

Public Questions for Council on 29 February 2024

- a) **John Baldwin of Boyn Hill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Del Campo, Cabinet member for Adults, Health and Housing Services**

What is the 2024/25 assumption for the number of residential placements required by Adult Services, broken down by type, i.e. general needs, sheltered, extra care or whatever terminology is in use?

- b) **John Baldwin of Boyn Hill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance**

The Spending Control Panel reviews all spending bids greater than £500. How many spending requests has it reviewed to date, to what aggregate value and how many of those requests were denied and to what value?

- c) **Jon Davey of Clewer & Dedworth West ward will ask the following question of Councillor Reynolds, Cabinet member for Communities and Leisure**

Comparing the budget and the Windsor Wheel application 23/02104 financial projection, would indicate RBWM has opted for a 10% profit share where RBWM pay for the re-turfing of Alexander Gardens and electricity costs, netting circa £40k while the contractor enjoys £700k profit. How can that be considered a good business deal by RBWM's economic team?

- d) **Jon Davey of Clewer & Dedworth West ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance**

It was confirmed at Cabinet by the CFO that failure to put up the council tax by the maximum each year has been the major cause of RBWM's current financial position. In the interests of transparency and clarity, could a list of the actual years, the Gov recommended and RBWM actual percentage increases be published?

- e) **Sarah Walker of Clewer East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Reynolds, Cabinet member for Communities and Leisure**

Over 1100 have now signed the petition to save the Windsor and Royal Borough Museum and Tourist information Centre.

These valuable resources are in a prime location to serve Windsor and our visitors. If alternative options are being explored, please could those options be shared tonight along with the transparent cost analysis of each option?

- f) Sarah Walker of Clewer East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Hill, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport, Customer Service Centre and Employment**

Parking fees have been raised across our towns by a staggering 12-17% (as well as many other cost increases to residents.) What impact assessment was carried out on the economic consequences of these hikes and why were residents and local business views in the parking consultation not heard and results not shared before prices were raised?

- g) Ian Haggart of Clewer & Dedworth East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance**

The average RBWM Council Tax for 2023/24 is about £733 per resident and £1,742 per dwelling. This is increasing by 5% for 2024/25. Comparing the fifteen near neighbour Local Authorities, how many of the neighbours charge less Council Tax per resident and per household than this Council?

- h) Ian Haggart of Clewer & Dedworth East ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance**

The budget includes £40,000 income from the Ferris Wheel that will be operated in Alexander Gardens for six months. Why is the Council's profit share just 10% of the estimated £810,000 operator profit and why is the budget amount less than half of the expected £81,000?

- i) Andrew Hill of Boyn Hill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance**

Given that senior officers clearly hold the view that it was financially reckless to enter into £200m of "unfunded" debt, can the Council confirm whether it had a policy or practice ensuring that all auditors and professional advisors had in place professional indemnity insurance covering negligent advice/opinions over the period in which this massive unfunded debt was incurred?

- j) Andrew Hill of Boyn Hill ward will ask the following question of Councillor Bermange, Cabinet member for Planning, Legal and Asset Management**

Given the report says "the only meaningful way of reducing the existing debt levels" is the disposal of the golf club, and the site is now subject to a holding objection from Sport England impacting this assumption, why did the Council choose not to publish any version of the golf needs assessment it produced during the plan making period?

- k) Shay Bottomley of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Werner, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Community Partnerships, Public Protection and Maidenhead**

There are multiple references throughout the Budget papers on how the sale of Maidenhead Golf Course is 'vital' to reducing the council's debt. By passing this paper tonight, is this council now fully committed to the sale of the golf course for development?

l) Shay Bottomley of Oldfield ward will ask the following question of Councillor Reynolds, Cabinet member for Communities and Leisure

It was said at Cabinet last week that the consultation on fees and charges for football, rugby, cricket and lawn tennis was not completed to the administration's satisfaction. Can you please elaborate on the issues with the original consultation, and explain how the new consultation will be different?