

Notice of Meeting



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Executive

Thursday 9th February, 2023 at 5.00 pm

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

Note: This meeting can be streamed live here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/executive/ve>

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 1 February 2023

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Sadie Owen (Principal Democratic Services Officer) on 01635 519052, e-mail: sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk

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 - Executive to be held on Thursday, 9 February 2023 (continued)

To:	Councillors Lynne Doherty (Chairman), Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Richard Somner, Joanne 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).	5 - 6
2. Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 12 January 2023.	7 - 12
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 .	13 - 14
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.	15 - 16
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.	17 - 18

Items as timetabled in the Forward Plan

	Pages
6. Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2023/24 (C4320) 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. This strategy is monitored throughout the year, with a mid-year report going to the Government and Ethics Committee as well as an annual report being presented to Members.	19 - 44



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7. **Medium Term Financial Strategy (C4303)** 45 - 62
Purpose: to set out the financial planning assumptions for future years and align these with the Council Strategy to ensure that 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.
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8. **Capital Strategy, Financial Years 2023/24 to 2032/33 (C4315)** 63 - 104
Purpose: to outline the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2023/24 - 2032/33 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.
Decisions made on capital and treasury management have financial consequences for the Council for many years into the future. Decisions are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework.
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9. **Revenue Budget 2023-24 (C4314)** 105 - 216
Purpose: to consider and recommend to Council the 2023-24 Revenue Budget, which proposes a Council Tax requirement of £117.5m, requiring a Council Tax increase of 2.99% and an Adult Social Care precept of 2%. The Council Tax will raise £3.3m, the precept will raise a further £2.2m, and an increased taxbase will raise a further £1.8m. At a 4.99% Council tax increase, the budget is balanced, after using £1.8m 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.
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10. **Capital Financial Performance Report Quarter Three 2022/23 (EX4301)** 217 - 234
Purpose: to report on the forecast under or over spends against the Council's approved capital budget. This report presents the forecast outturn position for financial year 2022/23 as at Quarter Three.
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11. **2022/23 Revenue Financial Performance Quarter Three (EX4300)** 235 - 256
Purpose: to report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets and provide a year-end forecast. This report is Quarter Three 2022/23.
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12. **Contract Award for the North and East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Schemes (EX4266)** 257 - 264
Purpose: to report on the outcome of the tender for the North and East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Schemes. This follows the procurement strategy agreed at Procurement Board in September 2022.
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13. **West Berkshire Council Central Energy Contract Procurement Strategy (EX4299)** 265 - 272
Purpose: to provide a summary of the Council's current procurement strategy for the Central Energy Contract and put forward recommendations for changes that would improve the management of risks associated with the current volatile wholesale market and rising energy costs.
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14. **Libraries Review Report (EX4106)** 273 - 390
Purpose: to present the findings of the 2021/22 Libraries Review. This follow-up review sets out to ensure that the service remains fit for purpose and meets community needs after the library transformation work which took place in 2016/17.
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15. **Members' Questions** 391 - 392
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.
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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 Sadie Owen on telephone (01635) 519052.

