

# Supplemental Item for Budget Council

**Thursday 26 February 2026 at 5.30 pm**  
in Council Chamber Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury

## Part I

Page No.

3. **Public Questions** 3 - 4  
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](#).



Sarah Clarke

Executive Director - Resources

For further information about this/these item(s), or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager) on (+44)1635519462

e-mail: [Stephen.Chard@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Chard@westberks.gov.uk)

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

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.



WestBerkshire  
C O U N C I L

This page is intentionally left blank

## Agenda Item 3

### Public Questions to be answered at the Budget Council meeting on 26 February 2026.

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

**(A) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by William Beard:**

*“Can the Council explain how charging 54p per kWh to charge a roadside EV is going to encourage people to have an EV when domestic and commercial rates for electricity are less than half this price.”*

**(B) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paul Morgan:**

*“Question relates to the Investment and Borrowing Strategy:*

*EFS is not a government “bail out” as any capital redirection to revenue has to be funded by the Council itself.*

*It is stated that the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) which is the Authority’s underlying need to borrow is being primarily driven by Exceptional Financial Support (EFS): ?13 million in 2024/25; ?20 million in 2025/26; ?30 million in 2026/27. What it does not show or explain is how and when the loans for EFS, and other short-term borrowing requirements (fixed maturity), is going to repaid and how this will impact CFR (and when). Please can the Council clarify / explain how the short-term borrowing requirements will be repaid (and when).”*

**(C) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paula Saunderson:**

*“MULTI-USE & FOOTBALL PITCH FUNDING - Govn. has recently announced 991 projects across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have been awarded funding through the Multi-Sport Grassroots Facilities Programme in 2025/26, with more beneficiaries to be announced soon, therefore are there any sums within the current year and next years Budgets from this Source of Funding?”*

**(D) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paul Morgan:**

*“Question relating to the Capital Strategy and Supporting Programme:*

*Projects such as the Grazeley Solar Farm, the 3G pitch at Faraday Road are not on the Capital Programme 2026/27. Can the Council please confirm what capital projects / aspirations been cancelled or postponed?”*

## Agenda Item 3

### Public Questions to be answered at the Budget Council meeting on 26 February 2026.

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

**(E) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paula Saunderson:**

*“HOMES ENGLAND FUNDING STREAMS - At the Compton Exhibition I was advised the 14 Streams of Funding are being streamlined into 4, therefore will Our Council be applying for any of these Sources Of Funding, especially schemes delivered by the new National Housing Bank such as the National Housing Delivery Fund and the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (through Partners)? n.b. A short answer is required.”*

**(F) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paul Morgan:**

*“Question relating to the Capital Strategy and Supporting Programme:*

*According to the find a tender service website a contract award notice for the “Design and Construction of 20 MWp Grazeley Solar Farm in West Berkshire” was announced on 19 May 2025. Is there a contractual agreement in place or has / will any contractual agreement be cancelled?”*

**(G) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paula Saunderson:**

*“SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS - There is a small amount in the budget so will this be enough to keep pace with recent legislation on The Polluter Pays, and can any funding be obtained from the £2.4m Nutrient Neutrality Source Of Funding?”*

**(H) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paula Saunderson:**

*“SERVICE LEADS AND SERVICE MANAGERS reporting to SERVICE DIRECTORS (Draft SPP for 2026-2027 refers).*

*How many of each of these Types of Role are being included in the Budgets for 2026-2027?”*