

# Questions from members of the Council

For Ordinary Full Council on Wednesday 14 December 2022

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## Question 1

From: Councillor Rands

To: Cllr Fitzsimmons

“Noting that the land on which Tunbridge Wells Target Shooting Club sits is on the list of assets for disposal and recalling this council voted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 as follows:

“Mindful of the potential for changes in the allocation and use of sports facilities within the Borough, we recognise our commitments under the National Planning Policy Framework in general and paragraphs 96-101 in particular. This Council welcomes the policies in the Pre-Submission Local Plan (in particular Policy OSSR1) on the retention of open spaces and the requirement that losses should be made good by alternative equivalent or better provision. At the same time, we urge Cabinet to commit to always seek to ensure that alternative provision is available before any site is withdrawn for use or, if there **are** exceptional reasons why this cannot happen, **all reasonable efforts are made to ensure** that temporary facilities are made available to bridge the gap.”

What reasonable efforts has cabinet made to ensure the continuity of the club after a potential sale of that land and how much is that expected to cost?”

## Question 2

From: Cllr Roberts

To: Cllr Chris Hall

“The council is to get around £800,000 in additional income from its investments, an additional £300,000 in carparking fees and extra income from Business Rates. So will the coalition now admit that the Conservative budget of last February, which we are still under, is set to return a surplus. And will you further admit that because of

good Conservative management, the £944,000 black hole in our finances the Coalition claimed to have inherited is now, and always was, a myth used for political sloganeering with no financial reality, come about as a result of poor understanding of how council finances operate.”

### **Question 3**

From: Cllr Bailey

To: Cllr Nancy Warne

“In July, Cabinet gave council officers the authority to draw up Terms of Reference for the Community Support Fund to set out the basic details of how the fund will work. Given that we are now in December, has this document been completed and, if so, can it be shared with Full Council?”

### **Question 4**

From: Cllr Holden

To: Cllr Chapelard

“Your election material said, this would be an administration "committed to more open and consultative politics and to listen to the public and act accordingly". So will you accept that the 2/3 majority in favour of all out-elections in the recent consultation is a decisive expression of public opinion and will you listen and act accordingly and support all-out elections”

### **Question 5**

From: Cllr White

To: Cllr Rutland

“Can Councillor Rutland please provide information as to how many applicants there were to Rural England Prosperity Fund and how many were successful?”

## Question 6

From: Cllr Rands

To: Cllr Hall

“Cabinet may be aware that it is common practice for employers of reserve personnel to grant some additional paid leave to enable to complete their annual training commitment (typically a two week "camp" but not less than eight days consecutively deployed). As an employer of reserve personnel and a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant does Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have a policy on reserve forces leave?”.

## Question 7

From: Cllr Bailey

To: Cllr Everitt

“At the October Cabinet meeting, Cabinet agreed to a very late change giving the s151 officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Finance the power to terminate the decarbonisation works at the Weald Sports Centre if the project becomes financially unviable. Given the importance this Council places on reducing its carbon emissions, and given that the Weald Sports Centre is a large source of CO2, can Cabinet give assurance that the decarbonisation works won't be permanently terminated without first presenting all relevant evidence and options to Full Council?”