



Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

Thursday 3 December 2020

Summons and Agenda

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”).



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
This meeting can be viewed online on
Thursday 3 December 2020
at 7.00pm

Via the following link:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/fullcouncillive>



Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 25 November 2020

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 meeting held on 10 September 2020. **(Pages 9 - 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](#).



West Berkshire
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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 questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council's Constitution. Please note that the list of public questions is shown under item 6 in the agenda pack. **(Pages 21 - 24)**

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](#) – Item 5 presented to the 16 July 2020 Executive Meeting
- b) [Response to the Motion from Councillor Lynne Doherty](#) - Item 20 presented to the 24 April 2020 Personnel Committee Meeting
- c) [Response to the Motion from Councillor Carolyne Culver](#) – Item 6 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 30 November 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 has not met.

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 16 November 2020. Copies of the Minutes of this meeting 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 has not met.



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 06 October 2020. Copies of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Strategy and Governance 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 28 September 2020. Copies of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Strategy and Governance or via the [Council's website](#).

15. **MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - PROPOSED SUBMISSION CONSULTATION (C3970)**

Purpose: To present the main changes to the MWLP and supporting evidence, and for approval to undertake public consultation on these documents in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. (Pages 25 – 140)

16. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2020 (C3977)**

Purpose: To set out the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel following their meetings on the 23 and 24 September 2020. (Pages 141 - 188)

17. **WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL TIMETABLE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS 2021-22 (C3990)**

Purpose: To recommend a timetable of meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. (Pages 189 - 194)

18 **Notice of Motions**

(a) **Motion - Citizens Advice West Berkshire**

The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Martha Vickers:

This Council recognises the financial challenges many residents of West Berkshire are facing due to Covid 19.

Citizens Advice West Berkshire are seeing first-hand the problems individuals and families are facing. Problems they have been struggling with for some time, now accentuated by the pandemic. They are finding that an increasing number of people simply cannot meet their living costs.

We accept that government intervention has gone some way to support people during this crises. In particular the temporary uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

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We ask the Council to call on our three MPs to support the Citizens Advice Campaign to:

- Make the uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit permanent.
- Extend the uplift to legacy benefits.
- Extend the suspension of the minimum income floor within Universal Credit.
- Ensure that the benefits system provides adequate support.
- Improve support to pay energy bills.
- Provide financial support for people in debt.

This Council also recognises the vital services provided by Citizens Advice West Berkshire to those residents struggling financially at this time and commits to ensuring CAWB receive additional resources to allow them to continue to provide the help needed during the recovery period and beyond.

(b) **Motion - Scrutiny of Community Infrastructure Levy Payments**

The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Jeff Brooks:

We call upon the Council to urgently engage external expertise to undertake an independent review of the management of CIL payments from local developers. This is in light of two cases – that Members are aware of – where the sums paid by the applicants have been contested as they maintain they have been penalised by many thousands of pounds for incorrect paperwork submissions. These were able to be corrected rapidly when pointed out to the Applicant, but the Council pressed on in charging the applicant based on the original assessment.

Therefore:

The Council resolves to engage with an independent scrutineer – potentially from an adjacent Local Authority – to undertake an external review of its method of handling CIL payments from developers – including the processing of them, the interface with developers on the amounts due and the paperwork being submitted accurately.

(c) **Motion - Postponement of Demolition of the Faraday Road Football Ground Facilities**

The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Lee Dillon:

We propose the Council postpones their application for demolition of the Faraday Road Football Ground facilities at least until the equivalent, or better, alternative site is confirmed and approved by the football community.

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Furthermore, we propose that the Council now engage with the local football community and interested parties (e.g. Newbury Community Football Group and Newbury Town Council) to explore options that make the Faraday Road Football Ground available for Men's, Ladies and youth clubs in Newbury to book for football training and matches in the meantime.

(d) **Motion - Better preparing West Berkshire for Future Economic Shocks**

The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Steve Masters:

The pandemic has highlighted the need for the nation and local authorities to be better prepared for future shocks, to protect the livelihoods of residents and protect frontline services and infrastructure from being put under costly pressure.

One idea that needs our further consideration is Universal Basic Income (UBI) - a system whereby the state provides a regular, unconditional minimum income for all citizens. This system would replace the means-tested benefits system, saving millions in administrative and delivery costs. Earners above higher tax thresholds would be net contributors via their taxes. The concept has attracted support from across the political spectrum and we now need to look at how it could protect and support the people of West Berkshire.

Council acknowledges that government measures such as the Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme have helped many people and businesses in West Berkshire during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, unemployment is rising and is likely to grow further in the coming months. Ahead of us is a very unpredictable future and people across the county have already shouldered a huge burden.

Faced with the unprecedented challenge of recovery, we must seek to do everything we can to provide the economic security, peace of mind and support that people need to retrain and create new opportunities that will enable them to provide for their families and rebuild their lives.

Council notes that:

- a) Poverty does great damage to life chances, and that work is no longer a guaranteed route out of poverty (seven in ten children in poverty are in a working family according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation).
- b) The pandemic has forced more people into poverty, with increasing numbers of residents having to turn to charity such as food banks.
- c) The growing challenge of automation has been accelerated by the

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pandemic and puts many more jobs at risk.

- d) The Council's Strategy 2019-2023 'priorities for improvement' include 'support everyone to reach their full potential' and 'support businesses to start, develop and thrive'. UBI could enable the residents of West Berkshire to fulfil their full potential by having the time to (re)train and potentially start new businesses.
- e) UBI would have a positive effect on mental health. People who lose their jobs would have a safety net and breathing space to find a similar job rather than being forced to take the first low-paid and unskilled job they can find.
- f) UBI would give people the time to become more involved in their community and support their neighbours, as so many have done during the pandemic.

Council therefore:

- 1) Supports in principle a Universal Basic Income, recognising the impact this could have on alleviating poverty and inequality, improving mental health and wellbeing, and enabling both businesses and employees to adjust to the challenges of Covid-19, technological change, and the climate crisis.
- 2) Agrees to set up a cross-party panel to explore, with the local community, how a UBI trial could be established in West Berkshire, and to seek government funding for such a scheme.
- 3) Calls upon the government to provide funding for this and other trials to test how a UBI could support citizens across the country at this time of need, make inroads towards the Prime Minister's commitment to 'level up', and help everyone play a role in getting the UK economy back on a path to recovery.

19. 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 Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Keith Woodhams:**

"Can the Executive Member for Highways tell me how much tax payers hard earned cash has been spent replacing or repairing road signs, road name plates, lampposts and pedestrian central refuges hit by vehicles and endangering the lives of pedestrians, since the Conservatives took control of West Berkshire Council in 2015?"

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- (b) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People submitted by Councillor Tom Marino:**

“What is the council planning to do to help our disadvantaged families and children during the coming winter?”

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