



# Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

**Thursday 3 March 2022**

***Summons and Agenda***

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WestBerkshire  
C O U N C I L

To: All Members of the Council

*You are requested to attend a meeting of*  
**WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

*to be held in the*  
**SECOND FLOOR MEETING AREA,  
COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,  
NEWBURY**

on  
**Thursday 3 March 2022  
at 5.30pm**

This meeting will be streamed live here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/fullcouncillive>



Sarah Clarke  
Service Director – Strategy & Governance  
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 23 February 2022

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## **AGENDA**

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). **(Pages 5 - 6)**

2. **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](#). **(Pages 7 - 8)**



**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council's Constitution that relate only to the Council budget. **(Pages 9 - 10)**

**4. INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGY 2022/23 (C4124)**

Purpose: To consolidate the investments and borrowing strategy for the year ahead by detailing how and where the Council will invest and borrow in the forthcoming year, within a particular framework.

The report also has a statutory footing under the Local Government Act 2003. The Council must have an approved (by Full Council) Investment and Borrowing Strategy (or similar) for the forthcoming financial year. The Council is also required to comply with other regulatory requirements as highlighted in this report. The Council must also detail its compliance with the relevant Treasury Management indicators (as highlighted in this report). **(Pages 11 - 36)**

**5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (C4125)**

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 Council is able 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. **(Pages 37 - 54)**

**6. CAPITAL STRATEGY, FINANCIAL YEARS 2022/23 TO 2026/27 (C4126)**

Purpose: To outline the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2022/23 – 2026/27 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. **(Pages 55 - 90)**

**7. REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 (C4127)**

Purpose: To consider and recommend to Council the 2022-23 Revenue Budget, which proposes a Council Tax requirement of £110.1m, requiring a Council Tax increase of 1% and an Adult Social Care precept of 3%. The Council Tax will raise £1.1m and the precept will raise a further £3.2m. At 4%, the budget is balanced, after using £4m of reserves that have been specifically set aside. 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,

**Agenda - Council to be held on Thursday, 3 March 2022 (continued)**

the ambitions in the Capital Strategy and support core Council Services. The paper also includes savings proposals, other income sources and the use of specific reserves to ensure the Council has a sustainable financial footing. 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.

This report also proposes the Fees and Charges for 2022-23 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. **(Pages 91 - 210)**

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Stephen Chard on telephone 01635 519462.

