

# **Meeting of West Berkshire District Council**

**Thursday, 10th September,  
2020**

## ***Summons and Agenda***

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**This meeting will be held in a virtual format in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”).**

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  
**Thursday, 10th September, 2020**  
**at 7.00 pm**

*Sarah Clarke.*

Sarah Clarke  
Head of Legal and Strategic Support  
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 2 September 2020

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## **AGENDA**

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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 meeting held on 12 May 2020.

**(Pages 13 - 20)**

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable 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**

Members of the Executive to answer the following questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council's Constitution:

(a) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Mr Graham Storey:**

"Can the council provide an up to date valuation and expected yield on its commercial property portfolio?"

(b) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"WBC Placement Policy states the Council "does not have enough affordable supply to meet demand", so what is WBC's definition of an Affordable Care placement, please?"

(c) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How many 'affordable' placements are there available in West Berks, excluding Walnut Close?"

(d) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"What is the current average price paid by WBC for an externally purchased placement?"

(e) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"What is the current average price for a placement in one of the WBC managed Care Homes, excluding Walnut Close?"

(f) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How many Dementia placements are available in West Berks, excluding Walnut Close?"

(g) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**

"How many Dementia placements are available in WBC managed Care Homes, excluding Walnut Close?"

- (h) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**  
“What are the WBC projections for the number of patients diagnosed with Dementia in the fiscal years ending 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025?”
- (i) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**  
“How do these compare with the CPEC published projections of the number of patients diagnosed with Dementia for West Berkshire?”
- (j) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Paula Saunderson:**  
“Does the Council have any plans to address the predicted shortage in affordable supply of placements?”
- (k) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Mr Paul Morgan:**  
“Is the primary reason that the Council is now suggesting turning the LRIE into a housing estate driven by the need for a plan ‘b’ in the event that the Sandleford link development does not go ahead?”
- (l) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Public Health and Community Wellbeing submitted by Dr Julie Wintrup:**  
“How many contact tracers are now employed and trained by the West Berkshire's own Public Health team and how many by private companies?”
- (m) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Public Health and Community Wellbeing submitted by Dr Julie Wintrup:**  
“Is West Berkshire's Public Health team properly resourced and trained to provide the highest standard of finding, testing, tracing, and supporting people to isolate, and to maintain its other essential public health duties?”
- (n) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Dr Julie Wintrup:**  
“Is the Institute for Fiscal Studies' prediction correct in West Berkshire Council's case, in anticipating that without additional financial support from Government, it will be forced to slash services?”
- (o) **Question to be answered by the Leader of the Council submitted by Dr Julie Wintrup:**  
“Is the Council confident that all Councillors are now properly trained in use of social media and are all upholding the seven Nolan Principles in their social media practices?”
- (p) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Mr Alan Pearce:**  
“Please can the Council confirm after what date the public will be able to access on the Council's website the following CVS files comprising of Developer agreements, Developer contributions and Developer transactions?”

(q) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Mr Alan Pearce:**

“After what date will the Council have submitted the URLs to the national register of developer contributions?”

(r) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by Mr Alan Pearce:**

“In follow up to the answer I received at the Executive on 16 July 2020, please will the council immediately give details of all the identified highway improvements along the A339 that they are planning to discuss with the developer’s consultants and a copy of any legal agreements (redacted if necessary) that had been made or are being considered?”

(s) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment submitted by Dr Susan Millington:**

“When will the delivery plan for the Environmental Strategy be published?”

(t) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment submitted by Dr Susan Millington:**

“As part of your Environmental Strategy commitment to carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity through large scale tree planting, will West Berkshire District Council be purchasing and leasing land for woodland creation?”

(u) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Mr Paul Morgan:**

“Can the Council please explain why it has been able to make available to the public and members a copy of the Avison Young report regarding the LRIE Development Brief but despite many requests, is still refusing to publish and make available a copy of the Surfacing Standard Limited (SSL) report looking at possible alternative sites for the football ground?”

## 7. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Council to agree any changes to the membership of Committees.

## 8. **MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

To note the responses to Motions which have been presented to previous Council meetings.

- a) [Response to the Motion from Councillor Steve Ardagh Walter](#) presented to the 16 July 2020 Executive Meeting
- b) [Response to the Motion from Councillor Lynne Doherty](#) presented to the 24 April 2020 Personnel Committee Meeting
- c) [Response to the Motion from Councillor Carolyne Culver](#) presented to the 16 July 2020 Executive

## 9. **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Licensing Committee met on 14 May 2020. Copies of the Minutes of this meeting can be

obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

**10. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Personnel Committee met on 14 May 2020 and 17 July 2020. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

**11. GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of Council, the Governance and Ethics Committee met on 14 May 2020, 15 June 2020 and 24 August 2020. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

**12. DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the District Planning Committee met on 14 May 2020 and 08 July 2020. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

**13. 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 14 May 2020, 25 June 2020 and 28 July 2020. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Legal and Strategic Support or via the [Council's website](#).

**14. JOINT PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Joint Public Protection Committee met on 24 June 2020. Copies of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

**15. WBDC RESPONSE TO PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHITE PAPER (C3957)**

*Purpose: To formulate the Councils' response to the Planning White Paper published in August 2020 which is currently out for consultation and which closes on the 28th October 2020.*

**(Pages 21 - 40)**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (a) **The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter:**

"In our commitment to working towards being a Carbon Net Zero District by 2030 this Council has made a substantial investment in photovoltaic technology, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy. In delivering this significant element of our Environment Strategy, we not only supply the Council with clean energy, we also reduce the cost of running our buildings.

However, the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being very difficult, if not impossible, for local suppliers to do so. We recognise that making these costs proportionate to the scale of the renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or Councils such as West Berkshire, to be such providers of locally generated renewable electricity, and that the revenues received could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities, and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

The cross-party Local Electricity Bill, reintroduced into Parliament on 10 June and currently supported by 187 MPs, would, if made into law, establish a *Right to Local Supply* which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.

This Council would therefore welcome the opportunity to benefit further from the creation of a Right to Local Supply and **RESOLVES to support the Local Electricity Bill and to seek the support of our local MPs in ensuring the passage of the Bill through Parliament and into law.**"

(b) **The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Joanne Stewart:**

"West Berkshire Council stands firmly against all inequality, unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other form of activity that creates disadvantages for individuals within the community. The council will always promote equality of opportunity, challenge inequality and ensure respect for **everyone**: within the local community; as an employer; and as a partner.

The Council forges strong links with all groups, both within West Berkshire and within other neighbouring authorities too. Through our Equality and Diversity Officer, we will continue to hear and listen to all voices, especially our hard to reach groups.

We will always promote fairness and accessibility to all services, as well as employment opportunities and apprenticeships and regardless of background.

As times and perspectives are evolving, it is even more important to reinforce our commitment to welcoming diversity and challenging inequality, and therefore this Council **RESOLVES** to:

- Update and refresh our Equality and Diversity Policy and Objectives, as well as implement an Equality and Diversity Strategy to lead us and our residents through these challenging times.
- As part of that Strategy we will ensure Council employees and Members continue to be fully informed and updated through regular Equality and Diversity training to promote positive and inclusive attitudes.
- Through the Health and Wellbeing Board we will work with local partners and review guidance issued by Public Health, to offer support for those at greatest risk of the impact of Covid-19."





(c) **The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor David Marsh:**

"This Council notes the success of the 24-hour traffic-free zone covering part of Newbury town centre.

It made social distancing easier and was popular with shoppers. It helped to promote active travel, in line with the Prime Minister's announcement on 28 July, which included a commitment to "improving air quality and reducing traffic" by introducing zero-emission zones in towns and cities, and with the Council's own recently published Environment Strategy, which stresses the importance of reducing vehicle emissions.

This council further notes that the threat posed by Covid-19, and the need for social distancing, remain, and are likely to do so for the foreseeable future. It therefore regards the decision to return to "business as usual", taken without allowing Council members to debate the issue, or even informing them of the decision, and without consulting Newbury Town Council, as premature at best.

This council further notes the following statement by Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport: "We've got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a shift in attitudes for generations to come."

Allowing people to enjoy the town centre free of all but essential traffic is good for their health and wellbeing, and good for business. It conforms to the Council's own aims with regard to carbon emissions, road safety, and creating a more attractive town centre for both residents and visitors. It is a win-win for the people of West Berkshire.

This Council therefore **RESOLVES** that:

- (a) The 24-hour traffic-free zone, with appropriate exemptions for deliveries and disabled access, be reinstated with immediate effect.
- (b) Officers will monitor the effect on social distancing, businesses (including the market), air quality and active travel, and report their findings to the Transport Advisory Group and Environment Advisory Group by the end of 2020.
- (c) Following this process, any recommendations as to making the traffic-free zone permanent or otherwise would be considered by the first full Council meeting of 2021."

(d) **The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Richard Somner:**

"In consideration of the rural nature of the area we share, and communications received by both residents and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA, this council recognises the need to take action on the increasing concern of firework use across our District.

As a Council we have historically acted on the need to set appropriate licensing fees for fireworks and the need to restrict the areas in which sky lanterns can be used, this motion sets to add to those actions and to develop a safer environment for residents, their pets and the numerous livestock and wildlife in West Berkshire.



Whilst we recognise that fireworks are used throughout the year, and when used sensibly can be enjoyed by many, we approach a time of year when their use will see a dramatic increase.

The very nature of Fireworks as explosives are that they make loud and high intensity noises that are unpredictable and can affect a wide area.

As with sky lanterns, once reaching the ground the resultant debris can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock.

We recognise that some people may not be aware of the anxiety or danger that may be created, and so there is a need to raise awareness generally including amongst owners of animals.

The short lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or local authority officers to pinpoint locations and take action.

This Council **resolves**:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.”

## 17. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members of the Executive to answer the following questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the [Council's Constitution](#):

- (a) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Public Health and Community Wellbeing submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers:**

“Can the Council explain how the work begun by Councillor Rick Jones in to the effect of inequality on the health and life chances of its residents is progressing? ”.

- (b) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Public Health and Community Wellbeing submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers:**

“In the light of the reported rise of Domestic Abuse cases across the Country and concern about the shortage of Refuge places for those women and families most at risk is this Council planning to increase the number of Refuge places it provides”.

- (c) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education submitted by Councillor Peter Argyle:**

“What is Council doing to help our children and young people as they resume

their studies after the summer break?”

- (d) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Public Health and Community Wellbeing submitted by Councillor Jeff Cant:**

“Can the Council give any further information about the long term sustainable solution for the Lido which was unable to reopen viably this year?”

- (e) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Internal Governance submitted by Councillor Tom Marino:**

“Can the portfolio holder tell us what proportion of Council employees are working from home and how does the Council anticipate how this will change in both the short and medium-term?”

- (f) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Carolyn Culver:**

“Will WBC support the Wildlife Trusts, TVERC and others in the creation of a Nature Recovery Network, which is a requirement of the Environment Bill?”

- (g) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Carolyn Culver:**

“Does WBC agree that a good way for the council to support the Environment Bill’s objective to protect urban street trees would be to make the pedestrianisation of Northbrook Street permanent, and plant trees along it, thereby providing an attractive, shady and pollution free space?”

- (h) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers:**

“Why did the Council not consult Newbury Town Council before making major changes to the town centre traffic flow?”

- (i) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers:**

“How is the Council planning to involve Newbury Town Council in the master-planning of Newbury town centre?”

- (j) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Internal Governance submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon:**

“Why is it taking the Council 14 months to respond to my motion on constitutional changes?”

- (k) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Development submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon:**

“Has the council received any communication from the government about preparing for dealing with the end of the transition period without any trade deals in place?”

- (l) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden:**

“We note that it has been six months since our motion on safer school was referred to TAG, so will the council urgently review it to facilitate children



returning to school safely?”

- (m) **Question to be answered by the Leader of the Council submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers:**

“Would the leader of council support the idea of having themed debates such as on Black Lives Matter and its impact on West Berkshire?”

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