

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC

Meeting: **Council**

Date Of Meeting: **27 February 2025**

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Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The following question has been received from a Member of Public. The individual who raised the question has been invited to attend the meeting. A formal response has been provided by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Question 1 – Lance Spencer

“The new Hilton Hotel in Victoria Place, Woking, opened on 31 October 2024, which is good news. It is a very high-quality hotel development that will hopefully be massively successful.

Question: How much of the £760m spent on the Victoria Place development did Woking Borough Council or associated companies spend on the Hilton Hotel development, including fixtures, fittings, and any other expenditure per opening?

Question: How much income does Woking Borough Council or associated companies expect to receive in FY24/25 and each financial year for the next five years from the Hilton Hotel?”

Reply from Councillor Ann-Marie Barker

“Thank you for your question.

I do understand the public interest in relation to the Hilton Hotel, especially considering the issues concerning the cladding failures.

Responses to Questions from Members of Public

“In relation to the Victoria Place Development, Woking Borough Council provided the lending to Victoria Square Woking Limited for the construction of the development.

The Council is restricted in what information it can provide related to the commercial transactions of Victoria Square Woking Limited which is classified as a public authority in its own right.

Because it is wholly council owned, Victoria Square Woking Limited are subject to Freedom of Information requests.

I have forwarded your request to the Board of Victoria Square Woking to respond to as a Freedom of Information request.

In respect to your question and its relevance to the Council:

- The Council does not receive income from the Hilton Hotel. Such income is received by Victoria Square Woking. Hilton are paid a management fee to operate the hotel and profits come back to Victoria Square Woking. Prior to the recent cladding failure, performance of the Hilton was in line with the business plan forecasts.”

Report Ends