Supplemental Items for Council

Thursday 15 October 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 items, 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

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.

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Agenda Item 6

Public Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 15 October 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 Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison by Paula Saunderson:***

"The Latest Authority Monitoring Report that appears on the Web Page is for 2023 prepared in November 2024, therefore where is the one for 2024, will one be prepared for 2025 and if so when will these 2 years be visible to the Public, please, bearing in mind these are no longer submitted to Central Government?"

(B) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources by Paul Morgan:***

"In September 2026, the Council borrowed a further £10 million (2 x £5 million) from the Public Works Loan Board with Maturity Dates of 5 April 2028 & 1 June 2028.

Can you please provide a full breakdown of where and how this £10 million will be utilised, for example: capital projects, loan repayment, Capitalisation Directions (EFS), Transformation, other use, etc."

(C) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Chris Giles:***

"Following the fatal crash that occurred on 26th November 2025 between Burghfield Road and the Western Boundary of Reading Borough Council, will the Council urgently review safety measures on the Bath Road between the M4 JUNCTION 12 and Burghfield Road (RBC) including consideration of reduced speed limit to 30 MPH, and enforcing speed limits, improved on and off road signage, and enhanced street lighting! with urgent attention to tree ingress. West Berkshire Council has a major input because of the current boundaries.

In addition, will the Council commit to arranging a urgent multi - agency site meeting with relevant stakeholders to consider pedestrian and cyclist safety, including the use of footpaths, speed management, and signage, particularly in light of the use of cycles, e-bikes and scooters."

(D) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing by Paula Saunderson:***

"WBC Infrastructure Funding Statements (IFS) issued in December each year, do not include details that are held within the CSV Files which show how much each CIL Qualifying Development is contributing and to which individual Projects/Schemes that funding has been allocated down to the last penny. Hence when a price for a schemes is announced it is not possible to see which Approved Planning Applications are contributing? When the next one is prepared will you be making the CSV Information Available?"

Agenda Item 6

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

(E) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Paul Morgan:***

"The Council recently uploaded the Playing Pitch Strategy Delivery Plan (September 2026) that was produced / provided by Stuart Todd Associates (STA). Can you please confirm the costs to the Council for this report."

(F) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Paula Saunderson:***

"Students are seeing submission of new Local Transport Delivery Plans (LTDP) to Cabinet/Executive Committee Meetings elsewhere, as these were due to DfT by 18th September, after Drafts were sought in March 2026, therefore will WBC be preparing a Final LTDP, and how, who and when will this be agreed and publicised?"

(G) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways by Paula Saunderson:***

"Under the Environment Act of 2021 there is a requirement for English Local Authorities to deliver a Biodiversity Report to DEFRA to comply with Biodiversity Duty, with the first Report, for the period ending 1st Jan 2026, due within 12weeks, after which subsequent reports must be published at least every 5 years. Students cannot find the 1st Report on the WBC Web Site, so has it been prepared and when will it be available for study?"

(H) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing by Paula Saunderson:***

"Have we missed out on potential Sources Of Funding for Social and Affordable Housing because we have been unable to react to the Homes England New Way of Working which was Outlined in the December 2025 Berkshire Prosperity Board (BPB), and does the Portfolio Holder think the new Pan-Berkshire Proposal put forward at BPB on 21st September 2026 will mean we can increase our supply of Social Rental Housing within West Berks?"

(I) ***Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of the Council by Paula Saunderson:***

"There are many simple templates with structured heading for the preparation and sign-off of a DELIVERY PLAN within a Business Environment and WBC does not seem to have a discipline around the inclusion of RESOURCES Required to deliver the Plan and/or over what TIMELINES, therefore are there any plans to improve the RESOURCING & TIMELINE COMMITMENTS required to Agree A Delivery Plan, which Outline the Financial Requirements and the Sources of Funding, the Human Resources requirement , and Physical Resources required, and in which timelines? The recently publicised Playing Pitch Strategy delivery Plan is an example with missing Data."

Agenda Item 13

Member Questions to be answered at the Council meeting on 15 October 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 Planning and Housing by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"Government-funded plans for the multi-billion pounds Future Materials Campus (FMC) at AWE's Aldermaston site will see planning applications coming forward soon.

How will the council support and engage constructively with residents, local councils and businesses on this enormous development?"

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

"Does the Executive Member regard borrowing tens of millions of pounds simply to support day-to-day expenditure as a sustainable financial strategy for West Berkshire?"

(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Capital Projects (Built Environment) by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"AWE have compared the scale and complexity of the proposed FMC development with London 2012.

What specific assurance can the lead member give that Council has sufficient planning, emergency planning and other relevant technical resources and expertise to undertake a thorough and independent assessment of the application, including its implications for residential safety, emergency preparedness and amenity within and around the Aldermaston DEPZ?"

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

"How will the lead member assure our community that any significant technical issues and specialist matters identified through the processing of the FMC applications will be subject to appropriate detailed scrutiny, including where necessary through independent expertise?"

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

"What evidence will the Council publish to demonstrate whether its new Planning Enforcement Plan is improving the speed and effectiveness of planning enforcement?"

(F) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"What measures will the Council publish to enable members and residents to judge whether its SEND reforms are improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND?"

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(G) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

"What is the Council doing to ensure that residents of rural communities have equitable access to library services?"