

Individual Executive Member Decision

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| Title of Report: | West Berkshire Council Forward Plan - 2 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 |
| Report to be considered by: | Individual Executive Member Decision |
| Date on which Decision is to be taken: | 30 July 2015 |
| Forward Plan Ref: | ID2937 |

Purpose of Report: To advise Members and residents of items to be considered by West Berkshire Council over the next four months.

Recommended Action: That the Leader of the Council agrees and where appropriate amends the West Berkshire Council Forward Plan.

Reason for decision to be taken: It is a statutory requirement that a Forward Plan be produced.

Other options considered: Not applicable.

Key background documentation: None

Published Works: None

| Portfolio Member Details | |
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| Name & Telephone No.: | Councillor Gordon Lundie – Tel (01488) 73350 |
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| Contact Officer Details | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Name: | Moira Fraser |
| Job Title: | Democratic Services Manager |
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Implications

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| Policy: | The Forward Plan details the Policies to be adopted by West Berkshire Council. |
| Financial: | The Forward Plan has no financial implications. |
| Personnel: | The Forward Plan has no personnel implications. |
| Legal/Procurement: | The Forward Plan has no legal or procurement implications. |
| Environmental: | The Forward Plan has no environmental implications. |
| Property: | The Forward Plan has no property implications. |
| Risk Management: | The Forward Plan has no risk management implications. |

| Is this item relevant to equality? | Please tick relevant boxes | Yes | No |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and: | | | |
| • Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality) | | | |
| Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not relevant to equality | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Consultation Responses

Members:

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| Leader of Council: | Councillor Gordon Lundie |
| Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: | Councillor Emma Webster at Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Meetings |
| Ward Members: | All Members. |
| Opposition Spokesperson: | Councillor Alan Macro at Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Meetings. |
| Local Stakeholders: | The West Berkshire Forward Plan will be published the first working day after the Individual Decision is signed. |
| Officers Consulted: | Nick Carter, John Ashworth, Rachael Wardell, Heads of Service, Group Executive. |
| Trade Union: | Not sought. |

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| Is this item subject to call-in? | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:</p> <p>The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Item is Urgent Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Report is to note only <input type="checkbox"/></p> | | |

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire Council's Forward Plan, which is published monthly, sets out the key decisions that the Executive (either collectively or by Individual Executive Members) are expected to take over the next four months.
- 1.2 Key decisions are defined by the Government (Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2001) as:
 - (1) Those which result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Local Authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision is related.
 - (2) Those which are significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the Local Authority.
- 1.3 The introduction of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 in September 2012 included a requirement to publish 28 clear days' notice of any intended key decision. It should be noted that "clear days" means working days, from midnight to midnight, and excludes weekends and public holidays, so 28 clear days equates to around 5½ normal weeks.
- 1.4 On occasions, however, situations may arise where an urgent decision needs to be made in respect of an item that does not appear on the Forward Plan. There are two different ways in which this can be done:
 - (i) the authority can take an urgent key decision without giving 28 days' notice where it is impracticable to give the full notice, provided that the authority gives at least five days' clear notice to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission, which can then call in the decision to check that it was genuinely urgent; or
 - (ii) where a key decision is so urgent there is not even time to give five clear days' notice, the authority can take the decision if the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has agreed that the key decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.
- 1.5 In addition The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 have introduced an entirely new requirement for the Council to publish 28 clear days' notice of the intention to hold a private meeting (or part of a meeting) of the Executive. This 28 day notice must be reinforced by a five day notice which sets out the reasons for the meeting to be held in private, details of any propositions received as to why the meeting should be open, and the Council's response. The response will be provided by the Monitoring Officer. The regulations again provide for an urgency procedure, under which the Council can decide the matter with shorter than 28 or five days' notice, provided that it has first obtained the consent of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.

- 1.6 There are currently no confidential items scheduled for the 3 September 2015 Executive meeting.
- 1.7 There is one confidential item scheduled for an Individual Executive Member Decision in September 2015:
- ID3037 - Allocation of S106 Developers Contributions to deliver extra care housing at Redwood Court, Hungerford. (*Part II - Paragraph 3 - information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person*)
- 1.8 The following items have been added to the Forward Plan as an Individual Decision for September 2015, since it was last published:
- ID2970 – Mill Lane and Boundary Road, Newbury – Proposed 20mph Speed Limit (item delayed from July 2015).
 - ID3025 - Appointment of Representatives on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
 - ID3027 - Refresh of West Berkshire Council Equality Policy
- 1.9 Details of decisions that Full Council, the Governance and Audit Committee, Standards Committee and the Personnel Committee are going to take are also included for ease of reference. It should, however, be noted that the new requirements only apply to Executive meetings.
- 1.10 Publication of the Forward Plan remains a statutory requirement of the Local Authority. The Forward Plan, any General Exception Decisions Notices and Notices of Private Decisions have to be available for inspection and also has to be published on the Council's website.

Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire Council Forward Plan – 2 September 2015 to 31 December 2015

Appendix B – Notice of Private Decisions for Individual Decision in September 2015

West Berkshire Council Forward Plan

