



Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

Tuesday, 1st March, 2016

Summons and Agenda




WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

To: All Members of the Council

You are requested to attend a meeting of
WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
to be held in the
**COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,
NEWBURY**

on
Tuesday, 1st March, 2016
at **6.30 pm**



Andy Day
Head of Strategic Support
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Monday, 22 February 2016

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman to report on functions attended since the last meeting and other matters of interest to Members.

3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 10 December 2015 and the Special meeting held on the 21 January 2016. **(Pages 7-22)**

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**



Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2016 (continued)

To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any Personal, Disclosable Pecuniary or other interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#).

5. **PETITIONS**

Councillors may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate body without discussion.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

(Please note that there were no questions submitted relating to items not included on the agenda)

7. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer to advise of any changes to the membership of Committees since the previous Council meeting.

8. **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Licensing Committee has not met.

9. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Personnel Committee has not met.

10. **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of Council, the Governance and Ethics Committee met on 09 December 2015, 05 January 2016, 08 February 2016 (special and ordinary meeting), 17 February 2016 and 22 February 2016. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Strategic Support or via the [Council's website](#).

11. **DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the District Planning Committee has not met.

12. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission met on 05 January 2016 and 23 February 2016. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Strategic Support or via the [Council's website](#).



13. NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with Paragraph 4.5 of the Council's Constitution, the Chairman has agreed to change the order of the agenda to receive 'Notices of Motion' in advance of the items for debate.

(a) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro:

"This Council recognises the financial pressure that it is under as a result of significant reductions of the Council's Revenue Support Grant by the Government and therefore resolves to:

1. Forgo the index linked increase to Councillor's Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances due for 2016/17, saving £5,210
2. Reverse the £1,039 increase to the Councillors' Basic Allowance awarded in 2015, saving £54,028."

(b) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Anthony Chadley:

"West Berkshire Council:

...notes that the proposed Local Government Settlement was only announced in late December, giving the Council only 2 months to consider savings proposals, consult residents and review feedback.

...and notes that whilst the £1.4million of transitional funding provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government will lessen the impact of the required savings, the Council still needs to find £17.5 million next year.

It is therefore proposed that this Council continues to lobby the government for a fair deal in regards to local authority funding".

(c) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Graham Jones:

"This Council welcomes the devolution agenda and fully supports the Chancellors announcement that all business rates will be returned to local government.

West Berkshire currently generates £84m in business rates but only £17m is returned to West Berkshire Council to help fund local services and the essential infrastructure needed to keep us strong.

With the complete removal of any remaining government funding without the return of our withheld rates income there will be further significant cuts in local services during the lifetime of this council.

Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2016 (continued)

Local authorities and democracy would be strengthened by a direct link between the money raised in an area being spent in the same area.

This Council calls upon Her Majesty's Government to guarantee the return of business rates to West Berkshire and ask for the timeline to be reduced to 2018 thus giving local authorities a direct incentive to encourage local economic growth through improved services and infrastructure.

This Council therefore requests that the Chairman lobbies the relevant Minister in regard to ensuring that rates raised in West Berkshire will be returned and that this will be considered for implementation within the lifetime of this parliament."

14. INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGY 2016/17 (C2976)

In compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, this report summarises the Council's borrowing limits as set out by CIPFA's Prudential Code, and recommends the Annual Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2016/17. **(Pages 23-36)**

15. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 2016/17 TO 2020/21 (C2978)

To outline the five year Capital Strategy for 2016 to 2021, including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement and the Asset Management Plans for Property and Highways, and to set out the funding framework for Council's five year Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21. **(Pages 37-152)**

16. REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 (C2979)

To consider and agree the 2016/17 Revenue Budget. This report highlights that for West Berkshire residents there will be a Council Tax requirement of £82.28m requiring a Council Tax increase of 1.99% in 2016/17 and a 2% ring-fenced precept for adult social care. The Council has had to find savings of £14m in 2016/17, the highest in the Council's history.

Given the scale of task to arrive at a balanced budget for next year a number of significant saving proposals have been made including reductions to libraries, children centres, home to school transport, public transport subsidy, highway maintenance, provision of care services and many others.

The proposed savings will have significant implications for staff. Subject to the outcome of public consultations, 127 employees will be at risk of redundancy and associated exit costs are estimated to be in the region of £2m.

The report also proposes the Fees and Charges for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix H and the Special Expenses as set out in Appendix I. **(Pages 153-282)**

Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2016 (continued)

17. STATUTORY PAY POLICY 2016 (C2980)

To seek approval for publication of the Statutory Pay Policy Statement, effective from 1 April 2016. **(Pages 283-302)**

18. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - SCHEME OF DELEGATION (C2981)

To review and amend sections of the Scheme of Delegation in light of legislative changes and current practice. **(Pages 303-378)**

19. 2016/17 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL TIMETABLE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS (C2926)

To recommend a timetable of meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year. **(Pages 379-386)**

20. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

(Please note that there were no questions submitted relating to items not included on the agenda)

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.

