

Notice of Meeting



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Executive

Thursday 16 July 2020 at 5.00pm

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

Please note: The Council will be live streaming its meetings.

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Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 8 July 2020

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Democratic Services Team on (01635) 519462

e-mail: executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

To:	Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Ross Mackinnon, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart and Howard Woollaston
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Agenda

Part I

Pages

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).
2. **Minutes** 11 - 26
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30 April 2020.
3. **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](#).
4. **Public Questions**
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.
 - (a) **Question submitted by Mr Neville Booth to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**
"Who got planning permission for the cycle lane on the A4 between Tesco and Mercedes garage and is it finished?"
 - (b) **Question submitted by Ms Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**
"How many patients, and into which West Berkshire Care Settings, were Transfers of Care made from NHS Hospitals between 1st March and end of April without being tested as negative for Covid-19?"
 - (c) **Question submitted by Ms Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**
"During this period were the usual Transfer of Care Procedures of the Joint Care Provider Service overturned, possibly leading to additional risk to patients and Care Settings?"



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- (d) **Question submitted by Mr Peter Carline to the Leader of the Council**
“How prepared do you believe West Berkshire is for a no deal Brexit?”
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- (e) **Question submitted by Mr Peter Carline to the Leader of the Council**
“What advice are and will you be giving to residents who may be concerned about this seemingly inevitable and undesirable outcome?”
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- (f) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Can the Executive explain why there is a discrepancy between the figure provided by Councillor Hilary Cole of an average of 127 units of social housing for rent being developed each year since 2015 and the figures available on the Council website?”
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- (g) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Please can the Executive confirm the actual number of homes for social rent that have been added in each year since 2015?”
-
- (h) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“How can WBC say they are meeting the housing needs of local residents on low incomes when there are c1755 West Berkshire households on the housing waiting list and only one property is available on the latest Homechoice bidding list?”
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- (i) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Why have WBC not taken advantage of the ability to remove limits on investment in social housing (introduced in 2018) when so many other regions have seized this opportunity to help low income residents?”
-
- (j) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Will the Council commit to any actual numbers for additional homes for social rent over the next 5 years?”
-
- (k) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“When does the Council expect to publish a new planning strategy when the most recent version expired in 2015?”
-
- (l) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Is the Council happy to operate without a planning strategy?”
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(m) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“Please can the Portfolio Holder explain what percentage of the urban runoff is not attenuated on new development sites Travelodge on London Road and the Premier Inn on Park Way?”

(n) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

“Please would it be possible for the council to give a brief update to the public on what their plans are to ensure the foul sewage infrastructure (pumping station, high pressure pipe and Thatcham treatment works) can accommodate the extra capacity needed by the London Road industrial estate redevelopment?”

(o) **Question submitted by Mr Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing**

“Why has the Council let down the women, men, girls, boys, coaches, parents, schools, teachers, aspiring England players and once a week recreational players of Newbury so badly by taking away the main football ground more than two years ago, and without providing a suitable alternative?”

(p) **Question submitted by Ms Miriam Lee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance please outline what local climate change mitigation projects the additional £6.5m Laura Farris has reported West Berkshire Council has received been invested in?”

(q) **Question submitted by Ms Miriam Lee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance comment on whether it will be emulating other Councils for example Cornwall Council who have set aside £20 million for their climate emergency action plan for this budget year in February 2020?”

(r) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Please will the Council say if there are any significant infrastructure problems which are causing delays in redeveloping of the London Road Industrial Estate?”

(s) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“Please will the council say if they have ever considered using the former football ground at Faraday Road as an overflow balancing pond to overcome any problems regarding sustainable drainage when redeveloping London Road Industrial Estate?”



(t) **Question submitted by Mr Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“As it appears that West Berkshire Council does not have any written documentation on guidance or standards for implementation of cycling infrastructure on its road network, would it consider adopting or following the guidance of Wokingham Borough Council in its Cycling Infrastructure Style Guide (2013)?”

(u) **Question submitted by Dr Chris Foster to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“What measures will the Executive propose to ensure that the proposed development of at least 3200 homes north west of Basingstoke (known as Manydown) won't have an intolerable impact on traffic on the A339 through Newbury, on top of that from Sandford Park and other forthcoming developments?”

(v) **Question submitted by Mr Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“In its implementation of a Mandatory Cycle Lane through Thatcham, did the Council consider the impact on the passage of emergency vehicles (especially ambulances), given that it is not permitted for a vehicle to enter a mandatory cycle lane in order to allow emergency vehicles to overtake?”

(w) **Question submitted by Ms Jane Gulliver to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance**

“Please will the council confirm whether or not it will immediately supply a copy (redacted if necessary) of any legally binding contracts it has made, and are in place at this moment in time to build any housing, including for example affordable housing?”

5. Petitions

Councillors or Members of the public may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate Committee without discussion.

Items as timetabled in the Forward Plan

	Pages
<hr/> 6. Post Consultation Environment Strategy (EX3831)	27 - 124
Purpose:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To update the Executive on the consultation and engagement in relation to the draft Environment Strategy and how responses have been considered.• To provide the Executive with a summary of the consultation feedback through the identification of key themes and to present a	



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proposed response to these themes.

- To provide the Executive with the proposed amended version of the strategy for consideration.

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7. **Parking Provision for Electric Vehicles (EX3931)** 125 - 138
Purpose: To highlight the Motion made at Full Council on 3 March 2020, advise of associated issues and make recommendations as to whether the Motion should be implemented.
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8. **2019/20 Performance Report: Quarter Four (EX3716)** 139 - 178
Purpose:
 - To provide assurance that the core business and council priorities for improvement measures (Council Strategy 2019-2023) are being managed effectively.
 - To highlight successes and where performance has fallen below the expected level; to present information on the remedial action taken, and the impact of that action.
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9. **West Berkshire Recovery Strategy (EX3937)** 179 - 234
Purpose: To provide the framework for the Council's overarching recovery in respect of Covid-19 and its impact on the district. The Recovery Strategy intends to highlight the key areas of focus for the Council and highlights where action has been taken to date and areas that will be explored further once considered with partners and the community.
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10. **2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn (EX3798)** 235 - 248
Purpose: To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets. This report is the provisional outturn position for 2019/20.
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11. **2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn (EX3802)** 249 - 260
Purpose: To present the provisional capital outturn for the Council in respect of financial year 2019/20. It should be noted that these figures are provisional and may change as a result of External Audit.
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12. **Future Arrangements for the provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading (EX3900)** 261 - 270
Purpose: To consider options and recommendations concerning the future management of Public Health across Berkshire West.
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13. **Members' Questions**
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.



(a) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“What can the portfolio holder say to reassure residents that the government’s proposal that ‘a wider range of commercial buildings will be allowed to change to residential use without the need for a planning application’ will not result in poor quality homes that do not meet local needs?”

(b) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“What can the portfolio holder say to reassure residents that if ‘builders will no longer need a normal planning application to demolish and rebuild vacant and redundant residential and commercial buildings if they are rebuilt as homes’, the resulting homes will be of an appropriate scale and design for their setting?”

(c) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“Can the portfolio holder reassure residents and parish/town councillors that the government’s proposal that ‘property owners will be able to build additional space above their properties via a fast track approval process, subject to neighbour consultation’ will not remove the ability of district ward councillors to call-in planning applications to planning committees?”

(d) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Leader of the Council**

“What efforts are being made to restore democracy by initiating hybrid meetings so the public can resume asking questions at planning and meetings such as this?”

(e) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“Does the portfolio holder for Planning think it is acceptable for a Committee decision to be refused in a public meeting, yet 13 weeks later for it not to have been implemented?”

(f) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

“Can the Council confirm the decreased take-up of green bins and explain why, given that everyone was at home during the COVID crisis?”

(g) **Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education**

“What support has been provided to children given laptops during the COVID crisis so that they have been able to use them as effectively as possible during lockdown?”



(h) Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education

“With five schools in West Berkshire reporting unlicensed deficits for 2019/20, two West Berkshire schools carrying forward licensed deficits for 2019/20, and with the significant additional costs to schools arising from COVID and measures to re-open schools in a COVID-safe manner, how will the Council ensure schools in deficit do not have to make cuts to school services that impact pupil attainment?”

(i) Question submitted by Councillor Billy Drummond to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development

“Will the Executive please lobby the government to cover the cost of parking for the first two hour period for 6 months to help the many local shops and give them a fighting chance to get back on their feet and saving many from going under?”

(j) Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing

“Could the Portfolio Holder explain the processes in place to support developers with their CIL submissions and help them achieve a zero-assessed outcome where that is legitimately the case, or is the process to take every possible opportunity to charge developers if they make the mistake of getting something wrong or omitted on their CIL submissions?”

(k) Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside

“Can the Portfolio Holder update me on his assurance at a Full Council meeting that he would fast track my motion to reduce the speed limit along the A4/Benham Hill in Thatcham, rather than let the matter wait for the Speed Limit Review Group later this year?”

(l) Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

“What action is this Council proposing to take, including the use of CCTV, to combat the sharp rise in litter and fly-tipping which is polluting our open spaces across the District?”

(m) Question submitted by Councillor Phil Barnett to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside

“Once the new link road is completed between Hector’s Way and Hambridge Road Newbury, can the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside identify if the majority (if not all) of the through traffic from Sainsbury’s roundabout to the Hambridge industrial area (and reverse) will be directed to use the new road?”



14. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item. [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution refers.](#)

Part II

15. **Emergency Duty Service (EX3942)**

271 - 374

(Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial/business affairs of a particular person)

Purpose: To request that the Executive approve a new shared service agreement for the continuing provision of a hosted Emergency Duty Service (EDS) between the six Berkshire unitary authorities with Bracknell Forest Council as a lead/host authority.

Sarah Clarke
Service Director (Strategy and Governance)

West Berkshire Council Strategy Priorities

Council Strategy Priorities:

PC1: Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes

PC2: Support everyone to reach their full potential

OFB1: Support businesses to start, develop and thrive in West Berkshire

GP1: Develop local infrastructure to support and grow the local economy

GP2: Maintain a green district

SIT1: Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships

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

