

Supplemental Items for Council

Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7.00pm
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

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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

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Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at

www.westberks.gov.uk



Supplemental Items
Council to be held on Thursday 26 March 2026 *(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.



Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 26 March 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 not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Capital Projects (Built Environment) by Alison May:

“Air and water pollution are inherently transboundary. For example West Berkshire's sewage discharges, permitted or illegal, flow downstream impacting upon communities located within the Kennet Lower Valley area, via the River Kennet's tributaries and onto the River Thames. Our neighbouring local authorities, in particular Reading, continue to be subject forms of pollutants emanating from West Berkshire. Can the council update citizens with previous and future plans of engagement with Reading Borough Council which seek to address air and water pollutions challenges?”

(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Alison May:

“During 2024 West Berkshire Council hosted a meeting to address the challenges and implications associated with sewerage infrastructure, both Thames Water and the Environment Agency were in attendance. Subsequent to this meeting associated challenges continue to persist. Can the Council provide a progress update on plans to convene a public meeting with Thames Water and the Environment Agency?”

(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Alison May:

“Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement as required by law under the Environment Act 2021. Berkshire's LNRS, which includes West Berkshire, was ratified by all Berkshire Councils resulting in the formal publication of Berkshire's LNRS on 7 October 2025. The next phase includes the implementation of the strategy to reconnect habitats and boost biodiversity. Can the Council provide a progress update on next steps?”

(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Corporate Programme by Alison May:

“The Council's Transformation programme is a welcome initiative providing citizens with open and transparent access as the programme progresses through defined project phases.

Can the Council provide details of plans to mitigate against bias when considering the inclusion or exclusion of future transformation projects?”

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Agenda Item 12

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 26 March 2026.

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 submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“How much did the Council spend on the new resident welcome packs bearing his photo and Leader’s message, and what is their purpose?”

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

“When planning officers commission a report for consideration in deciding a planning application, for example a report on traffic impact were a development to proceed, what steps do they take to ensure that it is of sufficient quality and accuracy to inform properly the decision?”

(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“Can the portfolio holder provide an update as to what has gone wrong at Kennet Valley School’s SEND unit as reported in the Newbury Weekly News, and what reassurances can she give to parents who are understandably concerned?”

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