

Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

Tuesday, 19th July, 2022

Summons and Agenda



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, 19th July, 2022
at **7.00 pm**

Sarah Clarke.

Sarah Clarke
Service Director – Strategy & Governance
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Monday, 11 July 2022

AGENDA

Part I

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). **(Pages 5 - 6)**

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman to report on functions attended since the last meeting and other matters of interest to Members. **(Pages 7 - 8)**

3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 May 2022. **(Pages 9 - 22)**



Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 19 July 2022 (continued)

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](#). **(Pages 23 - 24)**

5. **PETITIONS**

Councillors may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate body without discussion. **(Pages 25 - 26)**

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained in the [Council's Constitution](#).

Please note that the list of public questions is shown under Item 6 in the agenda pack. **(Pages 27 - 28)**

7. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Council to agree any changes to the membership of Committees. **(Pages 29 - 30)**

8. **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Licensing Committee met on 4 July 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#). **(Pages 31 - 32)**

9. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Personnel Committee met on 15 July 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

10. **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Governance and Ethics Committee met on 27 June 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services 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 24 May 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).



Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 19 July 2022 (continued)

13. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Health Scrutiny Committee met on 23 May and 14 June 2022. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

14. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Health and Wellbeing Board met on 19 May 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

15. 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 13 June 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

16. ANNUAL REPORT - GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (C4152)

Purpose: To provide an annual summary of the activities of the Governance and Ethics Committee during the Municipal Year 2021-2022, a summary of key areas that the Committee has considered, and the actions and changes that have occurred due to the Committee's activities. **(Pages 33 - 38)**

17. MOTION ON ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT (C4246)

Purpose: To consider the motion originally submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022, following discussion on the matter at the Health Scrutiny Committee on 23 May 2022. **(Pages 39 - 46)**

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

Please note that the list of Motions is shown under Item 18 in the agenda pack. **(Pages 47 - 50)**

19. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Members of the Council in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained in the [Council's Constitution](#).

Please note that the list of Member questions is shown under Item 19 in the agenda pack. **(Pages 51 - 52)**

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Vicki Yull on telephone 07824 824867.



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Item 1 – Apologies for Absence

Verbal Item

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Item 2 – Chairman’s Remarks

Verbal Item

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Agenda Item 3.

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022

Councillors Present in the Second Floor Meeting Area: Rick Jones (Chairman), Alan Law (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Abbs, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Phil Barnett, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Erik Pattenden, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams and Howard Woollaston.

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, Graham Jones and Quentin Webb, Honorary Alderwoman Emma Webster, Nigel Lynn (Chief Executive), Sue Halliwell (Executive Director (Place)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director (Resources)), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Sarah Clarke (Service Director for Strategy and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Vicki Yull (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Jeff Beck, Councillor Nassar Hunt, Councillor Andy Moore, Councillor Garth Simpson and Councillor Andrew Williamson, Honorary Aldermen Keith Chopping and Andrew Rowles.

PART I

1. Chairman's Remarks

Councillor Clive Hooker thanked Councillor Rick Jones, the Vice-Chairman, and Mrs Val Jones, the Vice-Chairman's Lady, for their support over the previous year. Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Jones had stood in for him on a number of occasions and had done a magnificent job on his behalf in representing the Council. He also thanked Councillor Graham Pask who had stood in for both Councillor Hooker and Councillor Jones due to ill health. Councillor Hooker also expressed gratitude to the Chairman's Lady, Mrs Christine Hooker, who he said had been a supportive, patient and wonderful companion when accompanying him at many of the civic events he had attended.

Councillor Hooker referred to the gathering in Shaw House in May 2021 to film his and Councillor Jones Declarations of Acceptance of Office and the exchanging of chains. This had later been shown at the Annual Council meeting and was the first time a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council had been installed via a video. He explained it had been undertaken in this manner due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Hooker thanked Sarah Clarke, the Monitoring Officer, and Shiraz Sheikh, the Deputy Monitoring Officer, for their support, advice and briefings before and during Council meetings. He also thanked Jo Watt, Georgia Marshall and Vicki Yull for managing his diary and providing him with general assistance. Councillor Hooker referred to the change in Chief Executive during his term of office, and wanted to record his thanks to the previous Chief Executive, Nick Carter, for his services to West Berkshire Council.

Councillor Hooker noted that the past year had seen a slow and steady recovery from the Covid pandemic which had been reflected in the reduced number of civic functions he

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had attended (55 in total). He commented that things had slowly reverted back to some normality, but the pandemic was still impacting on the way the Council operated with many staff continuing to work from home. He noted that most of the Council's meetings were being broadcast live on YouTube which had encouraged engagement with the public. Councillor Hooker thanked all Council staff for their patience, dedication and commitment through the transition period, and having run the business of Council in an efficient, caring and professional manner for the benefits of all residents in West Berkshire.

Councillor Hooker then referred to the civic functions he had attended during the year, many of which had been managed and staffed by volunteers. He wished to thank them for dedicating their time and commitment to the organisations and charities they had chosen to support. The volunteering theme had been reflected in the Community Champions Award Scheme, with some of the winners having dedicated their lives to organising events to raise large amounts of money to fund their chosen causes.

Since the last Council meeting in March Councillor Hooker had attended eight functions, including the swearing in of the new High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire, Alka Kharbanda, in the Crown Court in Reading. Councillor Hooker was sure that members joined him in wishing her well in the office over the next year. He also expressed gratitude to Willie Hartley Russell, the outgoing High Sheriff, who had served the county unfailingly during his time in office.

Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Pask, whilst deputising, had planted a tree in Bucklebury on behalf of the Council as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Tree planting initiative.

Councillor Hooker then referred to some memorable occasions for him which included:

- Welcoming The Princess Royal to Berkshire for the British Horse Society Awards at Newbury Racecourse.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Service of Thanksgiving at Reading Minster.
- The Reading and West Berkshire Motor Neurone Disease Association gathering at Englefield House.
- The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service ceremony at the home of the Lord-Lieutenant.
- The Newbury Remembrance Day Service in Market Square, and the Remembrance Service at RAF Welford.

Councillor Hooker ended by stating it had been an honour to represent West Berkshire on behalf of West Berkshire Council over the past year, and thanked members for the trust placed in him to carry out the role of Chairman. He said it had been a wonderful experience and a privilege.

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Hooker on behalf of all Members for his excellent service as Chairman over the last year, and for the preceding two years as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Doherty also thanked the Chairman's Lady for her support to the Chairman during his terms of office.

2. Presentations

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Hilary Cole who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

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The Chairman explained that Councillor Cole was first elected in 2007 to the former Chieveley Ward and had remained in office since that time. Over the years Councillor Cole had been involved with waste, countryside, emergency planning, trading standards, environmental health (now the JPP), leisure & culture, customer services, planning, adult social care, economic development, housing, transformation, and strategic partnerships. Councillor Cole had been Deputy Leader of the Council from 2017 to 2019, Vice-Chairman of Council in 2008, and had chaired the Safer Communities sub-partnership from 2009 until becoming an Executive Member. As Portfolio Holder for Countryside she had also chaired the (now defunct) Greener sub-partnership.

Councillor Cole stated she had enjoyed every minute of being both a Ward Member for Chieveley and an Executive Member. It had been a pleasure and a privilege for her to serve both West Berkshire Council and her residents, and she thanked the Chairman for the honour of the long service award.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Jeremy Cottam who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

The Chairman explained that Councillor Cottam was first elected in 1988 after winning a by-election in the former Thatcham West Ward. He continued to serve in that Ward until 1997 when he won the election standing in the former Thatcham East Ward. Councillor Cottam had chosen to stand down in the 2000 elections but came back to the Chamber in the 2019 elections when he was successfully elected to the Thatcham North East Ward. Councillor Cottam was also Chairman of Council in the 1999/2000 Municipal Year.

Councillor Cottam thanked the public and the residents of West Berkshire for their confidence and allowing him to serve them. He thought all Members had stood for election with the intent to make West Berkshire a better place to live and he hoped, little by little, the Council was managing to do that.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Alan Law who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

The Chairman explained that Councillor Law was first elected in 2007 and had successfully served in office in the Basildon Ward ever since. Councillor Law was currently Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission, Chairman of the District Planning committee, and a member of the Eastern Area Planning Committee. He had held the Portfolio for Planning twice, from 2008 to 2012 and from 2015 to 2016, and was also the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development and HR from 2012 to 2015. Councillor Law had represented the Council as a partner governor on The Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust and was a founding Member of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP. Councillor Law had gotten involved in local politics when a large developer had wanted to build 50 plus houses in two fields in his village, and he and his wife had produced the first Parish Plan for Streatley in 2005. Protecting and enhancing the rural environment and way of life was a key political motivation for Councillor Law.

Councillor Law stated he had always planned to have a second 'mini' career following retirement but had not thought it would be as a councillor. He thanked his predecessor and other councillors for encouraging him to stand for election to the Council, and expressed gratitude to the voters of Basildon for electing him four times.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Graham Pask who had achieved 35 years' service to the Council.

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The Chairman explained that Councillor Pask was first elected in 1987 and had successfully served in office in the Bucklebury Ward ever since. Councillor Pask had been both Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Environment Committee, the Group Leader in the mid-90s for six years, and the Opposition Spokesman for Children and Young People and then Adult Social Care. He had been the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, and then Partnerships and Community Safety. Councillor Pask was Chairman of Council in 2010/2011 and 2019/2020-2020/2021, and a member of Thatcham and then Eastern Area Planning Committee, chairing the Planning Committee latterly. He had been Chairman of the Bucklebury Common Advisory since 1987 and Snelsmore Common from the early 1990s.

Councillor Pask noted that there had been various iterations of the Bucklebury Ward and that it had also changed parishes occasionally. He thanked residents for their support at elections, and said he had tried to do his best for his residents, to listen and try to represent their point of view. It had been an honour and a privilege for him to have served and still be serving his residents in Bucklebury and the four parishes he currently represented.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to the Chairman's Lady, Mrs Christine Hooker, for her support, encouragement and patience which had enabled him to carry out the role of Chairman over the last year. He stated she had been a wonderful companion and had joined him at many events. He also paid tribute to the officers who had supported him during his time in office.

3. Election of the Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 (C4205)

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Clive Hooker that Councillor Rick Jones be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Doherty in proposing Councillor Jones for the role of Chairman stated that he had been involved in local politics for many years, firstly at a Parish level where he served as Chairman of Purley-on-Thames Parish Council for nine years. He had gone on to join West Berkshire Council via a by-election in January 2015, a process he successfully repeated in May 2015 when he secured his seat as a Ward Member for Tilehurst and Purley.

Councillor Doherty considered Councillor Jones to be a kind person who always tried to see all points of view and give them the consideration they deserved. During his time on the Council he had been actively involved in the People Directorate, holding Portfolios in adult social care and health and wellbeing. As the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board Councillor Jones had shown endless patience and open mindedness, traits which Councillor Doherty felt sure would stand him in good stead over the coming year.

Despite stepping down from the Executive in 2019, Councillor Jones had continued to offer support in the health and wellbeing area, most notably through the work he had done promoting meaningful engagement with local communities in the voluntary sector. Councillor Bridgman had also expressed his gratitude to Councillor Jones for the foundation work he had done in setting up the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Jones had, in the last year, been Chairman of the Licencing Committee, deputy to the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio, and an active member of the Governance

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and Ethics Committee. Councillor Doherty noted he had done all of this whilst continuing to serve his residents in Tilehurst and Purley and being the Vice- Chairman of Council.

Councillor Doherty had no doubt that Councillor Jones would make an excellent representative for Council as he performed the duties of Chairman over the coming year, and she was sure that Members would welcome him into the role.

Councillor Hooker stated that it gave him great pleasure to second this nomination. He fully endorsed the Leader's comments regarding Councillor Jones' qualities and suitability for the role of Chairman. Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Jones had been exceptional in the role of Vice-Chairman and had fulfilled many obligations on behalf of the Council without question. His personality was one of calmness, fairness, quiet confidence, and he got on well with all people he interacted with. Councillor Hooker felt these were important qualities for the Office. He felt Councillor Jones, when deputising for him, had chaired Council meetings with fairness and neutrality, coupled with a gentle but firm control, and he was confident that Councillor Jones would continue to take that forward over the next twelve months.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rick Jones be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman thanked the Council for electing him which he regarded as an honour, and he appreciated the confidence and trust placed in him to fulfil the requirements of the role. He committed to acting fairly when chairing Council meetings, and to represent and promote the Council as proactively as possible.

On behalf of all Members, Councillor Jones thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Clive Hooker, for his diligent work and effort in representing the Council. He also thanked Mrs Christine Hooker for the support she had given to the Chairman over the past year.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 (C4206)

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

In response to this request Councillor Alan Law was nominated by Councillor Lynne Doherty and the nomination was seconded by the Chairman. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Doherty in proposing Councillor Law for the role of Vice-Chairman stated that he had been a very active Member of the Council for 15 years and she was therefore pleased to nominate him. In all the roles that Councillor Law had performed to date he was known for speaking his mind whilst being fair and open to new suggestions. Councillor Doherty believed those traits as well as his experience would make him an excellent support to the Chairman over the coming year.

The Chairman, in seconding the nomination, welcomed the support and guidance that Councillor Law would provide in the role given his knowledge and experience.

Councillor Lee Dillon indicated that his Group would abstain from the vote to appoint Councillor Law as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

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RESOLVED that Councillor Alan Law be appointed as Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Vice-Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Vice-Chairman thanked the Leader of the Council for nominating him and those Members of Council who had voted in favour of his appointment. He looked forward to supporting the Chairman throughout the forthcoming Municipal Year.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tony Linden declared an interest in Agenda Item 13, Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation, and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Tony Vickers referred to his recent resignation from Greenham Parish Council. This resulted in there being no conflict of interest for him with regards to Agenda Item 12, Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham. He raised this as a matter of information for Members and not for the purpose of making a declaration of interest.

Councillor Claire Rowles declared an interest in Agenda Item 13, Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation, and reported that, as her interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

6. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record subject to the removal of Councillor Adrian Abbs personal interest as a Trustee of Stroke Care Newbury & West Berkshire.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

Both were signed by the Chairman.

7. **Appointment of the Executive by the Leader of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year (C4207)**

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Leader of the Council, announced the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2022/2023 as follows:

Leader of Council District Strategy and Communications	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Deputy Leader of Council Health and Wellbeing	Councillor Graham Bridgman
Adult Social Care	Councillor Jo Stewart
Children, Young People	Councillor Dominic Boeck

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and Education	
Planning, Transport and Countryside	Councillor Richard Somner
Environment and Transformation	Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
Finance and Economic Development	Councillor Ross Mackinnon
Housing, Leisure and Culture	Councillor Howard Woollaston
Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Tom Marino

Councillor Doherty paid tribute to Councillor Hilary Cole who had stepped down from her Executive role. Councillor Doherty highlighted that Councillor Cole had been an active member of the Executive for 13 years and referred to the extensive list of portfolio responsibilities Councillor Cole had taken on during that time. Councillor Doherty, as Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Cole for her service to the Executive, and also personally thanked her for her valued friendship.

Councillor Doherty welcomed Councillor Thomas Marino to the Executive. She noted that Councillor Marino had been elected in 2019 and had been active since then on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and as Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee. Councillor Doherty felt that Councillor Marino would bring fresh thinking and new ideas to the role and his portfolio areas.

Councillor Doherty referred to some smaller changes to the Executive with Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter having taken on the Council's transformation agenda and Councillor Howard Woollaston having taken on housing.

Councillor Doherty thanked the Executive for their tireless work over the previous Municipal Year and said a special thank you to the Deputy Leader of Council, Councillor Graham Bridgman, for his support.

Councillor Lee Dillon passed on the thanks and well wishes of his Group to Councillor Hilary Cole.

Councillor Graham Bridgman thanked the Leader on behalf of the Council for her time and effort during the last year.

8. **Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year (C4202)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 9) concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees for the next Municipal Year in accordance with the duty under section 15 of the Local Government Housing Act, and which sought to agree the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report.

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An amended version of the report had been circulated on 5 May 2022 with changes made to paragraphs 2.11 and 5.27 to confirm the Independent Persons appointed for 2022/2023. Appendices A and B for the report had been originally marked as to follow and were circulated on 9 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

“That the Council:

- (1) notes that under paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Party Groups respectively.
- (2) agrees to the appointment of the various Committees and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report (Table A).
- (3) agrees to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 5.12 of the report (Table B).
- (4) agrees that the number of substitutes on Committees and Commissions be as set out in paragraph 5.15 of the report (Table C).
- (5) in respect of the District and Area Planning Committees, agrees that the substitute Members are all drawn from Members representing wards within the Committee’s area who are not appointed to the Committee. Where substitutes attend the District Planning meeting they need to be drawn from the same Area Planning meeting as the Member they are substituting for.
- (6) approves the appointment of Members to the Committees as set out in Appendix A and notes the appointments set out in Appendix B which are in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.
- (7) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, agrees that the Council’s Policy Framework for 2022/23 be as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report, and that any necessary amendments be made to the Council’s Constitution.
- (8) notes that other plans, policies and strategies requiring approval which are not included in the approved Policy Framework and which are not otherwise reserved by law to Council, will be the responsibility of the Council’s Executive in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.
- (9) notes that Paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6 will be amended to reflect any changes made to the Executive by the Leader of the Council at the Annual Council meeting.
- (10) agrees the appointment of two non-voting co-opted Parish/Town Councillors to the Governance and Ethics Committee as detailed in Appendix A to the report.
- (11) appoints three Independent Persons (standards) namely Lindsey Appleton, Alan Penrith and Mike Wall and to appoint an Independent Person (Audit) to focus on the risk and audit functions of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
- (12) notes the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- (13) delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required to the Constitution as a result of the changes to the number of Members of the Council and following the appointments to Committees.”

Councillor Doherty commented that a minor amendment was needed in respect of Appendix A to reflect that Councillor Lee Dillon would become a substitute member for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and that Councillor Adrian Abbs

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would replace him as a full member. Councillor Doherty thanked Members for their contributions and work on the various Committees.

Councillor Lee Dillon in seconding the report echoed the Leader's comments. He concluded with a plea for Opposition representation on the Joint Public Protection Committee.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

9. **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022/2023 (C4203)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 10) concerning the annual nominations to the following Outside Bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association General Assembly

Appendix A to the report had originally been marked as to follow and was circulated on 9 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

"That the Council:

- (1) approves the appointments in accordance with Appendix A of Member representatives to the following outside bodies:
 - Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – Councillors Dennis Benneyworth, Jeff Brooks, Tony Linden and Biyi Oloko.
 - Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Claire Rowles.
- (2) note the appointments as detailed in Appendix A of Member representatives to the:
 - Local Government Association General Assembly – Councillors Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Lee Dillon and Lynne Doherty."

Councillor Lynne Doherty stated there had been no changes apart from the nomination of Councillor Biyi Oloko to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

10. **Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Governance and Ethics Committee 2021/2022 (C4152)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 11) which provided an update on local and national issues relating to ethical standards, brought to the attention of Members any complaints or other problems within West Berkshire, and presented the Annual Governance and Ethics report. An amended version of the report was circulated on 5 May 2022 with changes made to paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 regarding Independent Persons appointed for 2022/2023.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Tom Marino:

"That the Council notes the content of the report which would be circulated to all Parish / Town Councils in the District for information."

Councillor Woollaston introduced the Annual Monitoring Officer's report to the Governance and Ethics Committee (which had already approved it). It confirmed that the

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standards of ethical conduct across the district remained good and that the number of gifts and hospitality remained low as per the previous year.

Councillor Woollaston confirmed the report would be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils if approved. The report summarised the members of the Governance and Ethics Committee including the Independent Persons, explained its Terms of Reference, and outlined the Advisory Panel.

Councillor Woollaston noted there had been a total of 32 complaints submitted during 2021/2022 of which 27 were decided as 'without foundation'. Of the 32 complaints, 20 were against District Councillors and the remainder against Parish Councillors. Two complaints were still under investigation, with the number of complaints having remained low and similar to the previous year.

Councillor Tony Linden requested an update on the recruitment and appointment of the Independent Persons for the Advisory Panel. The Monitoring Officer confirmed the appointee details were set out in the amended version of the report. It was noted that the recruitment for the Independent Person for audit was still ongoing.

Councillor Linden then highlighted the importance of Members adhering to the Code of Conduct.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

11. **Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham (C4216)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 12) which set out the requirements and procedure to undertake a community governance review (CGR) of the Greenham Parish (consisting of Common Ward and Sandleford Ward), following a formal request from Greenham Parish Council and in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated government guidance. An amended version of the report and Appendix B had been circulated on 5 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Tony Vickers:

"That the Council:

- (1) proceeds with a CGR of the parish of Greenham, in accordance with the requirements of the 2007 Act and associated guidance, as described in the report.
- (2) approves the terms of reference in respect of the community governance review, including the proposed timetable, as set out in Appendix B to the report.
- (3) delegates authority to the Governance and Ethics Committee to consider and approve draft proposals following initial consultation.
- (4) delegates authority to the Service Lead – Legal & Democratic Services to approve minor amendments and/or typographical amendments pertaining to the final recommendations prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission, save for the power to make substantive amendments which is delegated to the Governance and Ethics Committee.
- (5) delegates authority to the Service Lead - Legal & Democratic Services to exercise powers under the 2007 Act in relation to the CGR.

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Councillor Woollaston in introducing the report referred to previous expectations that Sandleford would be developed by 2023. This had resulted in Councillor Tony Vickers being elected as a Ward Member for Sandleford by default given there were only six electors at the time and he was unopposed. Councillor Woollaston believed the proposals in the report would have cross party support, whilst noting that the recent appeal decision to grant planning consent for Sandleford could result in this decision being revisited for either the 2027 or 2031 local elections.

Councillor Vickers added further to this by noting that the issue began with the allocation of Newbury Racecourse and Sandleford as strategic housing sites in the 2012 Local Plan. Councillor Vickers highlighted that around 90% of the 1,500 new homes at Newbury Racecourse were in Greenham and already had a separate Polling District. It was his understanding that it was a simple matter to transform a Polling District to a Parish Ward and that it would be uncontroversial given that around 2,000 voters would live there by May 2023 (one third of the total number of voters in Greenham).

Outline consent for two thirds of the expected 1,500 homes in Sandleford had been granted only the week prior to this Council meeting, and Councillor Vickers confirmed that half of these would be in Newbury. He had first raised the matter of the impact on Parish boundaries in 2012 with the (then) Chairman of Greenham Parish Council, and they had agreed that Sandleford needed to be under a single local council to ensure a cohesive community. Councillor Vickers spoke to officers regarding the possibility of a CGR at that time, but a request to review the District Ward boundaries as a result of the increase to Greenham's population was not submitted until 2015.

Councillor Vickers advised that Parish electoral arrangements could not be adjusted until the district review had been completed. Weeks before the Boundary Commission finalised their proposals in December 2017 the planners had been insistent that Sandleford could deliver 500 homes by 2023. This had resulted in the allocation of five Parish Councillors to the Greenham part of the Newbury Wash Common District Ward early in 2018 but no candidates were put forward for those positions in the local elections in 2019.

Councillor Vickers argued that, without this Motion, the same situation would occur in 2023 (and possibly in 2027) as he found it unlikely that enough new homes would be built in the Greenham part of the development until after that time. He noted that other developments could come forward in the current Sandleford Parish Ward in the meantime and so it should not be removed entirely, but the reallocation of residents to the new Racecourse Ward was a sensible resolution to this matter.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

12. **Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Main Modifications Consultation (C4182)**

Councillor Tony Linden declared an interest in this item by virtue of the casual work he undertakes at Chieveley Service Station. As his interest was personal and not a prejudicial or a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Claire Rowles declared an interest in this item by virtue of living alongside the River Lambourn. As her interest was personal and not a prejudicial or a disclosable

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pecuniary interest, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 13) which set out how, following the submission of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) for Independent Examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in July 2021, and the subsequent examination Hearing Sessions in February 2022, the Inspector had, at the request of the Council, recommended a number of Main Modifications to the plan in order for it to be found sound. The report also presented the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the MWLP and supporting documentation and outlined recent advice from Natural England affecting the MWLP examination. The report also sought approval for the Main Modifications and supporting documents to be subject to public consultation, prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the MWLP can be adopted.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Richard Somner and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

“That the Council:

- (1) grants delegated authority to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) to:
 - (i) Agree any necessary amendments to supporting documentation for consultation and any other typographical, presentational, and consequential wording changes to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to publication, in consultation with the Portfolio member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.
 - (ii) Publish the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting documents for a six week period in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
 - (iii) Following public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications, consider and summarise the responses received and forward to the Inspector for consideration.
- (2) agrees that, following the receipt of a favourable report from the Inspector recommending adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the Plan be brought back to full Council for adoption.”

Councillor Somner began his presentation by thanking the officers involved for the considerable amount of time and work that had gone in to creating the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The Plan would provide the planning framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire; set out the long term vision for minerals and waste development to 2037, and; set out the policy context for assessing planning applications for minerals and waste development in the district. Councillor Somner confirmed that the Plan would replace all previous policies.

Following the submission of the Plan for independent examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations, and the subsequent examination hearing sessions in February 2022, the Inspector had, at the request of the Council, recommended a number of Main Modifications to the Plan in order for it to be found appropriate.

Councillor Somner set out how the purpose of this report was to agree the present schedule of proposed Main Modifications to the Plan and supporting documentation, and to outline very recent advice from Natural England affecting the Plans examination. Approval was sought from Council for the Main Modifications and supporting documents

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to be subject to public consultation prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the Plan could be adopted.

Councillor Alan Macro indicated his Group would be supporting this Motion and added his thanks to officers for their work on this.

Councillor Hilary Cole advised that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan was vital to ensure the Council had a sound approach and she hoped the proposed Main Modifications would, following consultation, allow the Inspector to recommend it for adoption. Councillor Cole expressed her personal disappointment at the manner in which the recent advice from Natural England regarding projects and plans affecting protected sites was delivered with no prior notification or consultation. This had resulted in additional detailed work being required of officers and was not the way she expected a quango to communicate with partner agencies.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

13. **Member Development Programme 2022/2023 (C4212)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) setting out the proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/23 which had been considered and endorsed by the Member Development Group on 7 April 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Clive Hooker:

“That the Council considers the proposed draft Member Development Programme and ensuing resource implications and approves the Programme for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.”

Councillor Woollaston introduced the annual report recommending the Member Development Programme. He confirmed it had been developed by officers in conjunction with representatives from all three political parties. Councillor Woollaston believed it was incumbent on Members to ensure they were kept abreast of developments and of the Council's business. The report proposed a total budget of £5k for member training and he invited Council to approve the Programme.

Councillor Hooker noted that the cross party Member Development Group met twice a year and held rigorous discussions to formulate a balanced training programme for all Members. He believed the draft Programme was broad and educational and invited Council to approve it.

Councillor Lee Dillon highlighted that members could receive training in their employment which replicated the training on offer to them as Councillors. He suggested this could be logged with those Councillors being released from the requirement to attend Council-provided sessions.

14. **Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Licensing Committee had not met.

15. **Personnel Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Personnel Committee had not met.

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16. Governance and Ethics Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had met on 25 April 2022.

17. District Planning Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the District Planning Committee had met on 13 April 2022.

18. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 22 March 2022.

19. Health Scrutiny Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Health Scrutiny Committee had met on 5 April 2022.

20. Health and Wellbeing Board

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board had not met.

21. Joint Public Protection Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had not met.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

Council – 19 July 2022

Item 4 – Declarations of Interest

Verbal Item

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Council – 19 July 2022

Item 5 – Petitions

Verbal Item

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Item 6:

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 19 July 2022.

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

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport by John Bibbings:

"At the next Full Council meeting, I would like to understand the logic of making major road changes for a 300 yard cycle lane, on the A4 between the Co-Op and Waitrose. The cost must have been triple that of extending the existing pathway and any excess could have been used to fill pot-holes. The project looks OTT for such a short cycle way. Poor value especially as a similar cycle path has been made on the opposite side of the road. At least the cheaper cycle path, links up with other cycle paths whereas the very expensive cycle lane disappears after Sandilands school. All the lane has achieved is 1. Expense 2. Narrowing of the traffic lane. 3 Making it more hazards for cyclist to use the roadway! This is at the expense of the numbers game to be able to show X number of cycle paths have been provided"

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships by Paul Morgan:

"Can the Council please share with us the reason, justification, business case and financial sign off associated with the massive increase in spend on "Agency & Temporary Staff" that since January 2022 is now averaging at just under £1 Million per month. Thank-you"

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Lee McDougall:

"Why does the Council believe "it would not be appropriate to fund the infrastructure and booking system necessary for the re- introduction of organised children's football" at Faraday Road, when the investment required would be under £10k for goals and a portaloo and allow organised children's football to be played for several years?"

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:

"At the recent public webinar on Manor Park, it was stated there has been significant growth in football teams (from 344 to 382), with 59 teams having to play outside the West Berks District. All this since this council unnecessarily closed Faraday Road football ground in 2018. Yet the council is planning to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to put a football pitch on Manor park field which will provide only 6 hours of organised sport per week. There are already plans approved to redevelop the Faraday Road Stadium with a 3G pitch at a cost to the council of around £600,000 that could provide over 50 hrs/week. Why does this council refuse to take the option that is obvious to everyone but itself and redevelop the Faraday Road Football Stadium and give the town the first class facility it deserves as part of your revised LRIE regeneration plans?"

Item 6:

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 19 July 2022.

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

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Paul Morgan:

“Considering the recently published London Road Industrial Estate Project Refresh report will the Council now review its decision to spend a huge amount of taxpayer’s money (upfront and ongoing) on building one small 3G facility at the rugby club, which the Council is now understood to be saying is not a replacement for the Faraday Road Stadium?”

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:

“In his recent letter to the NWN, council member Jeff Brooks, finance spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, demonstrated that the council could save AT LEAST £9.4 MILLION if it redeveloped the Faraday Road stadium rather than build the small stadium out of town at Monks Lane. In these straightened times when everyone is being advised to tighten their belts does the council insist on wasting public money on this expensive folly?”

❑ Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development by Vaughan Miller:

“In a time when every family and business are making choices to get more value from the money they spend, does the council insist on spending around £4 to 5 Million on building one small stadium at the rugby club, when it could build a 3G pitch at the rugby club AND a BETTER stadium at Faraday Road for around £2 to £2.5 Million?”

Council – 19 July 2022

Item 7 – Membership of Committees

Verbal Item

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Council – 19 July 2022

Item 8 – Licensing Committee

Item 9 – Personnel Committee

Item 10 – Governance and Ethics Committee

Item 11 – District Planning Committee

**Item 12 – Overview and Scrutiny
Management Commission**

Item 13 – Health Scrutiny Committee

Item 14 – Health and Wellbeing Board

Item 15 – Joint Public Protection Committee

Verbal Items

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Annual Report – Governance and Ethics Committee

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	19 July 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Howard Woollaston
Report Author:	Joseph Holmes
Forward Plan Ref:	C4152

1 Purpose of the Report

This report is an annual summary of the activities of the Governance & Ethics Committee for 2021-22 (excluding the April 2022 Governance & Ethics Committee meeting). The report is intended for Full Council to provide a summary of key areas that the Committee has considered during the Municipal Year 2021-22 as well as some of the actions and changes that have occurred due to the Committee's activities.

2 Recommendations

To note the contents of the report.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	None
Human Resource:	None
Legal:	None
Risk Management:	Included within the activity of the Governance & Ethics Committee
Property:	None

Policy:	This report supports the overall CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		None required – this is a summary report of other reports which will have had EIAs considered as part of their reports to the Committee.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		See above
Environmental Impact:		X		None
Health Impact:		X		None
ICT Impact:		X		None
Digital Services Impact:		X		None
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		None
Core Business:	X			New report highlighting the work of the committee and its contribution to good governance.

Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	Officers of the Finance And Governance Group Corporate Board			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report is an annual summary of the activities of the Governance & Ethics Committee for 2021-22 (excluding the April 2022 Governance & Ethics Committee meeting). The report is intended for Full Council to provide a summary of key areas that the Committee has considered during the Municipal Year 2021-22 as well as some of the actions and changes that have occurred due to the Committee’s activities.
- 4.2 As well as the summary included in the supporting information below, the Committee also has oversight of Standards issues and this report needs to be read in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer’s report for 2021-22.
- 4.3 The Committee also approved that an independent person becomes a member of the committee (with no voting rights) to support and advise the committee as a non-Council member. Recruitment had commenced at the time of writing this report.
- 4.4 Members also had training on key areas of the remit of the Committee during the Municipal Year.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

The summary below highlights the key items that have come to the Committee over the previous year and what action was taken as a result of these. The summary is of the themes and individual reports highlighted alongside commentary on the action taken.

Summary table

Theme	Summary of reports	Actions
Internal Audit	Regular update reports provided for the committee to highlight progress during the 2021-22 financial year. Progress overall has highlighted relatively high numbers of positive reports	The committee commented upon and noted the reports.

Theme	Summary of reports	Actions
Financial statements	Draft financial statements highlight report, going concern and Annual Governance Statement all presented for approval in line with statutory deadlines.	Approved for external audit review.
External Audit	<p>Appointment process for External Audit to be undertaken via the PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments)</p> <p>Audit Plan for 2020-21 provided after the commencement of the 2020-21 external audit, the external audit report for 2020-21 remains outstanding. WBC provided financial statements for audit within statutory timeframes.</p>	<p>Approved and recommended to Full Council (where decision was approved)</p> <p>Audit plan approved</p>
Treasury Management	Mid-year report taken to Jan. 22 meeting; first item on this area since the inclusion of Treasury Management within the G&E committee remit.	Report noted
Constitution Review	<p>Updates to the budget discussion and a separate March Full Council meeting</p> <p>Delegations to the licensing Committee</p>	<p>Approved and recommended to Full Council (where decision was approved)</p> <p>Approved to move to the licensing committee</p>
Risk Management	<p>Q2 Risk management report considered (in part II) by the committee</p> <p>Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2024 (including Risk Appetite and risk management objectives) considered by the committee</p>	<p>Report noted by the committee.</p> <p>The Governance and Ethic Committee endorsed the Risk Management Strategy and the associated risk appetite</p>

Theme	Summary of reports	Actions
Member access request	Specific request for information – report highlighted request for information and this comes to the G&E committee as part of the Council's constitution	Referred to Full Council (17.3.22)

6 Other options considered

There is the option to have no annual report of the work of the Governance and Ethics Committee though this has been rejected on the basis that it is important there is a summary of the Committee's work during the year.

7 Conclusion

The Committee have considered a variety of reports as well as approving reports for Full Council to consider.

8 Appendices

None.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All

Officer details:

Name: Joseph Holmes
 Job Title: Executive Director (Resources)

Tel No: 01635 503540
E-mail: Joseph.holmes1@westberks.gov.uk

Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	19 July 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Graham Bridgman
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	Sent 1 July 2022
Report Author:	Gordon Oliver
Forward Plan Ref:	C4246

1 Purpose of the Report

To consider the motion originally submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022 following discussion on the matter at the Health Scrutiny Committee on 23 May 2022. The Motion:

“Council notes that:

- *The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has been consulting on various options to re-develop the hospital. Several options involve various levels of redevelopment of the existing site and one option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.*
- *The existing site is very cramped and contains a mixture of new, old and very old buildings, some of which are pre-fabricated. Many have very poor insulation leading to uncomfortable conditions for patients in hot or cold weather and also to poor energy efficiency.*
- *Re-development of the existing site is difficult because of its cramped and dense layout.*
- *It is very difficult for residents of some parts of West Berkshire to reach the hospital using public transport.*
- *Car parking in and around the hospital is restricted and expensive.*
- *It can be time consuming to travel to the hospital by any means, including ambulance, at peak times.*

Council therefore resolves that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site that is readily accessed by West Berkshire residents by both private and public transport, and that this preference be conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust.”

2 Recommendation

Following consideration at Health Scrutiny Committee, it is recommended that Council approves the motion.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
Financial:	There are no financial implications associated with this report.			
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications associated with this report.			
Legal:	The recommendation is consistent with relevant legislation including The Health and Care Act 2012 and The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013			
Risk Management:	There are no additional risks associated with this report.			
Property:	There are no property implications arising from this report.			
Policy:	The recommendation will support the Council Strategy priority 'Support everyone to reach their full potential' and in particular 'Improve the health and wellbeing of our residents'.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		There are no impacts for people with protected characteristics arising directly from this report.
Environmental Impact:		X		There are no environmental impacts arising directly from this report.
Health Impact:	X			The recommendation will help to help to ensure that the needs of West Berkshire residents are considered when the options for the redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital are developed and assessed.
ICT Impact:		X		There are no ICT impacts arising directly from this report.
Digital Services Impact:		X		There are no Digital Services impacts arising directly from this report.
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The recommendation will support the priority 'Support everyone to reach their full potential' and in particular 'Improve the health and wellbeing of our residents'.
Core Business:	X			The recommendation supports the following core business areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the wellbeing of older people and vulnerable adults
Data Impact:		X		Not applicable
Consultation and Engagement:				

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Councillor Alan Macro tabled a motion to Council on 17 March 2022, which proposed that Council should resolve that its preferred option was the building of a new hospital on a new site. Council resolved to refer the matter to the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 The report to the Health Scrutiny Committee proposed that the motion be rejected on the basis that where a responsible person consults more than one local authority, those local authorities have a statutory duty under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of the consultation, and only that joint overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) may (so far as those local authorities are concerned):
- make comments on the proposal consulted on;
 - require the provision of information about the proposal; or
 - require a member or employee of a responsible person to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.

(The redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital would affect patient flows from several different local authorities and so the above duty would apply.)

- 4.3 However, the Health Scrutiny Committee rejected the officers' recommendation on the basis that the process was only at the Strategic Outline Business Case stage and a JHOSC had not yet been formed, so the Council was free to indicate an opinion on the proposals as they stand at this stage in the process. The Committee therefore resolved to refer the matter back to Council and to recommend that the motion be approved, with the acknowledgement that this would be dependent on funding and the proposal delivering the appropriate value for money.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 On 17 March 2022, Councillor Alan Macro tabled a motion to Council, which highlighted that the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust had consulted on various options to re-develop its main hospital site. Options set out in the Strategic Outline Business Case included various levels of redevelopment of the existing hospital site in central Reading, with the final option being the building of a new hospital on a new site.
- 5.2 Councillor Macro highlighted a number of weaknesses with the existing hospital, including: the cramped nature of the site; a mix of older and prefabricated buildings with poor insulation; a lack of parking; difficulties residents face when travelling to the hospital; and challenges facing ambulances in getting to the site due to traffic conditions. The motion proposed that Council should resolve that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.

Background

- 5.3 The Department of Health & Social Care set out in its Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP), funding for 40 new hospital building projects over the next 10 years. The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust was chosen as one of the NHS Trusts to receive seed funding to prepare a Strategic Outline Case for the future development of a new hospital. This could be a completely new hospital, or a combination of new building and refurbishment. It could be on the present hospital site in Reading or on a new site elsewhere.
- 5.4 The Strategic Outline Business case identified four options as main redevelopment possibilities along with two further scenarios – the so-called ‘Do Nothing’ and ‘Do Minimum’ options – which were included simply as baseline options against which the other options could be compared. Three of the four core options involved various levels of redevelopment of the existing hospital site, while the final option involved building a completely new hospital on a greenfield site, which has not yet been identified.
- 5.5 The Trust is now seeking permission from the Department of Health and Social Care, and HM Treasury, to proceed to conduct further work on three options – two of which would involve redevelopment of the existing site and the new-build option on a Greenfield site. This will involve development of a more detailed Outline Business Case.
- 5.6 It is understood that the HIP programme is currently on hold pending the outcome of discussions between the NHS and the Treasury over funding. However, the Trust is continuing with its programme of public engagement pending an announcement from Government.

Legislation

- 5.7 The role of the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) is to undertake scrutiny of the planning, development and operation of Public Health and NHS services for citizens of West Berkshire, in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
- 5.8 Its functions include considering and responding to consultations by relevant NHS bodies or health service providers, on proposals that both parties agree constitute a substantial development or substantial variation in the provision of health services for citizens of West Berkshire.
- 5.9 The legislation stipulates that where a ‘responsible person’ (i.e. a body involved in the commissioning or provision of health services) consults more than one local authority, those local authorities have a statutory duty to appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) for the purposes of the consultation, and only that JHOSC may (so far as those local authorities are concerned):
- (a) make comments on the proposal consulted on;
 - (b) require the provision of information about the proposal; or
 - (c) require a member or employee of a responsible person to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.

Motion on Royal Berkshire Hospital Redevelopment

5.10 The redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital would affect patient flows from several different local authorities and so the above duty would apply. The health body must call for JHOSC to be set up once a preferred option has been identified. This would happen once the Outline Business has been completed, which is the next stage of the process.

5.11 Until the point at which a preferred option has been identified and / or a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been established, individual local authorities are free to comment on options.

Proposals

5.12 The Health Scrutiny Committee proposes that the motion as originally put by Councillor Macro be approved:

“Council notes that:

- The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has been consulting on various options to re-develop the hospital. Several options involve various levels of redevelopment of the existing site and one option is the building of a new hospital on a new site.*
- The existing site is very cramped and contains a mixture of new, old and very old buildings, some of which are pre-fabricated. Many have very poor insulation leading to uncomfortable conditions for patients in hot or cold weather and also to poor energy efficiency.*
- Re-development of the existing site is difficult because of its cramped and dense layout.*
- It is very difficult for residents of some parts of West Berkshire to reach the hospital using public transport.*
- Car parking in and around the hospital is restricted and expensive.*
- It can be time consuming to travel to the hospital by any means, including ambulance, at peak times.*

Council therefore resolves that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site that is readily accessed by West Berkshire residents by both private and public transport, and that this preference be conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust.”

5.13 It should be noted that the recommendation does not specify a preferred site. Also, the Health Scrutiny Committee noted that redevelopment on a new site would be likely to be more costly to deliver and would therefore be reliant on funding availability and the proposal meeting the necessary value for money requirements.

6 Other options considered

6.1 Council could resolve to reject the motion and to refrain from setting out a preferred position on the Royal Berkshire Hospital at this stage.

6.2 Council also has the option to amend the recommendation as Members see fit.

7 Conclusion

The recommendation would be compliant with relevant legislation and would set out the Council's preferred position for a new hospital to be constructed on a new site (to be determined) rather than redeveloping the existing site in Central Reading.

8 Appendices

None

Background Papers:

- Council Minutes (17 March 2023)
- Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes (23 May 2022)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wards affected: All

Officer details:

Name: Gordon Oliver
Job Title: Principal Policy Officer
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Item 18:

Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022

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

Fair Taxation

This Council notes that:

- 1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.*
- 2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that corporate tax avoidance is the number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.*
- 3. Two thirds of people believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company's ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.*
- 4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.*
- 5. It has been estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK £17bn a year in lost corporation tax revenues.*
- 6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.*

Council believes that:

- 1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.*
- 2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.*
- 3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.*
- 4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.*
- 5. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.*
- 6. Local authorities can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct, doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.*

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Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022

Council therefore resolves to:

1. *Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.*
2. *Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.*
3. *Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.*
4. *Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.*
5. *Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.*
6. *Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.*
7. *Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.*
8. *Support Fair Tax Week events in this area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.*
9. *Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.*

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

Government proposal on asylum seekers to Rwanda

“This Council is concerned that the Government plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda.”

Council notes:

West Berkshire has a creditable record when it comes to welcoming refugees from across the globe – from as far back as the Ugandan expulsions and families fleeing the Balkan conflict, as well as Syrians, Hong Kong residents and Afghan nationals in recent years.

The outpouring of support and compassion from the people of West Berkshire for individuals and families displaced by the war in Ukraine.

West Berkshire draws huge strength from the contribution of migrants and refugees who make the district their home. This council works with the migrant and refugee support networks and other partners in the sector and should be proud of what is being done.

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The main concerns are:

People who cross the Channel seeking refuge and asylum will be taken to an RAF base in Yorkshire before being sent 4,500 miles away to Rwanda for "processing"; and

Offshoring asylum processing for those who have fled war, violence, famine and persecution is inhumane and cruel. This plan violates the principle of the UN Refugee Convention, of which the UK was a founding signatory, which states that we must "grant people a fair hearing on UK soil".

Council therefore resolves:

To write to the Government to request an end to the proposed offshoring of people seeking refuge and to demand an end to the deal with Rwanda.

To offer support where we can to ensure that all refugees are treated with dignity and given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the economy and cultural life of West Berkshire.

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Item 19:

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 19 July 2022.

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 Adult Social Care submitted by Councillor Alan Macro:**

"Has the Council received any proposals from anyone to keep Notrees care home open?"

(b) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs:**

"Given the concerns of residents that verges are overgrown, will the Portfolio Holder please demonstrate that the correct balance between encouraging biodiversity and ensuring the safety of pedestrians and road-users is being achieved?"

(c) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside submitted by Councillor Martha Vickers:**

"Can you explain why planned roadworks on a busy main road involving a 15km diversion with inadequate and confusing signage, such as happened recently on the A4 in Speen, has to be done during the day and without consulting all affected ward councillors and parish councils, whose local knowledge and social media networks can minimise the chaos and inconvenience that results if given sufficient time to broadcast the work?"

(d) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships submitted by Councillor Steve Masters:**

"Some 18 months on from the executive approving it (11th February 2021), what progress has been made with the restructure in (what was called) strategic support?"

(e) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture submitted by Councillor Claire Rowles :**

"Please could the Portfolio Holder for Leisure tell me when the Sports Hub is expected to be delivered and what implication the delay due to the Judicial Review has?"

(f) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care submitted by Councillor Alan Macro :**

"Why did the Council's consultation hub not allow some people to respond to the consultation on the proposed closure of the Notrees care home?"

(g) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships submitted by Councillor Steve Masters:**

"What progress has been made in hiring a legal professional to the post of information governance solicitor?"

Item 19:

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 19 July 2022.

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

(h) Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships submitted by Councillor Steve Masters:

“Inefficient working practices in Information governance were offered as part of the rationale for the reorganisation of the workload and the redundancy of two members of staff; how many FOIs and SARs were received by the council in the last year, and has their response time, number of requests for review, and number of breaches and complaints improved as a result of the changes?”