

Questions by Members – Council – 28 February 2024

<u>Written Question</u>	<u>Written Answer</u>	<u>Verbal Supplementary Question</u>	<u>Verbal Supplementary Answer</u>
Q1. Councillor Michele Mead to Councillor Joy Aitman, Executive Member Stronger, Healthy Communities:			
<p>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>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>Thank you very much for the response, Councillor Aitman. A little disappointing that in the last year we haven't given any of the good projects any money, only pledged.</p> <p>Can you tell me if the money that we were hoping to pledge this year will be carried over to next year, or are we starting from the beginning again?</p>	<p>I don't know what you mean by starting at the beginning again. I don't think we should worry too much about who we've reached so far, and with a lot of these projects it is a slow burn to start with.</p> <p>Nobody wants to be the first up on the platform.</p> <p>As you can see if you follow the platform, that one Group "Cycles for Good" have reached their target and "Cotswolds Arts Through Schools" is just about there. An additional workshop was held today for the new round of funding, and 25 applicants attended that, and they all had really interesting projects.</p> <p>The funding is being given in cycles as we move through them, and where people are apply for funding.</p>

Q2. 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?

The costs associated with the refurbishment of Committee Rooms 1 & 2 are -

Replace ceilings and upgrade lighting to LED - £10,484 (£7,084 for ceiling, and £3,400 for LED).

Decorating (walls, woodwork) - £4,174

Carpet
£4,200

Blinds
£1,868

Total - £20,726

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.

Thank you for your answer. Now that we have spent £500,000 on this Chamber, and £21,000 downstairs, will there be any other refurbishments in the next 12 months?

In terms of the Agile Working Project, I think we are more or less coming to the end of that. There are other projects that we will look at potentially as we go through the asset strategy.

We will be looking at later in the year, because basically what we are trying to do is review all of our assets to see what needs to be done with each of them, and we will put forward proposals in due course where they make sense.

Q3. 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?

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.

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.

Thank you to Councillor Sumner for your initial response. Is there a date in which these reports will come to Council, and can we have a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss this project?

As it says, it is anticipated that reports will come forward to councillors as the project progresses, so there isn't at this stage a definite date.

I will check with Officers that we can have a follow up meeting.