



Additional Supplement for:

COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024

Agenda No Item

6. Questions by Members

The following questions have been submitted by Members of Council to Members of the Executive, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Constitution Part 5A, Rule 12). Oral responses will be provided at the meeting. Following receipt of the answer to their question, Members are entitled to ask one supplementary question at the meeting. The Questions and Answers will be detailed in the minutes of the meeting.

Question 1 – Councillor Michele Mead to Councillor Joy Aitman, Executive Member for Stronger Healthy Communities:

Can you tell us how many local organisations have been successful in reaching their fundraising goals through WestHive and how much has WODC given so far (not including current pledges)?

Question 2 – Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance:

Can the Executive Member provide a breakdown of costings for the refurbishment of Committee Rooms 1 and 2?

Question 3 – Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Tim Sumner, Executive Member for Leisure and Major Projects:

There is a significant sum of S106 money which is designated for an Adventure Play Area in West Witney. Can the Executive Member provide me with an update on the progress on this please?

Members Questions & Responses for Council – 28 February 2024

Question	Raised By	Executive Member / Lead Officer	Response
<p>Question 1 – Can you tell us how many local organisations have been successful in reaching their fundraising goals through WestHive and how much has WODC given so far (not including current pledges)?</p>	<p>Councillor Michele Mead – Conservative, Carterton South.</p>	<p>Councillor Joy Aitman – Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities. Andy Barge – Assistant Director, Communities.</p>	<p>WestHive has only recently launched its first round.</p> <p>One of the five projects that are currently live on the WestHive platform has reached its target - 'Cycles of Good'.</p> <p>All other projects are still campaigning one of which is currently at 95% of its target - 'Cotswolds Arts Through Schools'.</p> <p>Beyond current pledges there is no further funding given as this is the first round.</p> <p>All information about projects and Council pledges is fully transparent and available on the WestHive website.</p> <p>At the bottom of the homepage, information about the impact to date is available (number of backers, projects and total amount of pledges to date).</p>

<p>Question 2 – Can the Executive Member provide a breakdown of costings for the refurbishment of Committee Rooms 1 and 2?</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas Ashby – Conservative, Witney West.</p>	<p>Councillor Alaric Smith – Executive Member for Finance. Phil Martin – Assistant Director, Business Services.</p>	<p>The costs associated with the refurbishment of Committee Rooms 1 & 2 are -</p> <p>Replace ceilings and upgrade lighting to LED - £10,484 (£7,084 for ceiling, and £3,400 for LED).</p> <p>Decorating (walls, woodwork) - £4,174</p> <p>Carpet £4,200</p> <p>Blinds £1,868</p> <p>Total - £20,726</p> <p>The upgrade of the lighting to LEDs, is aligned with the Council’s drive to reduce its overall carbon footprint. Due to the age of the existing ceiling, replacement tiles are no longer available to fit the existing grid so as part of the lighting upgrade a new ceiling will have to be installed.</p> <p>Committee Room 1 is currently used as a wedding venue and was badly in need of a refresh. Renting out the room generated an income of £8,350 during the last financial year, which covers a significant element of the refurb costs, excluding the lighting upgrade.</p>
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<p>Question 3 – There is a significant sum of S106 money which is designated for an Adventure Play Area in West Witney. Can the Executive Member provide me with an update on the progress on this please?</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas Ashby – Conservative, Witney West.</p>	<p>Councillor Tim Sumner – Executive Member for Leisure and Major Projects. Andy Barge – Assistant Director, Communities.</p>	<p>Monthly project meetings are already taking place between Officers from WODC and Witney Town Council (WTC) to discuss play and leisure facilities in Witney to ensure a joined-up approach. Discussions are taking place about WTC project managing the implementation of the Adventure Play Area in West Witney.</p> <p>WODC Officers are currently in the process of obtaining a quote from SSE in order to look at having the overhead electric cabling put underground to allow for safe development of play structures at the site. Once these are received, the next stage will be to discuss and develop project timelines with WTC. It is anticipated that reports will come forward to councillors as the project progresses.</p>
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