

Notice of Meeting



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Governance and Ethics Committee

Monday 26 July 2021 at 6.30pm

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

This meeting can be streamed live here:

<https://westberks.gov.uk/governanceethicscommitteelive>

Date of despatch of Agenda: Friday 16 July 2021

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

Agenda - Governance and Ethics Committee to be held on Monday, 26 July 2021
(continued)

To: Councillors Jeff Beck, Jeremy Cottam (Vice-Chairman), Bill Graham, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Thomas Marino (Chairman), David Marsh, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Claire Rowles and David Southgate

Substitutes: Councillors Adrian Abbs, Anne Budd, John Downe, Owen Jeffery, Steve Masters, Graham Pask and Garth Simpson

Agenda

| Part I | | Page No. |
|--------|---|----------|
| 1 | Apologies To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). | 1 - 2 |
| 2 | Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 April 2021 and 4 May 2021. | 3 - 16 |
| 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 . | 17 - 18 |
| 4 | Forward Plan Purpose: To consider the Forward Plan for the next 12 months. | 19 - 20 |

Governance Matters

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| 5 | Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 (GE4031) Purpose: The report sets out the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the Council for 2020-21 for approval. The AGS summarises the key governance issues for the Council and the action plan to address these. The AGS is required to be approved by those charged with governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee at West Berkshire, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. | 21 - 36 |
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Agenda - Governance and Ethics Committee to be held on Monday, 26 July 2021
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- 6 **Going Concern Assessment as at 31 March 2021 (GE4030)** 37 - 50
Purpose: This report summarises the management assessment of the Council continuing to operate as a going concern for the purposes of producing the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.
- 7 **2020/21 Draft Financial Statements Highlight Report (GE3820)** 51 - 74
Purpose: This report is to inform Members of the key highlights from the draft 2020/21 financial statements and progress against the implementation of recommendations made by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton in respect of the 2019/20 external audit.
- 8 **Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2020/21 (GE4029)** 75 - 92
Purpose: The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the Audit Manager to make a formal annual report to those charged with governance within the Council.
- 9 **Exclusion of Press and Public** 93 - 94
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.

Part II

- 10 **Risk Management Q4 2020/21 Report (GE4028)** 95 - 136
(Paragraph 3 - information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)
(Paragraph 5 - information relating to legal privilege)
(Paragraph 6 - information relating to proposed action to be taken by the Local Authority)
- Purpose: To highlight the corporate risks that need to be considered by the Committee and to outline the actions that are being taken to mitigate those risks.

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

Agenda - Governance and Ethics Committee to be held on Monday, 26 July 2021
(continued)

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.

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

