

Supplemental Items for Council

Thursday 16 July 2026 at 7.00pm
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

Part I

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Sarah Clarke.

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



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

Supplemental Items
Council to be held on Thursday 16 July 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 16 July 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 Children and Family Services by Keren Ben-David:

“Given that the Council's current HAF payment structures, specifically the lack of upfront funding and reimbursement delays of up to three months make delivering special needs summer clubs a high financial risk for providers. While families face high out-of-pocket costs and inconsistent respite care. Will the Council, in light of the new commissioning manager coming on board to reform short breaks, commit to replacing these delayed payment terms with a formalised framework that ensures frontline funding is deployed efficiently?”

(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by John Gotelee:

“How much has been spent (including any scheduled work that has not been carried out) on maintenance and repairs to the Faraday Rd rain gardens”

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

“What safeguards does West Berkshire Council use to ensure that Children's Services referrals concerning children missing education are not influenced by active SEND complaints, section 19 requests or Tribunal proceedings, and how does the council audit outcomes where no significant harm is found?”

(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Graeme Sheppard:

“In February I submitted a signed petition asking that the council make its disused site in Newtown Road into a community nature reserve. In June I was informed by email that the petition had been unsuccessful. Despite my many previous attempts to ask for an update, and in clear contravention of the council's constitution, at no point during the intervening period was I informed of what body or persons would consider the petition, I was not told when the meeting to consider it would occur, I was not invited to attend the meeting or provided with an agenda, I was not afforded the 5-minute opportunity to speak and present the petition, nor was I able to answer questions. Nor was the petition entered onto the council website. Given these many failings and clear breaches of its own constitution, will the council rectify the situation by running the petition consideration process over again in order that fairness and local democracy are correctly served?”

Agenda Item 6

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- (E) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Ben Holden-Crowther:**
"The Monitoring Officer's Annual Report (Agenda item 12) mentions a Social Media Protocol as part of the Members Code of Conduct. Are there also policies to ensure that social media content published by officers on behalf of the Council complies with the law?"
- (F) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Paul Morgan:**
"My question relates to Agenda item 15 - 2026-2027 Council Strategy Refresh Why is the Council's "ambition to open a new Community Sports Stadium in Faraday Road in 2027" not included in 2026-2027 Council Strategy Refresh?"
- (G) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Paula Saunderson:**
*"Agenda Item 9 - Updates from Committees B.) Extraordinary Personnel & Standards Cttee
Qu: The Meeting included:
1. the Monitoring Officers Annual Report 2025-2026
2. the Annual Update on HR Activity 2025-2026
However, only Item 1 has come to this Full Council for Consideration so why is this please and does a Years HR Activity have less importance for feedback from All Councillors than the MO Officers Annual Report?"*
- (H) **Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation by John Gotelee:**
"With reference to the LRIE, going forward, do you think it has a future as an industrial estate, or does its future lie in residential housing?"
- (I) **Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Paula Saunderson:**
*"Agenda Item 12. Monitoring Officers Annual Report for 2025-2026
Qu: The Purpose of the Report is to bring to the Attention of Members a Summary of Complaints or other Issues within West Berkshire. Therefore, why does the Report only include Complaints Against Councillors, and it does not include Stage 1 & Stage 2 Complaints against Officers and/or Services?"*

Agenda Item 17

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 16 July 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 Finance and Resources by Councillor David Marsh:

"How many council tax payments must residents miss before they receive a reminder notice, and on what basis might they subsequently be issued with a summons and lose their right to pay by instalments?"

(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

"Can the Leader set out his understanding of the role of opposition councillors in scrutinising Executive business at public meetings, including where questions arise during debate on agenda items?"

(C) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

"Council Strategy 2023-2027:

When this administration achieved control of the Council over 3 years ago there were two fully costed and approved options for a holistic and complete solution for a new 3G pitch and club house . The Monks Lane Sports Hub and the NCFG scheme for Faraday Road . Can the portfolio holder explain why both of these planning consents were allowed to lapse?"

(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

"Can the Leader confirm how the administration recognises the constitutional and democratic role of the Leader of the Opposition in holding the Executive to account?"

(E) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

"Council Strategy 2023-2027:

It is looking likely that approaching £2.5 million will have been or will be spent by this administration on Faraday Road including the 3G pitch. Can the portfolio holder explain why no attempt has been made to get grant assistance?"

(F) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

"Can the Leader set out the principles the administration applies when deciding whether to bring major business to an extraordinary or special meeting rather than an ordinary scheduled meeting?"

Agenda Item 17

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

- (G) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Howard Woollaston:**

"Council Strategy 2023-2027:

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether you have gone out to tender for the 3G pitch element of Faraday Road and if so when will you know the costs?"

- (H) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:**

"Can the Leader confirm what opportunities are available for members of the public to ask questions when major decisions are brought to extraordinary or special meetings, and how the administration ensures that the use of such meetings does not reduce public participation?"

- (I) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Howard Woollaston:**

"Council Strategy 2023-2027:

When will a detailed fully costed report be provided to Council and the public on the further costs of Faraday Road?"

- (J) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:**

"Will the Leader confirm whether a member who has submitted a written question is still entitled to ask a separate question during debate on an agenda item, provided that the question is relevant to the matter under discussion?"

- (K) Question related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Howard Woollaston:**

"Council Strategy 2023-2027:

Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that even if planning permission could be obtained in time to develop the 3G pitch at Faraday Road in the last 10 months of this administration , you will have spent approaching £2.5 million to provide an artificial pitch with floodlights, poor quality stands, with changing rooms and a club room in rented portacabins . Is this good value for the Council Tax paying public of West Berkshire?"

- (L) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:**

"Will the Leader commit that major strategies and financially significant decisions will in future be considered by the relevant scrutiny committee before final Executive approval?"