

# QUESTIONS TO THE EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE 7 MARCH 2022

## MEMBER QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DESPATCH OF THE AGENDA

### **EEM1**

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

#### **Question**

The Secondary School plan is for an expansion at Piggott, School where there is no current or future planned house building in the North of the Borough, while there are currently 3,500 houses being built at Arborfield Garrison, Gorse Ride extension and over 500 ex MOD houses have been added to the private rental market at Arborfield Garrison; but Bohunt is not one of the schools listed. Of course, not forgetting the Council's plans for 4,500 houses at Hall Farm.

The plan delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Resources, acting in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the lead member for children's services, to approve the procurement of the construction works and services etc.

As the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Children's Services both are Members for Remenham, where no houses are scheduled to be built in the foreseeable future, would Bohunt School not have been a more obvious school for expansion?

### **EEM2**

Prue Bray has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

#### **Question**

Regarding agenda item 115, Secondary School Places, there were difficulties over the allocation of secondary school places for Year 7 for the current academic year, with insufficient places being available in the locations parents wanted them. The Council determined that additional places would be needed for Year 7 for the next academic year.

However, now that the places for next September have been allocated, it appears that the Council has under-estimated demand, and more additional places are going to have to be provided than the Council had been planning. What caused the number of Year 7s to be under-estimated?

### **EEM3**

Rachel Bishop-Firth has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

#### **Question**

As a member of the Anti-Poverty Working Group, I am pleased to see this position statement on the Anti-Poverty Strategy come to this meeting. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the enormous contribution made by the officers and the voluntary sector to supporting residents with the challenges that they have faced since the pandemic started.

We want to see an anti-poverty strategy with a clear and ambitious vision for Wokingham and a commitment to our residents to bring about real change. This Council can't on its own end poverty in the Borough – that would take decisive action at a national level - but we need to make a commitment to doing what we can as a Council to end the problem, both through direct action in areas which we control, and also through using our influence.

As we move towards the finalisation of the strategy, will the Council be ensuring that the final version explicitly commits to doing all that we can, to prevent and to end poverty within Wokingham?

### **EEM4**

Clive Jones has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

#### **Question**

I was concerned to read on page 16 of the feedback report that it was felt there was capacity for Improvement to ensure that the Finance, HR and Change functions have appropriate resource and capacity to deliver what the Council needs. And that there was also a need to articulate and accelerate an ambitious Organisational Development strategy including creating a clear employer brand.

Will the necessary resources be made available to these departments in the very near future, so that these much-needed improvements can be made?