



# Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

**Thursday, 2nd March, 2023**

***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*  
**COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,  
NEWBURY**

on

**Thursday, 2nd March, 2023**  
**at 5.00 pm**



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

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 22 February 2023

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## **AGENDA**

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### **Part I**

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 relating to the budget submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution. **(Pages 9 - 10)**

**4. INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGY 2023/24 (C4320)**

The report seeks 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 and detail its compliance with the relevant Treasury Management indicators **(Pages 11 - 36)**

**5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (C4303)**

The purpose of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is 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. **(Pages 37 - 54)**

**6. CAPITAL STRATEGY, FINANCIAL YEARS 2023/24 TO 2032/33 (C4315)**

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. **(Pages 55 - 92)**

**7. REVENUE BUDGET 2023 – 24 (C4314)**

The purpose of this paper is 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.

The budget details the investment for the year ahead to deliver the Council Strategy, the ambitions in the Capital Strategy and support core Council Services. This includes investment in approved strategies e.g. Adult Social Care, the Environment Strategy, the Digital and Customer Engagement strategies and prevention work. The paper also includes savings proposals, other income sources and the use of specific reserves to



**Agenda - Council to be held on Thursday, 2 March 2023 (continued)**

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. The Council is proposing to support the budget with a £1.8m contribution from reserves; these are largely from specific reserves, for example the residual Covid-19 non-ring-fenced grant, Council Strategy reserve and Collection Fund reserves.

The report also proposes the Fees and Charges for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix F, the Parish Expenses as set out in Appendix G and recommends the level of General Reserves as set out in Appendix E. **(Pages 93 - 220)**

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

