

Notice of Meeting

Executive

**Thursday, 28th November, 2013 at
5.00 pm**

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

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 20 November 2013

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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Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at
www.westberks.gov.uk

Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 28 November 2013 (continued)

To:	Councillors Pamela Bale, Dominic Boeck, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Marcus Franks, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Joe Mooney, Irene Neill and Graham Pask
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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 To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 2013.	1 - 8
3. Declarations of Interest To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any Personal, Disclosable Pecuniary or other interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct .	
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. (<i>Note: There were no questions submitted relating to items not included on this Agenda.</i>)	
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)
6. Policy for Supporting Adults with a Learning Disability (EX2740) (CSP: 1 & 8) <i>Purpose: To report on the findings of the consultation on the policy for supporting adults with a learning disability. This policy replaces 'Local Services for Local People' and clarifies how the Council will support adults with a learning disability.</i>	9 - 34
7. Kings Road Link Road, Newbury - Exception to the Contract Rules of Procedure (EX2751) (CSP: 2, 4 & 5)	35 - 44

Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 28 November 2013 (continued)

Purpose: To seek an exception to the Contract Rules of Procedure (11.11) and to enter into an agreement with the developer for the construction of the Kings Road Link Road.

8.	Financial Performance Report - Q2 of 2013/14 (EX2669) (CSP: 6 & 8) <i>Purpose: To inform Members of the latest financial performance of the Council.</i>	45 - 68
9.	City Deal (EX2761) (CSP: 2) <i>Purpose: To inform the Executive of the final City Deal proposal for Berkshire and to advise that this had to be signed off by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder given the timetable laid down by the Cabinet Office.</i>	69 - 96
10.	Members' Questions 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 Portfolio Holder for Community Care and Insurance submitted by Councillor Adrian Edwards <i>"Would you please give an update on the Extra Care Home, Redwood House, in Hungerford"</i>	
	(b) Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport (Operations) Emergency Planning and Newbury Vision submitted by Councillor Roger Hunneman <i>"Can the Portfolio Holder for Highways tell me what is being done to reduce the incidence of irresponsible cycle riding in the Pedestrianised areas of Newbury which causes alarm and danger to users of the area during the hours of pedestrianisation?"</i>	
	(c) Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance, Housing, ICT, and Corporate Support, Legal and Strategic Support submitted by Councillor Roger Hunneman <i>"The Council has a number of major system databases which could connect to each other using property addresses. However with the exception of UNIFORM, many of the other systems are unable to pass information between each other or only to a very limited extent. Indeed out of 19 systems only 6 are fully integrated with a further 6 very partially so. In the interests of improving efficiency, reducing costs and moving the Council away from Silo thinking can the Portfolio Holder for ICT tell me what is being done to integrate the management of data across its databases thus avoiding duplicate data entry and enhancing searching?"</i>	



(d) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance, Housing, ICT, and Corporate Support, Legal and Strategic Support submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers**

"According to Sovereign Housing Association, who are by far the largest social housing provider here, only 17 'downsizing moves' have happened in this District to help their 509 tenants (7.5% of their total) affected by the Spare Room Subsidy ending this April, yet reduction in under-occupation of social housing was one of the aims of this policy. Will the Executive Member comment on this aspect of the policy and on the effect which he anticipates it having on the District's social housing mix?"

(e) **Question to be answered by Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance, Housing, ICT, and Corporate Support, Legal and Strategic Support submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers**

"Apart from reducing the cost to national taxpayers of Housing Benefit, and reducing under-occupation of precious social housing stock, one purpose of ending the Spare Room Subsidy in this sector (to bring it in line with the situation claimants have faced for some years in private tenancies) was said by many to be to encourage 'work-shy' claimants into employment. Members have been told that 690 households (occupying social housing units in the District with at least one 'spare bedroom') would from the start (1st April this year) be affected. Can the Executive Member indicate how many of these households had at least one adult in full-time employment?"

(f) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance, Housing, ICT, and Corporate Support, Legal and Strategic Support submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers**

"Can the Executive Member for Housing tell me how he believes those 690 households affected by the ending of the Spare Room Subsidy in West Berkshire are expected to manage their finances, when there are hardly any smaller homes available and bills for food and domestic fuel are rising faster than earnings? "

(g) **Question to be answered by Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance, Housing, ICT, and Corporate Support, Legal and Strategic Support submitted by Councillor Tony Vickers**

"Unlike last year (according to information I was given by Revenues & Benefits in March) this year the Council is match-funding the Government's allocation of Discretionary Housing Payment money, which is more than twice last year's allocation of some £116k, of which over half went unspent. That makes the total sum available this year to assist social housing tenants facing difficulties with their housing costs now there is no Spare Room Subsidy at least £483k (Councils can allocate 1.5 times the Government money from their own sources but must - I'm told - match at least 'pound for pound'). Processing this



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money must involve considerable administration costs. So can the Executive Member say how this is affecting the Council and its clients?"

Andy Day
Head of Strategic Support

West Berkshire Council Strategy Priorities and Principles

Council Strategy Priorities:

CSP1 – Caring for and protecting the vulnerable

CSP2 – Promoting a vibrant district

CSP3 – Improving education

CSP4 – Protecting the environment

Council Strategy Principles:

CSP5 – Putting people first

CSP6 – Living within our means

CSP7 – Empowering people and communities

CSP8 – Transforming our services to remain affordable and effective

CSP9 – Doing what's important well

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact
Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.



West Berkshire
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