

# Notice of Meeting

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# Executive

**Thursday 11 February 2021 at 5.00pm**

This meeting will be held in a virtual format in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note: The Council will be live streaming its meetings.

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<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/councilmeetingslive>

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 3 February 2021

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Democratic Services Team on (01635) 519462

e-mail: [executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk)

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



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## Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 (continued)

<b>To:</b>	Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Ross Mackinnon, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart and Howard Woollaston
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# Agenda

## Part I

Pages

- 1. Apologies for Absence**  
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).
- 2. Minutes** 7 - 16  
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 14 January 2021.
- 3. Declarations of Interest**  
To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#).
- 4. Public Questions** 17 - 20  
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.  
  
Please note that the list of public questions is shown under item 4 in the agenda pack.
- 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

Pages

- 6. Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2021/22 (C3980)** 21 - 54  
Purpose: This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code and sets out the Council's proposed Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2021/22.



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7. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 (C3981)** 55 - 72  
Purpose: To set out the financial planning assumptions for future years and align these with the Council Strategy to ensure that the Council Strategy will be delivered. The MTFS highlights the overarching key issues facing the Council's finances as well as how there are many different scenarios and uncertainty concerning the future revenue streams for the Council in the future.  
  
The document will enable the Council to commence the next four years of the MTFS from a strong financial base and this position and future projections are highlighted in the report.
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8. **Capital Strategy and Programme 2021/22 - 2023/24 (C3982)** 73 - 124  
Purpose: To outline the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2021/22-2023/24 and the supporting funding framework, providing a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.
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9. **Revenue Budget 2021/22 (C3983)** 125 - 198  
Purpose: To consider and recommend to Council the 2021-22 Revenue Budget, which proposes a Council Tax requirement of £104.32m, requiring a Council Tax increase of 1.99%. The Council Tax increase will raise £2.04m. The Council is not proposing any use of the Adult Social Care precept and there will therefore not be any increase in the precept. The overall Council Tax increase is intended to balance the financial impact of the pandemic on residents, mitigating the financial pressures they face, as well as the cost pressures that the Council faces.  
  
The budget details the investment for the year ahead to deliver the Council Strategy and support core Council Services. This includes investment in Adult Social Care, economic development and prevention work. The budget also allocates revenue funding to deliver the Capital Strategy (separate paper) that has a substantial amount of investment in infrastructure for the year ahead, including savings proposals, other income sources and £3.2m of support from Government for Covid-19 costs. The Council is proposing to support the budget with a £2.2m contribution from reserves; it is rare that the Council would use such a sizeable level of one-off support for the budget but the impact of the pandemic on the current year budget, allied to Government financial support, has led to an expected underspend in the current year that is being proposed to partially use to support the 2021-22 budget.  
  
This report also proposes the Fees and Charges for 2021-22 as set out in Appendix F and the Parish Expenses as set out in Appendix G and recommends the level of General Reserves as set out in Appendix E.
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**Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 (continued)**

10. **Revenue Financial Performance Report - Q3 of 2020/21 (EX3911)** 199 - 216  
Purpose: To report on the in-year financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets.
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11. **Potential Redundancies - Strategy and Governance (EX3976)** 217 - 224  
Purpose:
- Following a restructure in the Strategy and Governance Department resulting in the creation of 21.5 new posts, including investment into an additional 7.5 posts, 14 posts are to be deleted. This results in the potential for some redundancies. This report seeks authority for redundancy payments to be made if necessary.
  - The overarching purpose of the new structure in Strategy and Governance is to:
    - Improve the delivery of services to the Council's customers
    - Enhance and consolidate the Council's governance arrangements
    - Deliver more effective digital and transformation solutions that provide better services
    - Continue to provide effective support services to the Council
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12. **Members' Questions** 225 - 226  
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.  
  
Please note that the list of Member questions is shown under item 12 in the agenda pack.
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13. **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 8.10.4 of the Constitution refers.](#)
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## Part II

14. **Potential Redundancies - Strategy & Governance (EX3976)** 227 - 234  
*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)*  
*(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)*  
*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*  
*(Paragraph 4 – information relating to terms proposed in negotiations in labour relation matters)*



## **Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 (continued)**

Purpose: To seek authority for redundancy payments to be made, if necessary, following a restructure in the Strategy and Governance Department.

Sarah Clarke  
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

### **West Berkshire Council Strategy Priorities**

#### **Council Strategy Priorities:**

**PC1: Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes**

**PC2: Support everyone to reach their full potential**

**OFB1: Support businesses to start, develop and thrive in West Berkshire**

**GP1: Develop local infrastructure to support and grow the local economy**

**GP2: Maintain a green district**

**SIT1: Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships**

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

