place.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy and town centres across the country but by working closely with our businesses through partnership such as the Windsor and Eton Town Partnership and Visit Windsor Board we have been able to support the local economy, create jobs and drive investment in the Borough. This approach has led to the recovery of visitor numbers and footfall in the town back to pre-pandemic levels and vacancy rates are at 13.7%, which is below the national average.

In relation to Windsor Yards, there has been a recent consultation on proposals with a recent two-day consultation in the town on 7th and 9th July with further information being provided online (<https://windsorconsultation.co.uk/>) as well as being promoted across social media. The council is investing in a number of projects across the town through its capital programme, as well as considering potential future projects in developing its investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

h) Adam Bermange of Boyn Hill ward asked the following question of Councillor Rayner, Cabinet Member for Business, Corporate & Residents Services, Culture & Heritage, & Windsor:

Please could the Deputy Leader advise when, and on what basis, will the Council be distributing its £294k central government Discretionary Funding allocation of the "Energy Bills Rebate"?

Written Response: The Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme proposals will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 25th August 2022. In order to assist those residents within the Borough, who we know are already on a low income, the proposal will be to utilise existing Council Tax Reduction records to assist those in bands E-H, who have not already received financial help under the Mandatory Scheme, and to provide a top up payment for those in Bands A-D.