

Public Questions for Council on 21 February 2023

Public Questions

- a) **Ed Wilson of Clewer and Dedworth West ward will ask the following question of Councillor Bhangra, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Parks and Countryside**

How much money has RBWM saved by switching to fortnightly black bin collections?

- b) **Ed Wilson of Clewer and Dedworth West ward will ask the following question of Councillor Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Business, Corporate & Residents Services, Culture & Heritage, & Windsor**

What provision has been made in the budget for investment in Windsor's public toilets?

- c) **Sunil Sharma of Cox Green ward will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity**

Does Councillor Johnson agree with me that it is important RBWM does not burden our children and grandchildren with unsustainable public debt that leads to higher taxes for them in the future?

- d) **Ian Haggart of Clewer and Dedworth East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection**

Reduction of crime is important to many residents of the Royal Borough. Can the Cabinet Member expand or comment on the local priorities for the additional four Neighbourhood Police Officers that The Royal Borough is proposing to fund for the next three years?

- e) **Ian Haggart of Clewer and Dedworth East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity**

The public are encouraged by Government to reduce their energy-use footprint and move to a low carbon future. Can the Leader of the Council confirm that the Royal Borough will continue to offer a free permit to residents owning Electric Vehicles, to park in Council car parks, for the next year fiscal year?

- f) **Adam Bermange of Boyn Hill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Hilton, Cabinet Member for Asset Management & Commercialisation, Finance, & Ascot**

Saving PLA04S of £50k is to be achieved by charging out a portion of the Sustainability and Climate Change Team's staff time to grant and developer-funded projects but could the Lead Member please confirm the total budget for this team and it's organisational structure including the total number of Full-Time Equivalents?

g) Mohammed Ilyas of Belmont ward will ask the following question of Councillor Carroll, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet & Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation

It is great to note the increase of £11m to the DSG for 2023-24. Please could you inform as to how much of this will be allocated to issues relating to the impact of the pandemic on areas such as pupil catch up on gaps in learning.

h) Julian Tisi of Clewer East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity

The Major Capital Cash Flows schedule (Appendix 4, Annex D) identifies that, over 13 years, capital receipts of £295m are proposed to flow to the Council from residential and commercial projects. Could the Leader confirm, broadly, what proportion of those receipts are expected to relate to the development and disposal of the Maidenhead Golf Course?

i) Nelly Semaille of St. Mary's ward will ask the following question of Councillor Stimson, Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Sustainability

What is the total value of revenue and capital grant funding from central government, included in the 2023/24 budget, for energy generation and efficiency projects in the Borough and, for comparison, please can she provide a quantitative list of any such grants received to date?

j) Tina Quadrino of Pinkneys Green ward will ask the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport

In 2021, the budget for flowers in planters across the Borough was withdrawn; this provided an estimated saving of £86,000. It is understood from Cllr Rayner's remarks at Cabinet that flowers will return to Ascot, Windsor and Maidenhead. In which case, what will the additional cost be and which service area budget will be funding this?

k) Paul Hinton, Old Windsor ward will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity

Despite receipt of an additional £3.5m in funding from central government, this budget relies on s106 payments to meet its commitments to the environment, climate change, and the Climate Partnership. Please explain why this is necessary, and what your response is to those who believe that you are putting this council's environment and climate change commitments up for sale?

l) Mark Loader of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Growth & Opportunity

With higher interest rates on borrowing "an increasing share of the Council's budget is required to service debt before money can be spent on day-to-day services". Budgeted at around £7m for 23/24.

Please can you explain how it has arisen that the debt on which this interest is paid, in excess of £200 million, is so high?

m) Mark Loader of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Stimson, Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Sustainability

Please can you clarify what is the 23/24 budget for the Sustainability and Climate change team and the Climate partnership team. What are their deliverables (where documented)

and are they constrained by the available budget. Who is responsible for ensuring residents get value for money ?

n) Sian Martin of Belmont ward will ask the following question of Councillor Carroll, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet & Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation

The Medium-Term Financial Plan (Appendix 1, Annex A) identifies budget gaps for the four years from 2024/25 to 2027/28 totalling £10.2m. Given this administration's earlier draft 2023/24 budget included cuts to the Early Help provision, can the Lead Member confirm that, if he were to continue in post, this service would be protected from cuts in those years?

o) Will Scawn of Belmont ward will ask the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection

I am delighted this Conservative-led Council is so committed to tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, and is funding four extra police officers to help keep local residents safe, and feeling safe.

Could policing the many, important footpaths in my home ward of Belmont be included in the remit of these extra police officers?