

# Notice of Meeting

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## Executive

**Thursday, 15th December, 2011 at  
6.00 pm**

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

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 7 December 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

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**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 - 6  
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 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 Leader of the Council**  
"At the last full council meeting, Cllr Virginia Von Celsing asked how many questions I have asked at Council Meetings since December last year. As Cllr Von Celsing has never asked a question before, it was surprising that the number of questions asked by a member of the public was more important than issues that are important to those who elected her to this council. Can the Leader of the council confirm how many other councillors have yet to ask a question at Full Council or Executive relating directly to their own ward in the current council term, and whether he believes these councillors are delivering value for money to the electorate?"
  - (b) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to Leader of the Council**  
"At the time of submitting this question, twelve elected members have an attendance record of less than 70% (including Cllr Von Celsing - 69% and three executive members - Keith Chopping, Joe Mooney and Alan Law). Five elected members have missed half or more of meetings that they were expected to attend, at what point can the electorate demand that they are replaced by people who actually want to represent those wards?"
  - (c) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to Leader of the Council**  
"At present, the council spend well over three quarters of a million pounds on elected members and support staff. The current administration is quick to support cuts to services for the vulnerable, but do we really need 52 elected



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members in light of the fact that most do not ask any questions relating to their wards on a regular basis anyway?"

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(d) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to Leader of the Council**

"Due to the current economic climate, spending cuts have to be made in West Berkshire due to decisions taken by the Coalition Government. This council can not afford not to act to make savings as some are suggesting as the council would likely end up insolvent. For the record, can the leader of the council confirm how much debt the council has at this moment in time, as this time last year it was just shy of £50m?"

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(e) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to Leader of the Council**

"May I thank the leader of the council for listening to concerns relating to the perceived lack of consultation when producing last years budget, and for delivering on his pledge to ensure that service users would be consulted this time around. Can I raise a concern about the fact that most organisations like the Volunteer Centre learned about their proposed budget cuts via the local media and can he address this in future years?"

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(f) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to Leader of the Council**

"With regards to the consultations taking place, all of the publicity delivers those who wish to take part in either one of the consultations to the council plan consultation and I certainly have concerns that even if people do go online to take part, they may be responding to the wrong consultation. Can the council deliver consultation forms for relevant consultations to service users who may be affected by changes to the budget next year, and will the council also ensure that any comments on the council plan consultation are also valid for the relevant consultations to ensure that the voice of anybody who may have responded to the council plan consultation by mistake will still have their voice heard?"

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(g) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Community Safety**

"In an interview with Newbury Sound, the leader of the council highlighted that there will be four million pounds worth of cuts made next year that are currently not being disclosed as it is "inappropriate" to inform the public at this stage. Can the leader of the council confirm that the people who use those services are currently being consulted and can he explain why it is "inappropriate" to tell the public where these spending cuts will be made?"

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(h) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operational), ICT and Customer Services**

"Can the council advise what actions they have taken to try and prevent the removal of the Heavy Rescue Unit from Newbury Fire Station?"

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(i) **Question submitted by Mr Richard Garvie to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operational), ICT and Customer Services**

"Can the council advise how much it spends in total when it comes to funding local bus services?"

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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**

	<b>Page(s)</b>
6. <b>Public Sector Equality Duty (EX2284)</b> (CPP1/CPT12,14,15) Purpose: To provide information on the new Public Sector Equality Duty and to make recommendations on actions to be taken by the Council to ensure compliance with the general and specific public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010.	7 - 24
7. <b>Financial Performance Report (Quarter 2 of 2011/12) (EX2289)</b> (CPT13) Purpose: To inform Members of the Council's latest financial position.	25 - 50
8. <b>Council Taxbase 2012/13 (EX2392)</b> (CPT13) Purpose: To consider the calculation of the Taxbase for 2012/13 and to formally set that Taxbase.	51 - 62
9. <b>Establishment Report Q2 2011/12 (EX2329)</b> (CPT14) Purpose: To note change to the West Berkshire Council Establishment.	63 - 84
10. <b>Environmental Health and Licensing Joint Service Delivery (EX2353)</b> (CPT2,5,7,8,10,11,13,14,15,16) Purpose: To outline the potential of creating a new Environmental Health and Licensing Service with Wokingham Borough Council.	85 - 116
11. <b>West Berkshire/Reading/Wokingham Joint Local Strategic Transport Fund Large Scheme Bid (EX2386)</b> (CPP1:/CPT1,5,8,10,13) Purpose: To inform Members of a joint bid proposal to secure grant funding of up to £2.46 million from the Department for Transport for sustainable non-car transport measures within West Berkshire, and to seek approval for the bid insofar as it relates to West Berkshire.	117 - 146
12. <b>Learning from Complaints - Annual Report on Complaints Activity - Children and Young People (Social Care) 2010-11 (EX2398)</b> (CPT10,11,12,13,14,15,16) Purpose: To inform Members on the complaints activity in this service area during the year 2010-2011.	147 - 180



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13. **Key Accountable Measures and Activities 2011/12: Update on Progress: Q2 Outturns (EX2394)** 181 - 196  
(All CPPs and CPTs)  
Purpose: To report quarter 2 progress against the key accountable measures and activities for West Berkshire Council 2011/12 and to report by exception those measures/ activities not achieved/ expected to be achieved and cite remedial action that is being taken.
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14. **Charging Policy for Bed and Breakfast Temporary Accommodation (EX2383)** 197 - 210  
(CPT3,11,13)  
Purpose: To set out a proposed charging policy for applicants placed in bed and breakfast as temporary accommodation under the Council's homelessness duties.
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15. **Change to the Bedroom Allocation in the Council's Adopted Housing Allocation Policy (EX2384)** 211 - 218  
(CPP1/CPT3,11)  
Purpose: To recommend that the Council's Allocation Policy in respect of bedroom allocations is amended to bring social housing and private rented housing into line, reflecting the proposed changes in Local Housing Allowance and to ensure equity across housing tenures.
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16. **Superfast Broadband for Berkshire (EX2356)** 219 - 228  
(CPP1,2/CPT2,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,15)  
Purpose: To seek approval for the Council being a part of the Superfast Broadband initiative across Berkshire.
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17. **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 Portfolio Holder for Finance submitted by Councillor David Rendel**  
"What is the total cost of relaying the paving around the Council's Market Street Offices, and which budget did this come from?"
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- (b) **Question to be answered by Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Community Safety submitted by Councillor Roger Hunneman**  
"In view of the costs to this Council and the Community in general of the consequences of a major flood affecting Newbury Town Centre and given the almost complete failure of the local business to contribute to the balance of funds needed to ensure the implementation of the Newbury Flood Alleviation Scheme can the Portfolio Holder tell me how the necessary £111,000 will be found to enable this vital scheme to go ahead on schedule?"
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18. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item. [Rule 9.10.4 of the Constitution refers.](#)

## Part II

19. **Superfast Broadband for Berkshire (EX2356)** 229 - 232  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*  
To consider the confidential appendices to this report.
20. **Newbury Racecourse Railway Bridge (EX2397)** 233 - 306  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*  
*(Paragraph 6 – information relating to proposed action to be taken by the Local Authority)*  
(CPT1)  
Purpose: To advise Members of the situation relating to the proposed bridge over the railway at Newbury Racecourse and of the potential liabilities which may arise to the Council.
21. **The Winchcombe School Remodelling Project - Land Sale (EX2399)** 307 - 344  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*  
(CPP2/CPT9,13)  
Purpose: To seek approval for the sale of the surplus land at The Winchcombe School site.
22. **Options for Delivering Private Sector Renewal (EX2351)** 345 - 356  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial/business affairs of a particular person)*  
(CPT3,10,11,13)  
Purpose: To outline the options available to the Council for delivering the home improvement service and the implications this may have for staffing.
23. **Support in Sheltered Accommodation (EX2364)** 357 - 370  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial/business affairs of a particular person)*  
*(Paragraph 6 – information relating to proposed action to be taken by the Local Authority)*  
(CPT7,8,10,11,13)  
Purpose: To consider options for the future of support delivered in sheltered housing schemes.



**Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 15 December 2011 (continued)**

24. **Market Street Redevelopment - Draft Conditional Development Agreement (EX2352)** 371 - 468  
*(Paragraph 4 – information relating to terms proposed in negotiations)*  
(CPP1/CPT2, 3)  
Purpose: To advise and update Members regarding recent progress in connection with the Market Street Development and to seek approval of various agreements which have been in discussion between the parties seeking to bring the scheme forward.
25. **Staffing Implications of the Budget Proposals (EX2357)** 469 - 498  
*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)*  
*(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)*  
(CPT13)  
Purpose: To set out the staffing implications which are likely to result from the setting of the Council's 2012/13 revenue budget and to seek approval to make the redundancy payments associated with the required staffing implications.
26. **Environmental Health and Licensing Joint Service Delivery App B (EX2353)** 499 - 502  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*  
*(Paragraph 5 – information relating to legal privilege)*  
Purpose: To consider the legal advice provided to the Council.

## **Urgent Item not Scheduled on the Forward Plan**

27. **Senior Management Review 2011- Final Proposals** 503 - 586  
*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)*  
*(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)*  
(CPT13)  
Purpose: To set out the final set of proposals in relation to the Council's future senior management structure following internal consultation during the summer of 2011.

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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