

Notice of Meeting

Executive

Thursday, 21st July, 2011 at 6.30 pm

**in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Market Street, Newbury**

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 13 July 2011

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Stephen Chard / Linda Pye on (01635) 519462 / 519052

e-mail: schard@westberks.gov.uk / lpye@westberks.gov.uk

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

To:	Councillors Pamela Bale, David Betts, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Joe Mooney, Irene Neill and Anthony Stansfeld
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Agenda

Part I

Page(s)

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).
2. **Minutes** 1 - 12
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th June 2011.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members.
4. **Public Questions**
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.
 - (a) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational), ICT and Customer Services:**
"Noting that the priority for highways should be resurfacing and improving accident blackspot areas and at a time when the Lib Dems are calling for more money to be spent in these areas, can the member for highways assure the residents who use Pound Lane bus stop and service 102 that no alterations will be made at the Lower Way / A4 junction that will result in the loss of their bus services?"
 - (b) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Environment, 'Cleaner Greener', Public Protection, Culture and Leisure:**
"With regards to the proposed incinerator at Chieveley, could Cllr Hillary Cole please advise whether AONB designation offers sufficient protection against developments such as the proposed incinerator?"
 - (c) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Finance, Property, Health & Safety:**
"At a time when council employees are losing jobs and services continue to be reduced to meet the challenging funding reductions from central Government, could the member for finance assure taxpayers that no council funds will be allocated to non essential projects such as the Wharf Redevelopment and that such projects must be 100% self funding?"



Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 21 July 2011 (continued)

- (d) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Housing and Economic Development:**
"With electric trains proposed to be introduced between Newbury and Paddington in the coming years and the "Thames Turbo" fleet being removed from the Great Western franchise, what action is the council taking at this point to ensure that regular rail services to and from Kintbury, Hungerford and Bedwyn continue despite the lack of electrification to those stations?"
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- (e) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Strategy, Performance, Community Safety:**
"Throughout the process of the CCTV transfer, I was very clear that I support the aims of saving money and improving the services and I am pleased that the council are achieving these aims despite misguided quotes that the council had wasted money on this project. Could Cllr Stansfeld provide an update as to how many cameras of the 40 that are being retained are now in operation (no locations required) and when the project is expected to be completed?"
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- (f) **Question submitted by Mr. Richard Garvie to the Executive Member for Children and Young People, Youth Service:**
"With two of our schools becoming academies and with others expected to follow later, could the member for education advise as to the extent of financial challenges this will present in terms of reduced education funding to the LA and how much (if any) remaining LA controlled school budgets are expected to fall in the next financial year (by percentage)?"
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- (g) **Question submitted by Mr. Alexander Payton to the Executive Member for Children and Young People, Youth Service:**
"The designated schools for the Newbury Racecourse development are Park House and The Willows - both of them involving either a long and steep climb (relative to other nearby schools) or a car journey through the congested road junctions around Stroud Green or Hambridge Road and A339. How does the Executive Member for Children and Young People reconcile this with the need to encourage sustainable travel, in which the school run plays a key role?"
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- (h) **Question submitted by Mr. Sam Dibas to the Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Housing and Economic Development:**
"In a local radio interview on 9th July, the Executive Member for Planning said, when asked if the decision to include Sandford, as well as Newbury Racecourse, in the Core Strategy as a strategic site was 'difficult' that it was 'complex'. In the light of the Inspector's demand for a single document explaining the reasoning behind this decision, how will the Executive Member now set out what those reasons are in a way that isn't complex and which might reassure residents of South Newbury and Greenham that the local infrastructure is not going to be completely overwhelmed?"
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Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 21 July 2011 (continued)

5. Petitions

Councillors or members of the public may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate Committee without discussion.

Items as timetabled in the Forward Plan

	Page(s)
<hr/> 6. Civil Contingencies Annual Report 2010/11 (EX2058) (CPT:07) Purpose: To update Members about National and Local Civil Contingencies issues over 2010/11.	13 - 34
<hr/> 7. Community Led Planning - Performance Report 2010/11 (EX2126) (CPP: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15 / CPT: 1, 2) Purpose: To report on community led planning within the district for 2010/11 year end.	35 - 48
<hr/> 8. Castle Gate Statement of Purpose (EX2296) (CPP: 1 / CPT: 11, 13, 14) Purpose: To present Members with a copy of Castle Gate's annual revision of its statement of purpose as required by the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.	49 - 60
<hr/> 9. Accessibility Strategy (EX2306) (CPP: 2 / CPT: 9, 10, 11, 12) Purpose: To seek agreement to the draft accessibility strategy.	61 - 114
<hr/> 10. Annual Report of the West Berkshire Adoption Service and the West Berkshire Adoption Service Statement of Purpose (EX2311) (CPP: 2 / CPT: 8, 10, 11, 12, 14) Purpose: To enable Members to approve the operation of the adoption service.	115 - 156
<hr/> 11. Annual Report of the West Berkshire Fostering Service and the West Berkshire Fostering Service Statement of Purpose (EX2312) (CPP: 2 / CPT: 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14) Purpose: Statutory requirement to annually review the fostering statement of purpose and to report on the work of the fostering service.	157 - 186
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12. **Establishment Report for Quarter 4 2010/11 (EX2227)** 187 - 206
(CPT: 14)
Purpose: To note changes to the establishment.
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13. **Members' Question(s)**

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.

- (a) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Housing and Economic Development submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers:**

"In the Inspector's Agenda for the resumed Core Strategy hearing on 30th June, he suggested that all projected B Class (employment) needs can be more than adequately met from within existing employment land through to 2026, mainly because the Council's own estimate of B1 (office) floorspace required has been reduced by a factor of nearly five. Why therefore is the advice from our planning policy officers, for example on the Travis Perkins site in Mill Lane Newbury - already surrounded by housing - to refuse planning applications for predominantly housing on vacant employment land, even when there is as much employment proposed as there was before?"

- (b) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Planning, Transport Policy, Housing and Economic Development submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers:**

"What is the latest figure for the cost to this Council of providing accommodation for homeless people in West Berkshire, including costs that are reimbursed by Government?"

- (c) **Question to be answered by the Leader of the Council submitted by Councillor Julian Swift-Hook:**

"It seems that Liberal Democrats have so far been excluded from membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, despite clear indications before May that this new Board would have representation from both the ruling group and the opposition. Advice from the Department of Health South East Regional Lead for Health and Wellbeing Boards suggests that the broadest possible representation should be included on Health and Wellbeing Boards, including all shades of political opinion, so in light of that advice would the Portfolio Holder for Community Care please comment on how Liberal Democrat representation will be included in future?"



- (d) **Question to be answered by the Executive Member for Community Care, Pensions and Insurance submitted by Councillor Julian Swift-Hook:**
“In the light of the announcement on 11th June that Southern Cross is now to be broken up and will cease to be a care provider, what plans does the Council have for ensuring the continuing care of West Berkshire service users currently resident in Southern Cross homes?”
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Andy Day
Head of Policy and Communication

West Berkshire Council Plan Priorities and Themes

Council Plan Priorities:

CPP1 – Support our communities through the economic recession – to alleviate the impact on different communities and individuals who find themselves out of work and/or disadvantaged

CPP2 – Raise levels of educational achievement – improving school performance levels

CPP3 – Reduce West Berkshire’s carbon footprint – to reduce CO2 emissions in West Berkshire and contribute to waste management, green travel, transportation and energy efficiency

Council Plan Themes:

CPT1 - Better Roads And Transport

CPT2 - Thriving Town Centres

CPT3 - Affordable Housing

CPT4 - High Quality Planning

CPT5 - Cleaner and Greener

CPT6 - Vibrant Villages

CPT7 - Safer and Stronger Communities

CPT8 - A Healthier Life

CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning

CPT10 - Promoting Independence

CPT11 - Protecting Vulnerable People

CPT12 - Including Everyone

CPO13 - Value for Money

CPO14 - Effective People

CPO15 - Putting Customers First

CPO16 - Excellent Performance Management

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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