

# Supplemental Items for Council

**Thursday 18 July 2024 at 7.00pm**  
in the Council Chamber Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury

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*Sarah Clarke.*

Sarah Clarke

Service Director (Strategy & Governance)

For further information about these items, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager) on 01635 519462

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Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



**Supplemental Items**  
**Council to be held on Thursday, 18 July 2024** *(continued)*

West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Sadie Owen on telephone (01635) 519052.

## Agenda Item 6

### Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 18 July 2024.

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

- (A) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside submitted by William Richardson:**

*“Noting the decision to fell the poplar trees located along Racecourse Road on Stroud Green in Newbury, can I request confirmation of what assessments have been made to lead to felling the trees as a preferred option and how the decision was reached to fell all of the trees, rather than maintenance of those where public safety presents an intolerable risk?”*

- (C) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Simon Pike:**

*“The Statement of Common Ground between West Berkshire Council and the North East Thatcham Partnership, prepared in response to Action Point 26 of the draft Local Plan Examination, describes three options for the development of a masterplan and submission of planning applications. For each of these options, at which stage(s) would there be opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to comment on the proposals, who would conduct the consultation process and what form would it take, and how would the Council ensure that due regard is given to the responses in the development of the masterplan and detailed plans for any development?”*

- (B) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside submitted by William Richardson:**

*“Whilst public safety concerns are obviously acknowledged please can it be confirmed that the felling of these trees (as opposed to maintenance and selective tree surgery) has been chosen as a course of action based on ecological, environmental and amenity provisions, rather than concerns of budget or practicality?”*

- (D) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services submitted by Simon Pike:**

*“How many children resident within the catchment areas of Kennet School and Trinity School started (or will start) Year 1 of primary education for each of the years 2020-2024, and how many children does the Council predict will start secondary education at each of these schools for each of the years 2026-2030?”*

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## Agenda Item 22

### Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 18 July 2024.

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

**(A) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources submitted by Councillor Howard Woollaston:**

*"I asked at the last Executive why the Council borrowed £25 million from the PWLB*

*With inflation down to 2% and the indication of three ¼% cuts in Bank interest rates in the rest of 2024 what was the need to borrow so much at what is likely to be the highest PWLB borrowing rates , albeit thankfully for only 18 months- it is still costing millions at a time of council budget stresses. The Portfolio Holder was not present, and I received what can only be described as a non – answer which did not address what the money has been spent on. Nor did I Receive a response to my supplementary which this question repeats.*

*For an administration which supposedly prides itself on transparency I am appalled. Please answer the question what has this vast amount of money, costing millions in interest, been spent on?"*

**(B) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Dominic Boeck:**

*"Members are increasingly frustrated by the poor performance of WBC's Planning Department in respect of enforcement issues. In Aldermaston Ward, which I represent, there are several active enforcement cases about which residents and parish councils are very concerned, yet it is near impossible to obtain updates on these cases even after escalation to the highest level.*

*What action will the lead member take to improve significantly the performance of this important service?"*

**(C) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Chris Read:**

*"For each of all the options described in the Statement of Common Ground of the Local Plan, at which stage(s) would elected Members of the Council be asked to formally (i.e. in a meeting open to the public) consider and/or approve the emerging plans for a North East Thatcham development?"*

## Agenda Item 22

### Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 18 July 2024.

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

- (D) Question not related to an item of business to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing submitted by Councillor Chris Read:**

*“In his Action Point 15, the Inspector for the Local Plan examination asked the Council to consider whether the agreed masterplan for a North East Thatcham development should be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). If the draft Local Plan presented to Full Council for adoption does not specify the adoption of an SPD, does national planning legislation and guidance and the Council's Constitution allow the elected Members to amend the Local Plan to specify the adoption of an SPD for the North East Thatcham development?”*