

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

23 JULY 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DESPATCH OF THE AGENDA

CP4

Louise Timlin has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question

Question relating to agenda item 39: Annual Pay Policy Statement.

The Gender Pay Gap at WBC is increasing: Difference in Mean Hourly rate was 13.9% in 2018, increasing to 15.23% in 2019. Whilst the Council is rightly proud that 9 of their 22 most senior roles are held by women including the post of Chief Executive, there is a bonus gap of (2018 mean) 55.4% (no figures available for 2019), indicating that despite the number of senior roles held by women, men are receiving substantially bigger bonus payments.

The Council has an opportunity in the publication of the Annual Pay Policy Statement to make clear their action plan for addressing the increasing Gender Pay Gap. I note that the Annual Pay Policy Statement from Reading Council includes the following statement, "Reading Borough Council is committed to equality, transparency and fairness across all of its activities and particularly in relation to the pay and conditions of its staff." Will WBC commit to including an action plan to address their Gender Pay Gap in the Annual Pay Policy Statement and if not would they, at a minimum, commit to include a statement of intent similar to that included by Reading Council?

CP5

Andrew Pople has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Given the climate emergency plan, it is important that the need to travel is reduced to reduce emissions / congestion and the associated health concerns. 17% of sixth formers live in the south of Wokingham yet there is no sixth form school option available. The demand for post-16 places is in the south of the Borough, and in line with the Climate Emergency Action plan what are WBC doing about creating capacity now where it is needed?