

Please note that the information redacted does not relate to WFC

Agenda Item No. 9

COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2019

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985  
Not for publication by virtue of the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A (L.G.A. 1972):  
Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**[NOTE: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Leigh Clarke, (Finance Director) has declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) interest in Questions 12, 14 and 20 arising from (i) her husband having a small shareholding in Woking Football Club and (ii) a Council appointed director of Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited. The interest does not prevent Mrs Clarke from advising the Council on this matter.]

**QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2019**

The following questions have been received under Standing Order 8.1. The draft replies, which are subject to amendment, are set out below.

“Councillors are thanked for their questions.”

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12. Question from Councillor M Ali

"My question (6) from the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 was not answered in full. I actually regret that we were given such a useless response that tells us nothing. The spirit of the question being what criteria did you use to determine that GolDev as a suitable developer to loan such a huge sum of money to. Their history is sadly obvious. Let's not play word games GolDev, Goldev Woking Ltd you can create another hundred layers if you wish but the net effect remains the same. Public money going to a private company and the council having less and less control over it and the public being kept in the dark! So what criteria was used to determine that GolDev is a suitable company to give such a huge sum to."

Reply from Councillor A Azad

"The criteria that determined the Council approval of providing access to finance to GolDev was that GolDev was the developer of the football club site in which the Council had an interest in securing a new football stadium and housing. If the loan facility is accessed by GolDev, appropriate security is in place to cover the loan advances."

14. Question from Councillor M Ali

"In response to my question (7) from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 you replied 'council did not seek a partner'. Again this is no response. I regret that we and the public are not being given full information. Fine you did not go out seeking, he came to you. But in the end you did partner with him and you did give public money to him. How did you determine his suitability and was that criteria published beforehand so that if other bidders did want to come they could. Because otherwise you have effectively created a closed club and closed door decisions."

Reply from Councillor A Azad

"The Council did not seek a development partner so it was not in a position to be comparing 'other bidders'. The Council has not given any public money to GolDev."

20. Question from Councillor M Ali

"Referring to question 06 of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Cllr Azad replied the stadium capacity of '10,000' and 'football stadium' who then authorized the varying capacity and a rugby field? Not that we oppose it but the approval from the council was very specific, '10,000' and 'football' and pay money to Goldev. No other options. So under what authority now are plans being changed? Please don't say it's being done in public interest or to improve etc. The question here is not on the nobility of actions but a procedural matter that after informing the council clearly, and we remember the CEOs words that the capacity is 10,000 (and no less and no more!) why did you now change without consent of the council?"

Reply from Councillor A Azad

"Mr Morgan did not say no less no more, he simply explained at a private briefing where the 10,000 requirement originated. The 'football' stadium has previously been used for non football activity and the approval of plans, to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for determination, took account of the need to risk manage its future use as an asset of the Council."

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REPORT ENDS

