

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Council		
<b>DATE:</b>	10 July 2025		
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Julian Joinson, Member Services Manager		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<p>Question Time</p> <p>1) Determination of Planning Applications  2) Land on Albert Street in Oswaldtwistle  3) Reinstatement of BMX Track off Harvey Street in Oswaldtwistle  4) Council Owned Garages  5) Land at Livingstone Road  6) King George V Playing Fields  7) Campaign on Anti-Social Behaviour  8) Use of Glyphosate  9) Huncoat Garden Village  10) Accrington Neighbourhood Board  11) Martholme Viaduct, Great Harwood  12) Hyndburn Leisure</p>		
<b>EXEMPT REPORT:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	n/a

### **Questions to Council**

Questions for the Leader of the Council, a member of the Cabinet, or a Committee Chair may be submitted by councillors, under Council Procedure Rule 2.2(vi). Members of the public wishing to ask a question must do so by asking a councillor to raise the question on their behalf, although councillors are not obliged to agree to such requests.

### **Procedural Note**

- The questions will be read out by the Chair of the meeting.
- The Leader or other councillor, as appropriate, will give an oral answer.
- The questioner may ask a supplementary question, if it is directly related to the original question or the reply.
- Question Time will last for up to 30 minutes, and any questions that cannot be put within the allotted time will receive a written answer within 10 working days.

The following questions have been submitted:-

## **1) Determination of Planning Applications**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

I would like to raise the following question at the next full Council meeting please.

The National Planning Portal says that the standard time for a decision is 8 weeks, but that this can be extended to 13 weeks if an Application is unusually large or complex.

The Government website says no more than 26 weeks for Major Applications.

11/24/0417 was registered with HBC Planning Dept on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, which I roughly calculate to be 31 weeks.

What is the reason for the delay, bearing in mind that HBC Planning Department could be penalised for allowing it to go over the Government's timescale for a complex Application?

From: Councillor Zak Khan

On behalf of: Vinette Davitt

Date of first receipt by Office: 21<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (21:17)

## **2) Land on Albert Street in Oswaldtwistle**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

What are the Council's plans for the land on Albert Street in Oswaldtwistle.

From: Councillor Steven Smithson

Date of first receipt by Office: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (10:23)

## **3) Reinstatement of BMX Track off Harvey Street in Oswaldtwistle**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

Will this Council consider investing and bring back into use the old BMX track off Harvey Street in Oswaldtwistle.

From: Councillor Steven Smithson

Date of first receipt by Office: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (10:40)

## **4) Council Owned Garages**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

On what does the money collected from the Council owned garages' annual rent, get spent? Why do the garages' plots, which are rented out commercially, not have a repairs and maintenance budget?

From: Councillor Marlene Haworth  
Date of first receipt by Office: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 (15:50)

**5) Land at Livingstone Road**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

Is the Cabinet willing to open formal conversations with Accrington Stanley FC, in order to find a suitable arrangement for the additional land on Livingstone Road owned by Hyndburn Borough Council and adjacent to the WHAM Stadium, thereafter, allowing them to expand their operations and invest in their existing site? Alternative arrangements are already in place for existing occupants, which will allow all organisations to flourish.

From: Councillor Zak Khan  
Date of first receipt by Office: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (18:32)

**6) King George V Playing Fields**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

Please could the portfolio holder give an update on King George's playing fields?

From: Councillor David Heap  
Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

**7) Campaign on Anti-Social Behaviour**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

When are the Council going to announce that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has cut Operation Centurion and what is going to replace it?

From: Councillor David Heap  
On behalf of: Jayde Holmes  
Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

## 8) Use of Glyphosate

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

Are HBC still allowing the widespread spraying of glyphosate in Hyndburn streets? Considering the millions of dollars in lawsuits and since it is considered carcinogenic is it still being used to spray pavement where animals and children play? Glyphosate is already banned in many local authorities.

From: Councillor David Heap  
On behalf of: Jayne Shirtcliffe  
Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

## 9) Huncoat Garden Village

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

I would like to know about the link road for the proposed Huncoat Garden Village.... £30 million apparently, although this is to improve junction 8 of M65 and improve the roundabout near the Griffin. How do they propose to do all three with only £30m? It sounds a lot, but knowing roads are very expensive, how is this going to be completed? And with 2,000 homes being built, there will be at least 2,000 more cars, [so] how do the Council and New MP propose to get freight in/out of Huncoat as well ?

From: Councillor David Heap  
On behalf of: Nick Whittaker  
Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

## 10) Accrington Neighbourhood Board

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

On the £20 million for Accrington Centre, our MP Sarah Smith said:

"I'm delighted that up to £20m has been set aside for Accrington.

This investment, part of the Labour Government's Plan for Change, will unlock our local area's potential and bring real benefits to our community.

With this funding, local people will have more control over decisions that affect them, reducing unnecessary interference from central Government.

This is the kind of positive change a Labour Government delivers, and I look forward to working with the Neighbourhood Board to make a real difference for residents."

Now having read this I actually sent an email to Ms Smith asking who would be invited to join this Board, as being born and bred in Accrington and *[having]* been a resident here for almost 64 years I'd like to be a candidate for a position...*[I]* never got a reply.

So just who decided the board members and when were they elected?

From: Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Alexander Crook

Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

## **11) Martholme Viaduct, Great Harwood**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

Where are Hyndburn Council at with the long running project to fully reopen the Read end of the Martholme Viaduct in Great Harwood, for access and egress for walkers.

I have emailed several councillors this question and had no answer.

The reopening of the Viaduct would be a great asset to Hyndburn green space, which could be linked into another long distance walk around Hyndburn to add to the wonderful Hyndburn clog walk.

It would encourage people to get out and exercise, which has been proved to help with physical and mental well-being

From: Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Kevin Laycock

Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (08:52)

## **12) Hyndburn Leisure**

***To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder***

What operational changes has the Council made to Hyndburn Leisure as a result of the monitoring process that the Council set up and what indications are there that these changes will be financially successful?

From: Councillor Zak Khan

On behalf of: Peter Shaw

Date of first receipt by Office: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (09:26)