

# Notice of Meeting

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## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

**Thursday 4 June 2026 at 6.30 pm**  
in Council Chamber Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury

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Date of despatch of Agenda: Date Not Specified

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Gordon Oliver on 01635 519486

e-mail: [gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk)

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## Agenda - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday 4 June 2026 (continued)

**To:** Councillors Dominic Boeck (Chairman), Owen Jeffery (Vice-Chairman), Paul Dick, Billy Drummond, Jane Langford, Alan Macro, Louise Sturgess, Clive Taylor, Martha Vickers, Emily Daly, Charlie Gale, Hobbs, Natasha Rowe and Wilson

**Substitutes:** Councillors Adrian Abbs, Dennis Benneyworth, Martin Colston, Carolyne Culver, Clive Hooker, Janine Lewis, David Marsh, Matt Shakespeare and Richard Somner

# Agenda

<b>Part I</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).	5 - 6
2	<b>Minutes</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 15 April 2026 and 14 May 2026.	7 - 16
3	<b>Actions from previous Minutes</b> To receive an update on recommendations and actions following the previous Committee meeting.	17 - 18
4	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> 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' <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> .	19 - 20
5	<b>Petitions</b> To consider any petitions requiring an Officer response.	21 - 22
6	<b>Response to the DfE Regional Director's Comments</b> Purpose: To present the proposed response to issues raised by the DfE Regional Director for the South East.	To Follow



**Agenda - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday 4 June 2026 (continued)**

- 7 **Draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reform Plan** 23 - 28  
Purpose: To present the draft Local SEND Reform Plan, which seeks to improve support for SEND pupils, while bringing high needs spending onto a more sustainable footing over time.
- 8 **School Viability Review** 29 - 38  
To consider the long-term viability of schools in West Berkshire in the context of declining birth rates.
- 9 **Executive Forward Plan May to August 2026** 39 - 52  
Purpose: To advise the Committee of items to be considered by West Berkshire Council's Executive and for Members to decide whether to review any of the proposed items prior to the meeting indicated in the Forward Plan.
- 10 **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme** 53 - 54  
Purpose: To receive new items and agree and prioritise the work programme of the Committee.

*Sarah Clarke.*

Sarah Clarke  
Executive Director - Resources

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# Agenda Item 1

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee -  
4 June 2026

## **Item 1 – Apologies**

Verbal Item

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**DRAFT**

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026**

**Councillors Present:** Dominic Boeck (Chairman), Billy Drummond, Louise Sturgess, Clive Taylor, Emily Daly, Charlie Gale, Catherine Hobbs (attending remotely), Natasha Rowe, Tony Wilson, Martin Colston (Substitute) (In place of Martha Vickers) and Richard Somner (Substitute) (In place of Paul Dick)

**Also Present:** Roslyn Arthur, AnnMarie Dodds, Sonia Harris, Kerrie Hiscock, Ashley Milum, James Stuart, Rebecca Wilshire, and Dave Wraight,

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Owen Jeffery, Councillor Paul Dick, Councillor Alan Macro and Councillor Martha Vickers

**Councillor(s) Absent:** Councillor Jane Langford

**PART I****36 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2025 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**37 Actions from previous Minutes**

Members reviewed progress in relation to actions from previous meeting.

Additional updates were noted as follows:

- **25-2** - It was noted that data on qualifications of i-College students had been provided, but needed to be anonymised before being circulated.
- **25-11** – Any update on resources was subject to completion of the Business Service Review.
- **25-20** - The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Leader of the Council congratulating him on the Ofsted inspection result.
- **25-24** – It was not known whether Neil Goddard had written to the members of the public before he had left, so Ashley Milum agreed to pick this up.

**38 Declarations of Interest**

The following declared an interest in relation to Agenda Items 6 and 7:

- Councillor Clive Taylor declared that he was a school governor at the Calcot Schools.
- Councillor Billy Drummond declared that he was a trustee at St Bartholomew's School.
- Tony Wilson declared that he was a member of the Summit Multi-Academy Trust.

As their interests were personal and not prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, they determined to remain to take part in the debates and vote on these matters.

**39 Petitions**

There were no petitions to be received at the meeting.

### 40 Education Outcomes

Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services) presented the report on Education Outcomes (Agenda Item 6).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Dame Kate Dethridge (DfE Regional Director for the South East) and Leah Fernandes (DfE Schools Team Leader for Buckinghamshire and Berkshire) to address the Committee.

Dame Kate highlighted the following concerns in relation to non-academy schools in West Berkshire:

- West Berkshire's performance in relation to Good Level of Development (GLD), phonics, and Key Stage 2 combined reading/writing/maths were below expectations, with the authority placing near the bottom of national rankings on some measures.
- Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils (including those eligible for free school meals) were extremely poor.
- While the School Improvement service had capable staff, it lacked sufficient capacity, with a very small team for such a large number of maintained schools. This limited the ability to hold school leaders to account and provide support.
- Dame Kate noted that school improvement had been a traded service and queried whether the £325,000 identified in the budget for school improvement was additional funding. Councillor Codling confirmed that it was not, but that the funding was now ring-fenced.
- Concerns were expressed in relation to a recent universal RISE offer organised by the DfE, which had a disadvantaged-focused programme. Despite being free to attend, only 16 of 20 available places were taken up.
- It was highlighted that children entered Reception broadly at/above national average levels of attainment, but attainment was not sustaining through primary school.
- The new Ofsted inspection regime had a greater focus on attendance and attainment, and it was suggested that West Berkshire schools may be negatively affected by this.
- Dame Kate discussed how scrutiny could focus on performance data and use available DfE tools (e.g., GLD breakdown, phonics trajectory, attendance benchmarking, take-up of hubs/networks).

Dame Kate responded to questions from Members of the Committee:

- It was confirmed that the DfE challenged Academy Trusts as responsible bodies, and they encouraged local authorities to highlight any concerns they may have in relation to academies with DfE staff.
- Dame Kate stated that there were no additional direct finances for local education authorities, but she highlighted existing free universal offers, school networks, maths/English hubs, and targeted support. Officers were encouraged to promote these and monitor take-up.
- It was highlighted that there were examples of good practice in West Berkshire (e.g., a local school had a RISE advisor who would be running a Reception network).

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2026 - MINUTES

- Portsmouth was cited as a local authority where some schools had up to 75% of pupils on free school meals, but 90% of pupils achieved GLD. Dame Kate emphasised the importance of having high expectations for disadvantaged children.
- It was noted that successful headteachers were usually happy to share their experiences, and DfE sought to match schools across the South East. Also, there were plans to expand existing networks for KS2 and KS3 and to look at transitions between primary and secondary schools.
- Dame Kate stressed the importance of scrutinising performance data in detail (e.g., understanding which parts of GLD were an issue, and looking at progress in phonics at the end of Reception not just at the end of Year 1). She indicated that all schools should look at their GLD data and engage with other schools to learn lessons.

The following points were raised in debate with officers and the Executive Member for Children and Family Services:

- Members expressed disappointment at the lack of additional funds for school improvement, which would make it difficult to deliver on local aspirations for improvement. It was noted that the Council was in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support and it would be difficult to turn things around quickly. However, funding was expected from central government at the end of September in relation to the High Needs Block deficit. This would release funds currently being used to service interest payments, which could potentially be directed to school improvement, but this would require the agreement of the Executive.

**Action: Councillor Heather Codling to make the case to the Executive for investing additional funding in school improvement.**

- Officers set out intended actions to improve performance, including:
  - Codifying and strengthening the school improvement visit model with greater rigour and links to outcomes data.
  - Developing earlier, non-statutory intervention before escalation to warning notices and Interim Executive Boards.
  - Strengthening governance and governor training and linking headteacher performance management to outcomes.
  - Convening system leadership to focus on equity and disadvantaged pupil outcomes.
  - Auditing schools' use of pupil premium funding to ensure it is spent effectively.
- Officers were encouraged to look to academies, including those outside West Berkshire for examples of best practice. Tony Wilson offered to provide support with this.
- It was suggested that it may be challenging to carry out a School Places Sufficiency Review alongside school improvement. Officers confirmed that this would be managed in consultation with schools and stressed that it was important to retain a focus on learning, and for schools to use the funds they received as effectively as possible.
- Concern was expressed around the mental health implications for pupils who did not reach expected levels of attainment and how they might be supported. It was noted that the Family First reforms would help pupils not currently engaged with the education offer. Work was also proposed to support disadvantaged pupils make the transition from KS2 to KS3. Dame Kate stressed that pupils who did not achieve GLD,

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2026 - MINUTES

generally did not catch up by age 16, which impacted on their self-esteem and their life chances, and served to highlight the importance of investing in early years education.

- Officers highlighted the need for Members to engage with schools in their wards and encourage leadership teams to engage with the RISE universal offer. It was stressed that although funding for school support remained unchanged, it would be directed in different, more evidence-based ways. The aim was to deliver the best outcome for children in West Berkshire.

Members proposed a number of actions as set out below.

### **Actions:**

- **Officers to run a Member development session to coach them on what they could do to encourage schools to do better.**
- **Develop a performance dashboard for education services, with regular updates for the CYP Scrutiny Committee.**
- **For a progress report to be provided at the next meeting, to include greater clarity on funding for school improvement and the uptake of the universal RISE offer.**

### **RESOLVED:**

- To note the report and the data relating to attainment.
- To endorse the activity underway to enhance the school improvement offer and improve education outcomes for all pupils.

## **41 Exclusions**

Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services) presented the report on school exclusions (Agenda Item 7).

During the debate, the following points were discussed:

- Officers confirmed that there was a link between disadvantaged learners and exclusions, and that improving outcomes depended on children being in school.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in primary school exclusions linked to physical incidents. For secondary schools, exclusions were most often recorded under the DfE code 'persistent disruptive behaviour'. More detail on specific behaviours was not available.
- Meetings were held three times a year with secondary school senior leadership teams to review concerns about pupil behaviour, enabling earlier signposting and support. However, capacity constraints meant the service was reliant on schools proactively reaching out for support, and there was not enough capacity to hold equivalent meetings with primary schools.
- It was highlighted that forthcoming SEND reforms would require schools to produce Inclusion Plans, enabling more proactive discussion and clearer expectations across schools and academies. Also, work was ongoing to establish 'the ordinarily available provision', intended to set a benchmark expectation for how schools could meet Equality Act duties for children with additional needs, but this should benefit all children.

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- It was highlighted that collaborative meetings were held six times per year with deputy headteachers from all secondary schools, with strong attendance - these enabled sharing of best practice and discussion of complex cases.
- It was recognised that there was a need for co-production with secondary headteachers to ensure that the new Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the iCollege supported a reduction in exclusions. The iCollege's "in-reach" (support and training provided in schools) was seen as a strength and would be a core component of the SLA. It was acknowledged that rising exclusions had created capacity pressures for the iCollege, and challenging conversations would be required to achieve a point of equity.
- Officers were asked about their understanding of and responses to the root causes of exclusions, particularly in relation to SEND pupils. Officers agreed that there was a need to listen more to young people to understand their needs.
- Members highlighted the need for data to show the percentage of excluded pupils at each school, since significant differences in the number of pupils on roll made comparisons difficult.

### **Action: Officers to report exclusions as a percentage pupils on roll.**

- Officers indicated that primary schools received different support to secondary schools - the PIPS Behaviour Intervention Team delivered one-to-one interventions, and support was also provided by the Autism Advisory Team. Schools were signposted to the appropriate services.
- It was explained that the iCollege could offer up to a full timetable package, but it was important to reintegrate pupils back to their mainstream school and not to have pupils full-time in the iCollege for long.
- Members indicated that supervised on-site provision within schools had previously reduced exclusions in at least one school. Officers supported the principle of inclusive approaches in schools and indicated that in-reach support from iCollege and other providers could support schools to develop such provision and enable quality assurance. It was cautioned that 'internal exclusion' should not result in arrangements that did not constitute full-time suitable education.
- It was observed that the downward trend in exclusions appeared to coincide with COVID-19, which was an atypical period.
- Members suggested that some children might benefit from blended or vocational provision (e.g., combining school attendance with time working on a farm). Officers stated that schools were already developing creative alternative provision packages (including farms, horse riding and drama workshops) and that these had delivered positive outcomes.
- In response to a question about the use of alternative provision (AP) by primary schools, officers indicated that they did not have data for how usage compared with statistical neighbours, but they offered to provide this. It was acknowledged that more primary schools were using AP in West Berkshire, but an assurance framework was needed.

### **Action: Officers to provide details of how use of AP in primary schools compares to that in statistical neighbours.**

- It was asked what communication and support were provided to families when pupils were permanently excluded or at risk, particularly regarding the transition to iCollege. Officers stated that families were supported throughout the process. Five days after a

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2026 - MINUTES

permanent exclusion, responsibility for education transferred to the local authority, and the Exclusions Team contacted parents as soon as the local authority was notified, to explain the process and next steps. The iCollege also contacted families to arrange an initial meeting and run through plans for attendance and reintegration.

- Members noted the rising trend in exclusions despite previous investment in Education and SEND. It was suggested that further investment would be required to tackle the issue. Councillor Codling highlighted the challenges around identifying additional funding but acknowledging the evidence and need and undertook to discuss this with the Executive.
- Officers were asked if they were confident that the proposed measures would reduce exclusions. Officers indicated that they would have greater confidence once the SLA with iCollege had been renewed and Inclusion Plans had been developed with schools.
- Parallels were acknowledged with the earlier discussion on attainment outcomes. Also, work on exclusions aligned well with other programmes, such as SEND and education reform, Best Start and family hubs, and Families First Partnership work.

### RESOLVED:

- To note the report and the data on exclusions.
- To endorse the proposed strategic response to support the reduction of exclusions and the promotion of inclusion.

## 42 West Berkshire Best Start Local Strategic Plan

Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services) and Dave Wraight (Service Lead – Youth Justice, Family Hubs and Partnerships) presented the item on the Best Start in Life Local Strategic Plan (Agenda Item 8).

During the debate the following points were discussed:

- Members noted that the target for reducing inequalities remained below 50%. Officers confirmed that targets were set by central government, but that the ambition locally was to meet and, where possible, to exceed them.
- Officers were asked if funding allocations would be sufficient to deliver the Plan. Officers confirmed that the allocations had increased following subsequent government updates, but remained lower than that provided under Sure Start. While additional funding was always welcome, assurance was provided that available funding would be spent effectively.
- Members asked how many parents/families were currently missing out on the services and outcomes described in paragraphs 4.7-4.9. Officers advised that detailed delivery plans and an outcomes framework were being developed, and that a fuller baseline picture would take time. Officers anticipated being able to provide more detailed data after six months.
- Officers were asked about a reported £40,000 pressure and the impact of this on service delivery. It was explained that this related to historic charges for some sessions, which had since been removed to improve accessibility. The current grant would cover the costs, so there was no ongoing pressure from that change.
- Members asked what had changed for the target groups and how the Plan would address inequalities. Officers explained that deprivation and isolation could be less

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2026 - MINUTES

visible in rural areas and that the target groups had been identified by both data and the experiences of families.

- Regarding rural access, officers indicated that urban areas had fixed hub buildings, but pop-up provision was being used to reach rural communities. Officers also referred to joint work with the voluntary and community sector to extend reach.
- Members asked what had improved in the last 12 months and what tangible changes were expected in the next 12 months. Officers indicated that Best Start had formally commenced on 1 April. West Berkshire benefited from having an established Family Hubs network, which would enable faster delivery than areas starting from scratch. Over the next 12 months, planned developments included a digital offer, expanded parenting provision, and work on home learning environments and parenting packs. Officers emphasised that the most significant impacts on children's outcomes would be expected over a longer period (five to ten years), consistent with evidence from Sure Start.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### 43 **Executive Forward Plan**

The Committee considered the Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9).

It was highlighted that several items had already been added to the Committee's work programme for review.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan be noted.

### 44 **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

The Committee considered the proposed Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Agenda Item 10).

It was explained that following a meeting between the Chairman and senior officers, a number of proposed changes had been made to the Work Programme as outlined in the agenda pack.

It was noted that while the SEND Recovery Plan did not require Member approval, it would be appropriate for this to have a public airing, so it had been added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Members expressed frustration at the delay in the response to the Children and Young People Mental Health Task Group Report. Officers explained that at the point at which the Task Group had submitted its report, the Integrated Care Board had withdrawn funding from Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services and had moved the running of School Mental Health Teams from local authorities to Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. This meant that funding and resources were no longer available, and it was not longer within the gift of the local authority to implement the recommendations as proposed. In addition, there had been changes made to the early intervention response for those on the CAMHS waiting lists. The officer response had been revised from that originally prepared and it was proposed that this would go to the next meeting of the Executive for approval before going back to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. It was confirmed that Councillor Dominic Boeck would be invited to attend that meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. Also, copies of the report would be made available to the CYP Scrutiny Committee Members as soon as it was published.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 2026 - MINUTES**

**Action: Circulate the Response to the Children’s Mental Health Task Group to Members of the CYP Scrutiny Committee.**

**RESOLVED** to note the work programme.

*(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.31 pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026

**Councillors Present:** Dominic Boeck (Chairman), Owen Jeffery (Vice-Chairman), Paul Dick, Billy Drummond, Alan Macro, Louise Sturgess, Clive Taylor and Martha Vickers

**Also Present:** Joseph Holmes (Chief Executive) and Sarah Clarke (Monitoring Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Jane Langford

#### PART I

##### 1 Election of Chairman

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Dominic Boeck be elected as Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

##### 2 Election of Vice-Chairman

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Owen Jeffery be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

*(The meeting commenced at 9.05pm and closed at 9.06pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

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**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Scrutiny Recommendations and Actions Tracker**

The Recommendations and Actions Tracker is a standing item, and documents the progress of formal scrutiny recommendations and suggested actions for improvement made by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its public meetings. Items will remain on the tracker until a response has been provided to the Committee by the Executive, council departments, and/or external partners.

**Formal Recommendations to Executive**

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny recommendation	Lead	Target date	Last update	Response	Status

**Formal Recommendations to External Partners**

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny recommendation	Lead	Target date	Last update	Response	Status

**Suggested Actions for Improvement to Council Departments/Partners**

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Action	Lead	Target date	Last update	Update	Status
25-2	<b>5 June 2025:</b> LGA Review of Children's Social Care	Officers to confirm qualifications gained by i-College students	Crystal Elkabbas	Feb-26	May-26	Data was delayed to allow for anonymisation prior to release. This was emailed on 20 May.	Complete
25-11	<b>11 September 2025:</b> Child Protection Annual Report 2024-25	Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services to look at business support resources in Children's Services to see if there is a need that is not being met.	Cllr Heather Codling	May-26	Feb-26	A detailed update cannot be provided until the Council-wide review of business support has been completed	In progress
25-24	<b>4 December 2025:</b> Work Programme	Officers to respond to members of the public who had proposed topics for scrutiny.	Gordon Oliver	Dec-26	May-26	Emails sent 18 May.	Complete
26-1	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Education Outcomes	Make the case to the Executive for investing additional funding in school improvement.	Cllr Heather Codling	Sep-26			
26-2	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Education Outcomes	Officers to run a Member development session to coach them on what they could do to encourage schools to do better.	Ashley Milum / James Stuart	Jun-26	May-26	To be covered off at the training session on 1 June	In progress
26-3	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Education Outcomes	Develop a performance dashboard for education services, with regular updates for the CYP Scrutiny Committee.	Ashley Milum / James Stuart	Jun-26			
26-4	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Education Outcomes	For a progress report to be provided at the next meeting, to include greater clarity on funding for school improvement and the uptake of the universal RISE offer.	Ashley Milum / James Stuart	Jun-26	May-26	A response to the DfE Regional Director's comments is on the agenda for the meeting on 4 June.	Complete
26-5	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Exclusions	Officers to report exclusions as a percentage pupils on roll.	Ashley Milum / Ros Arthur	Jun-26		Further information provided by officers and circulated on 28 April 2026.	Complete

26-6	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Exclusions	Officers to provide details of how use of AP in primary schools compares to that in statistical neighbours.	Ashley Milum / Ros Arthur	Jun-26		Further information provided by officers and circulated on 28 April 2026.	Complete
26-7	<b>15 April 2026:</b> Work Programme	Circulate the Response to the Children's Mental Health Task Group to Members of the CYP Scrutiny Committee.	Gordon Oliver	May-26		Considered at Executive on 21 May 2026. <a href="#">West Berkshire Council - Agenda for Executive on Thursday 21 May 2026, 6.00 pm</a>	Complete

Last updated: 20-May-26

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee -  
4 June 2026

## **Item 4 – Declarations of Interest**

Verbal Item

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee -  
4 June 2026

## **Item 5 – Petitions**

Verbal Item

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# West Berkshire Local SEND Reform Plan

# SEND Reforms

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## **The reforms are about building a better local system for children and young people with SEND**

- More children's needs identified earlier
- More support available without always needing a statutory plan
- More children supported closer to home
- Stronger mainstream inclusion, with specialist help available when needed
- Better outcomes for children and families
- A more financially sustainable system over time

# DfE expectations

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- ❑ Draft submission to DfE: 15 May
- ❑ Final submission to DfE: 19 June
- ❑ What the submission includes: Local SEND Reform Plan, Local Partnership Maturity Matrix template, Local SEND Reform Data Return
- ❑ Resubmission window: If not approved, local areas can revise and resubmit in September
- ❑ Service risk: West Berkshire is awaiting its next Area SEND inspection, currently expected in September
- ❑ Delivery challenge: The plan reflects a substantial reform programme and the significant work still required over the next three years, challenges with data in terms of projection – significant changes to how we capture, evaluate and use our data
- ❑ Quarterly returns to the DfE: required up until 2028-29
- ❑ By 2028-29, DfE expects the local authority to have a mature SEND system with control of HNB expenditure

Link to plan: [Local SEND Reform Plan - West Berkshire](#)

# Summary of local SEND Reform Plan

## What the plan articulates

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- ❑ Highlights current pressures across the SEND system, including **rising EHCP demand (68% increase from Feb-March 26)**, increasing reliance on independent and non-maintained placements, workforce capacity challenges and financial strain
- ❑ Local area partnership has rated the system as emerging in most places and not yet emerging in others
- ❑ A realistic and evidence-based plan for change, focused on improving inclusion, earlier support and stronger partnership working
- ❑ A shift away from reactive, statutory-led support towards a more preventative system where needs are identified and met earlier
- ❑ A strong local focus on three key areas: earlier specialist support through Experts at Hand, better sufficiency and place planning, and stronger governance and co-production
- ❑ A phased and pragmatic approach, recognising that pressures will continue in the short term while the system builds capacity and confidence
- ❑ Clear success measures and oversight arrangements, so progress can be tracked and the plan adapted over time

# Financial implications

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## Risks for LA

- ❑ 2026/27 funding: £1.7m SEND Capital (carry forward allowed) and £1.23m Experts at Hand & Transformation (must be spent within year)
- ❑ Potential £27m DSG High Needs Block deficit write-off, with opportunity to reinvest avoided interest costs locally (no benefit realised unless written off).
- ❑ Delivery requires sustained programme capacity (comms, co-production, implementation) alongside wider priorities (e.g. Best Start), with continued corporate support critical to maintain pace and manage risk
- ❑ High-risk financial position: continued overspend projected over next 2 financial years, with uncertainty around future national arrangements (e.g. statutory override).

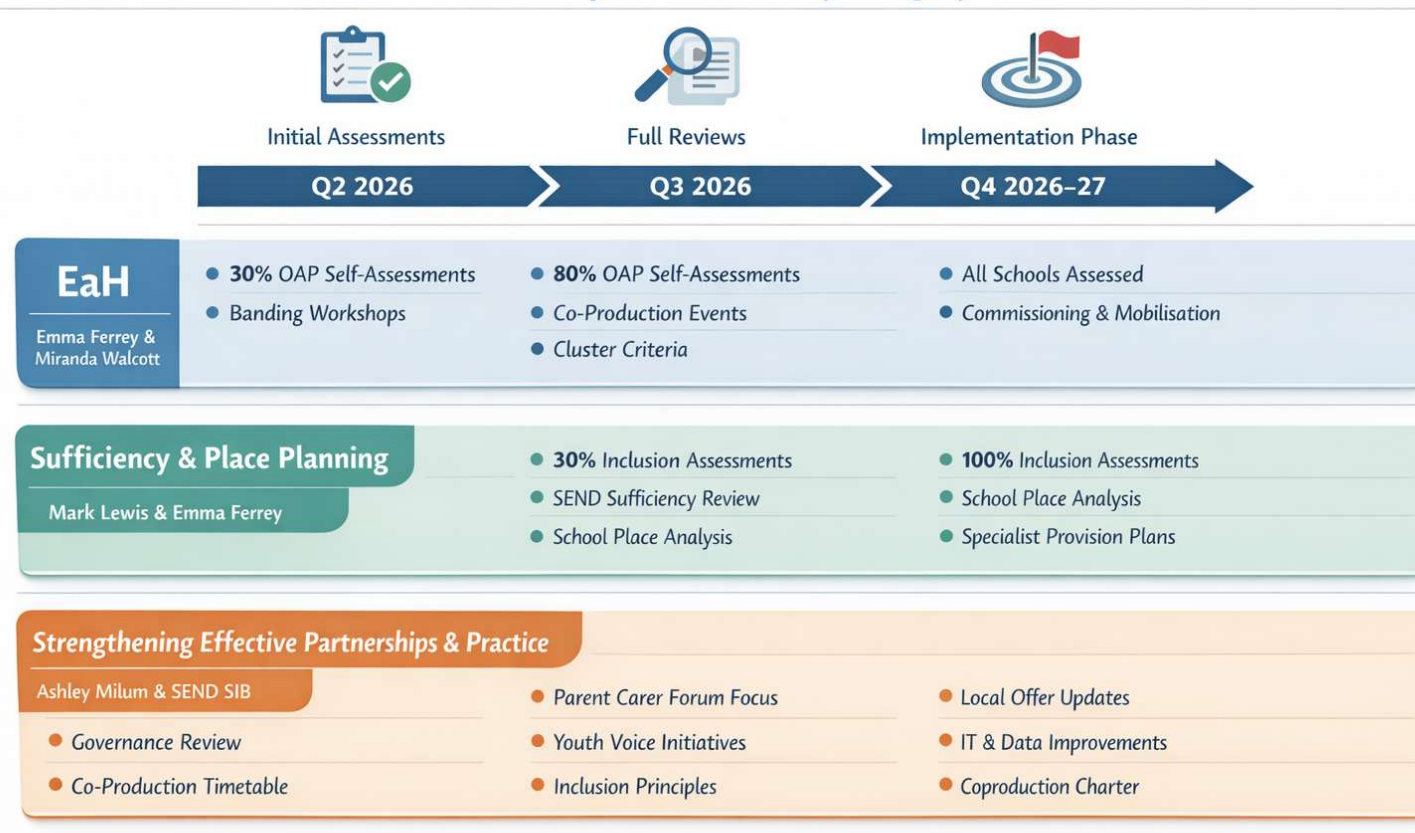
## System risks

Rising demand pressures: 68% increase in assessment requests (Feb–Mar), likely increasing short-term HNB costs.

- ❑ Current reform funding insufficient alone to meet growing demand, cost, and delivery pressures.
- ❑ Ongoing mainstream funding constraints (~£14k primary / £48k secondary) may limit inclusion capacity.

# Next steps

## 2026–27 Local Delivery Plan: Roadmap Infographic



## Primary School Places

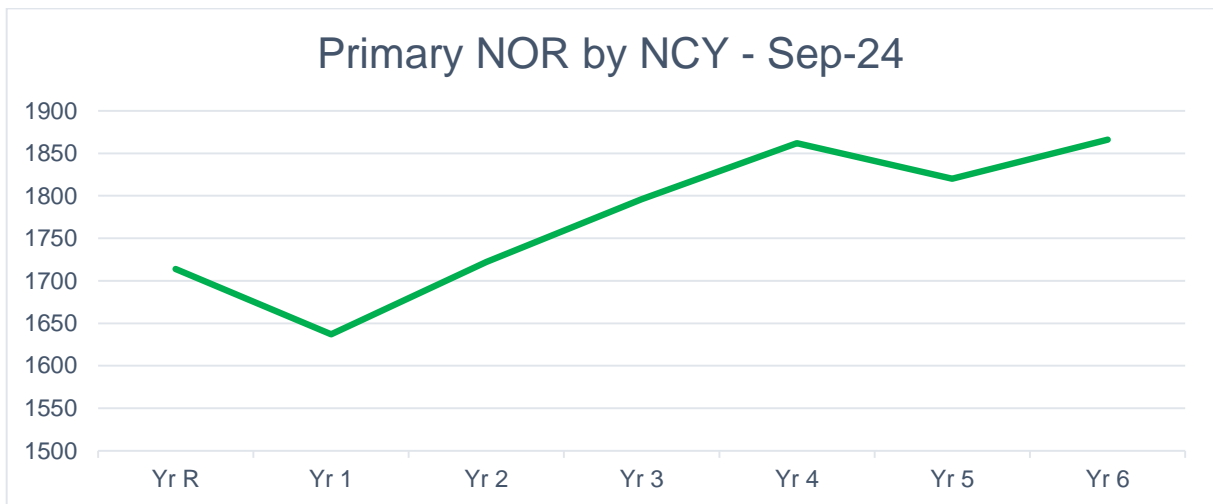
<b>Produced for:</b>	Executive Briefing
<b>Requested by:</b>	Neil Goddard
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Heather Codling
<b>Service Director:</b>	AnnMarie Dodds
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	05.11.25
<b>Briefing Author:</b>	Fiona Simmonds

### 1 Purpose of the Briefing

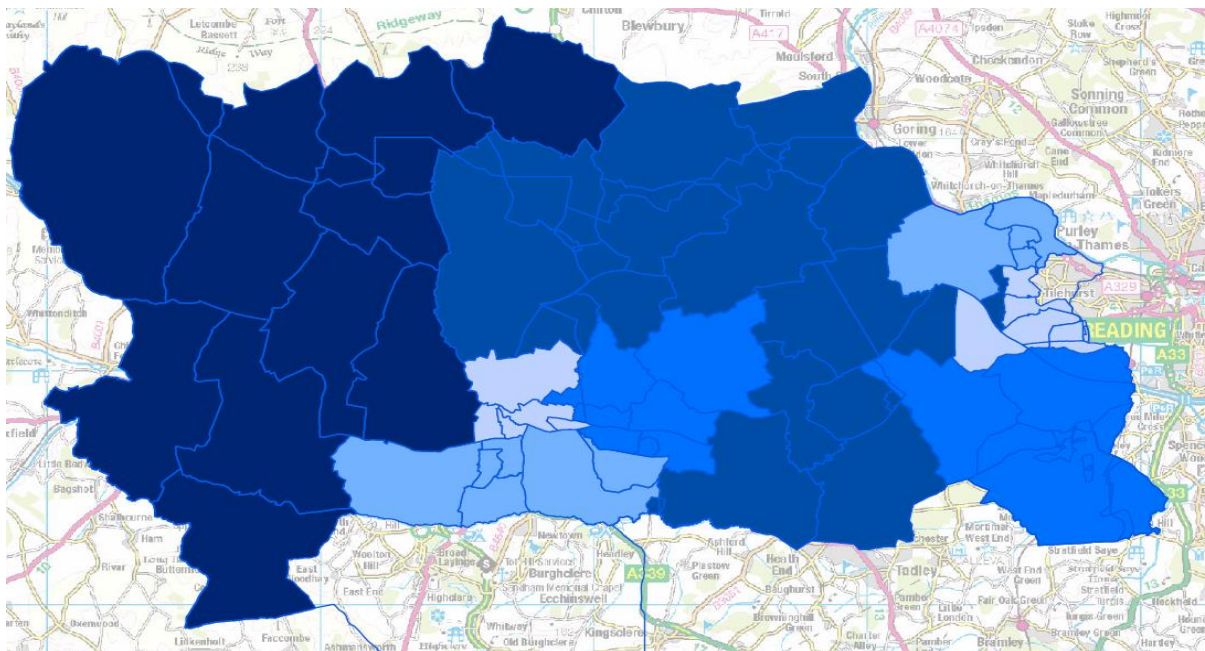
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a commentary on the distribution of primary school places. The report will set out principles that can be applied to target actions to address the surplus by both planning area and individual school level.
- 1.2 Strategic action is recommended to support the long-term sustainability of the primary sector. It is proposed that schools and planning areas are assessed against the criteria set out within the report. Schools and planning areas that do not meet these criteria could be reviewed and action to address the surplus places proposed.
- 1.3 The options available to the local authority are outlined in this report. The least disruptive solution will be proposed to decision-makers, provided it supports the overarching goal of maintaining sustainable schools that are both educationally and financially viable, and that continue to serve genuine community need.
- 1.4 This paper focuses on primary school provision. While some secondary schools currently have surplus places, this is generally due to perceived popularity rather than a lack of demand. Although pupil numbers in secondary schools are expected to decline over the forecast period, the cumulative impact is unlikely to be felt in the short to medium term.
- 1.5 Schools have been in contact with senior Officers about the current and projected level of surplus. Schools are keen for strategic action to be taken by the Council but are also concerned about what that action may entail.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The district has been experiencing a decline in birth rate for some years, and this is having a cumulative impact on school places. A surplus is growing in the infant year groups and is moving into the juniors. The larger junior year groups are masking some of the declines, and the surplus will be significant once the current infant cohorts move into the juniors.



- 2.2 Schools are arranged into planning areas that work west-east across the district. The LA is required to have planning areas by the DfE, and surplus/deficit of places are considered by the department on a planning area level rather than on an individual school basis. The planning areas are made up of schools that are geographically linked and tend to have a relationship with each other in admissions terms.
- 2.3 The level of surplus across the district is not evenly spread between planning areas, individual schools, or cohorts. There is, however, a clear picture with most surplus places in the rural villages. A variety of factors will contribute to this, including property prices, ageing populations and little new housing.
- 2.4 The map below indicates the level of surplus across the district at planning area level, with the darker colours indicating a greater surplus. Newbury, Thatcham, and the eastern urban areas have the lowest surplus and the western areas the most.



### 3 Current Status

- 3.1 The birth rate in the district has been dropping steadily since the 2010s. The latest Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections suggest that the birth rate will stabilise at around the current level for the next decade before slowly rising. The birth rate is projected to recover to 2019 levels in 20 years, which would equate to around a 15% surplus of places at Reception by 2044 (based on current capacity). It should be noted that the ONS projections are from 2018 and that the projections have become increasingly inaccurate each year, albeit the level of difference is still below 7%. The projections therefore provide a useful indication of trends rather than actual numbers at this distance.
- 3.2 The declines have been managed on a case-by-case basis, focussing on the schools with the greatest surplus. To date 115 places have been removed at point of entry by reducing admission numbers and rationalising capacity. A further 25 places will be removed from September 2026, and 30 places are proposed to be removed from September 2027, subject to member agreement and public consultation in the autumn.
- 3.3 Despite the actions proposed and taken, the level of surplus is predicted to continue to grow. Surplus places at Year R (point of entry) are expected to grow to around 22% by the end of the forecast period, assuming all current trends continue.

***Predicted Year R surplus, including proposed or agreed reductions in PAN.***

	Capacity	Forecasts				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Totals	1920	1602	1619	1554	1507	1518
Surplus %		17%	16%	19%	22%	21%
Surplus		318	301	366	413	402

- 3.4 The surplus at whole school level, i.e. all year groups or total NOR, is set out below. It illustrates a steady increase in surplus places as smaller cohorts progress through the schools. By the end of the decade, the surplus is projected to reach 17% and is expected to continue rising due to further small reception intakes. These projections are based on current capacity and account for proposed and agreed PAN reductions.

***Predicted surplus (total NOR), including proposed or agreed reductions in PAN.***

	Capacity	Forecasts				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Totals	13440	12331	12251	11981	11696	11456
Surplus %		8%	10%	12%	15%	17%
Surplus		1109	1189	1459	1744	1984

### 4 Implications and Impact

- 4.1 Surplus places when viewed at district or planning area level can lead to significant financial and operational challenges. Since funding is linked to pupil numbers, smaller cohorts contribute to reductions in school budgets, restructuring of staffing

arrangements and disproportionate fixed costs such as building maintenance and utilities.

4.2 Maintaining a significant surplus of places at district, planning area or school level can have consequences. These effects extend beyond a single school or planning area, often leading to unintended consequences in other locations. Consequences include the following:

- Reduced funding - surplus places mean fewer pupils, leading to lower funding levels across schools.
- Inefficient use of resources - schools must still maintain staffing levels and facilities based on the PAN and capacity, which can result in inefficient spending.
- Staffing challenges - falling rolls can lead to uncertainty in staffing structures and may necessitate annual reviews, affecting staff morale and continuity.
- Reduced flexibility - schools subject to infant class size legislation face constraints in adjusting class structures, even when pupil numbers fall significantly.
- Impact on sustainability of schools - persistent surplus places across a block of schools can undermine the long-term viability of educational provision and impact strategic planning.
- Increasing numbers of mixed classes – reducing admission numbers at individual schools is increasingly leading to mixed-age class structures. This approach is often necessary to comply with infant class size legislation and to organise year groups around classes of 30. Schools or families do not always positively receive mixed-age classes.

4.3 It is important to recognise that falling pupil numbers do not impact all schools equally. Declines may disproportionately affect schools perceived as less popular, while others remain full or near capacity. This uneven distribution places certain schools at greater financial and operational risk.

4.4 Popularity can ebb and flow in different cohorts at an individual school level. Families respond differently to increasing choice and long-term trends can change as a result. This can present challenges when managing places at a strategic level.

## 5 Next Steps

5.1 It is important to maintain a modest level of surplus places to support parental choice and allow flexibility in responding to fluctuations in demand. National guidance recommends that local authorities aim for a surplus of around 5%, a figure supported by the Department for Education and highlighted by the National Audit Office in 2013. As outlined above, projections for the district indicate a surplus of approximately 22% in Year R and 17% across all year groups by the end of the decade—even after accounting for implemented, planned, and proposed PAN reductions. This level of surplus significantly exceeds the recommended threshold.

5.2 Achieving the district-level target of 5–10% surplus places will require proactive steps. Given the current scale of surplus, an initial target of 10% may be a more realistic and achievable starting point.

5.3 To guide this process and achieve a reduction in surplus places to 10%, a set of principles could be established to help prioritise areas with the highest surplus and determine where action is most needed. A sliding scale of options would be considered,

with preference given to solutions that minimise impact on schools, staff, and the wider community. While any intervention may present challenges, the overarching aim is to ensure long-term financial and educational viability, and to maintain schools that meet a genuine need in their community.

- 5.4 The target of 10% surplus could be applied to planning areas. Schools in these areas are linked in geographic terms, as well as by choices that families make. Analysing sufficiency at a planning area level makes sense for efficiency as well as ease of access. Planning areas that exceed this level for at least 3 consecutive years, either actual or forecast, would trigger a planning area review.
- 5.5 The table below sets out the actual (blue text) level of surplus at the end of the last academic year, and the forecast (green or red text) surplus to the end of the decade. All planning areas in the table below would meet the threshold for review, except PA 3,5 & 8.

**Percentage of surplus places (total NOR) at Planning Area level.**

Planning Area	Actual	Forecast				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
PA 1	47%	54%	35%	37%	40%	42%
PA 2	28%	29%	33%	34%	38%	37%
PA 3 & 5	4%	2%	1%	3%	3%	4%
PA 4	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	13%
PA 6	23%	25%	8%	7%	12%	15%
PA 7	12%	12%	14%	18%	20%	23%
PA 8	5%	4%	6%	9%	13%	16%
PA 9	8%	7%	8%	12%	14%	14%
PA 10	23%	17%	21%	22%	25%	26%

- 5.6 The threshold of over 10% surplus for three consecutive years, based on either forecast or actual data, could also be applied at individual school level. This approach would consider both the point of entry (Year R) and the whole-school population, helping to ensure that issues at specific schools are not overlooked. Schools with a higher level of surplus, such as over 25% in either Year R or total school numbers, sustained for three consecutive years, could be prioritised for review.
- 5.7 Schools/planning areas identified as having a surplus above the threshold would be reviewed. The reviews, at either planning area or individual school level, would consider factors including:
- Birth rate and catchment population – trends and patterns of births; population size; catchment recruitment and retention; does the PAN align with the catchment population size; impact of new housing developments.
  - Popularity – pattern of 1<sup>st</sup> preferences; inward/outward movement; is popularity increasing/decreasing.
  - Admissions analysis – patterns of movement; relationships between schools
  - Location of school(s) – proximity to population; proximity of other schools; impact on HTST; identify Rural Schools as defined by the DfE.
  - Size of school(s) – could the PAN be reduced; does the size/structure align with infant class size.

- Buildings – are there condition or compliance issues; is investment required; are there co-location opportunities.
- Current financial status – are there budget deficits; is this likely to change over the forecast period; could the financial picture improve.

5.8 Reviews could also be requested by schools and/or Governing Bodies in circumstances outside the criteria.

5.9 Schools in the district would *ideally* satisfy the following principles. These measures could be used to determine whether action is needed to address surplus places.

- Surplus places <10% for at least 3 years
- Comparable provision  $\geq 3$  miles away
- PAN aligns with actual and forecast demand
- PAN  $\geq 30$
- NOR  $\geq 50$  (at least 2 classes)
- Budget surplus or licensed deficit
- Low level of condition need

5.10 These measures would assess whether schools or areas exceeded the surplus place threshold, whether alternative provision was within a 3-mile radius, whether the PAN was achievable, whether there was potential to reduce the PAN, the costs of running the school, and whether current/forecast pupil numbers would support at least two classes (as this is likely to be the minimum required to be educationally viable).

5.11 Where schools or planning areas do not meet the established principles, and a subsequent review recommends action, a range of options could be considered. These would follow a graduated approach, with the least disruptive option proposed wherever possible. All proposed actions would be guided by the core objectives of ensuring schools remain both educationally and financially sustainable and continue to meet genuine local need.

5.12 The options available to the responsible body (such as the LA or academy trust) may include:

- Reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN): Could the PAN reduce while still supporting class sizes of 30?
- Federation or Academisation: Is there potential for the school to federate or join a multi-academy trust?
- Site Consolidation: Could schools be retained but operate across fewer sites to improve efficiency?

- School Closure: Is closure a viable option that would address educational and financial viability? Can the community still access primary provision?

5.13 As well as continuing to refresh the forecast with latest data, the LA will continue to:

- engage with schools, Multi Academy Trusts, and Diocese as well as other stakeholders to find the most appropriate solutions to deal with surplus places within a school or an area.
- encourage and support schools to review their financial and staffing position, considering restructure or reorganisation if needed.
- propose a permanent structural solution, such as a PAN reduction, amalgamation, or school closure, for stakeholder consideration only where a long-term intervention is deemed necessary.

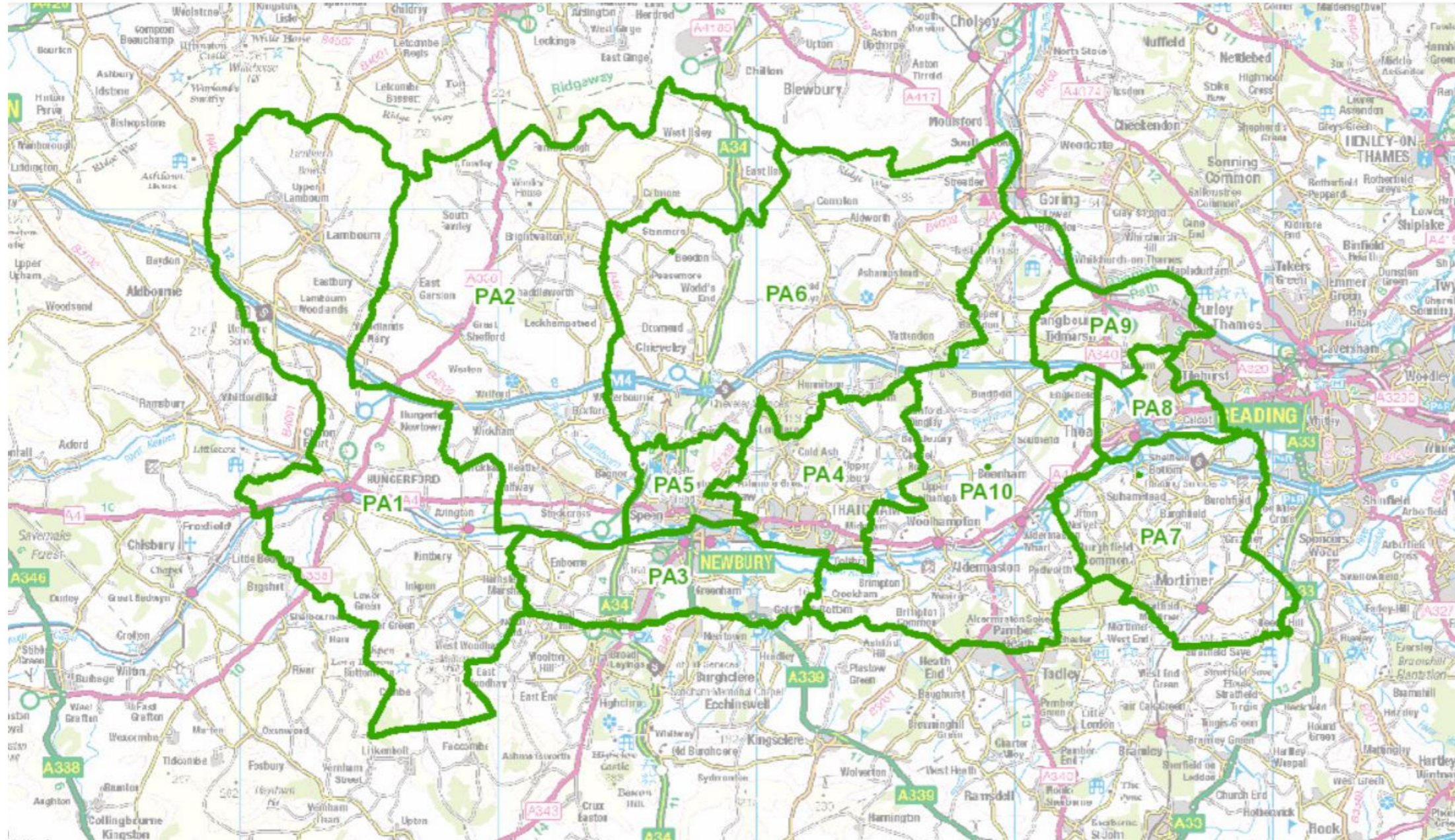
## 6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Surplus places across the district are projected to increase, with forecasts indicating that 22% of places at the point of entry (Year R) could remain unfilled by the end of the five-year forecast period. This growing surplus may place increasing pressure on schools and could lead to a rise in the number of schools operating with deficit budgets. While pupil numbers are a key factor in school finances, they are not the only consideration. Currently, only a minority of schools with deficit budgets have significant surplus places.
- 6.2 Retaining the sites and buildings that we currently have is likely to put further pressure on school finances as the gap between funding and physical capacity widens. The Council may have to consider rationalising the estate to reduce this gap and associated funding burden.
- 6.3 The retention of school sites is increasing the number of schools teaching in mixed year group classes, which is not always popular with families and could impact on the popularity of affected schools as a result.
- 6.4 The retention of school sites has led to the continued operation of small rural schools, which in certain cases are facing financial and educational challenges. These schools can be particularly appealing to families of children with additional needs, which may increase budgetary pressures.
- 6.5 It is proposed that both planning areas and individual schools be reviewed using the criteria outlined earlier in this report. The established principles provide a framework for assessing groups of schools and identifying where intervention may be necessary. This report also sets out the mechanisms available to the local authority for addressing surplus places, which could be used to reduce levels to the 10% threshold.

## 7 Appendices

- Planning Area List

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### The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

1. This document gives 28 clear days notice of key decisions which the Executive and Individual Executive Members or Officer expect to take.
2. The document is updated as required and is available to the public on the Council's website.
3. The Executive is made up of the Executive Leader, Deputy Leader and eight Executive Members with the following portfolios:

Leader of the Council and Executive Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Corporate Programme	Councillor Jeff Brooks
Deputy Leader and Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services	Councillor Heather Codling
Adult Social Care and Public Health	Councillor Patrick Clark
Finance and Resources	Councillor Iain Cottingham
Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside	Councillor Nigel Foot
Planning and Housing	Councillor Denise Gaines
Environment and Highways	Councillor Stuart Gourley
Public Safety and Capital Projects (Built Environment)	Councillor Tom McCann
Community Engagement, Economic Development and Regeneration and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	Councillor Justin Pemberton
Strategy and Governance, Commercialisation and Disabled Community Liaison	Councillor Vicky Poole

4. Key decisions are those executive decisions which are likely to result in spending or savings which are "significant" in relation to the budget for the service or function in question, or in terms of the effect on communities living or working in two or more wards or electoral divisions. All contracts above £500,000 require a key decision in accordance with the Constitution.
5. The Regulations and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in this document in accordance with General Exception and Special Urgency provisions.
6. The Forward Plan will also contain details of intended review activity by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and its Sub-Committee(s) or another body e.g. Task Group associated with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.
7. Copies of the Council's Constitution and agenda and minutes for all meetings of the Council may be accessed on the Council's website.
8. For copies of reports or other documents, and for detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Executive, individual Member or officer please contact the named Lead Officer for the item concerned.
9. For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please email [executivecycle@westberkshire.gov.uk](mailto:executivecycle@westberkshire.gov.uk) or by writing to the address below.

Publication Date: 1 May 2026

Nicola Thomas  
Service Lead  
Legal & Democratic Services  
West Berkshire Council, Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
RG14 5LD

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
21 May 2026	Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Task Group Recommendations		No	Executive			Steven Bow	Open
21 May 2026	Review of Ethical Investment Policy Relating to the Council and Berkshire Pension Fund		No	Executive			Richard Howroyd	Open
21 May 2026	Environment Strategy Annual Progress Report		Yes	Executive			Emily Ashton-Jelley	Open
21 May 2026	Playing Pitch Strategy		Yes	Executive			Jude Thomas	Open
21 May 2026	Care Quality Commission Self-	The purpose of the report is to share the self-assessment	No	Executive			Paul Coe	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
	Assessment	document developed in line with the requirements of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)'s programme of Local Authority Assurance. The assurance process focuses on Adult Social Care but takes account of associated activity by other departments including Housing, Commissioning , Public Health, Human Resources and others. The development of an Annual self-assessment report is a new						

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
		requirement. It forms part of the 'Information Return' to be shared upon notification of an Assurance visit.						
	Approval of the Landscaped Area Crookham Common for the Exercise of Commoners' Rights	To seek a formal resolution from the Council confirming that the area commonly referred to as the "landscaped area" on Greenham and Crookham Commons is now in a fit state for the exercise of commoners' rights, in accordance with Section 3 of the Greenham and	No	Delegated Officer Decisions			Paul Hendry	Open

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		Crookham Commons Act 2002.						
21 May 2026	Devolution of Ramsbury drive play area to Hungerford town council		No	Executive			Matt Hart	Open
21 May 2026	Membership of the South East Regional Care Cooperative		Yes	Executive			Richard Howroyd	Open
21 May 2026	Standing item: Asset Disposal		No	Executive			Richard Turner	Open
21 May 2026	Council Strategy Refresh		Yes	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open
21 May 2026	Newbury Town Centre Pedestrianisation Extension	To report on the results of the consultation carried out during the first	Yes	Executive			Jon Winstanley	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
		six months of the experimental traffic regulation order to extend the timing of Newbury town centre pedestrianisation, and to recommend a way forward.						
21 May 2026	Disposal of land at Bond Riverside		No	Executive			Bill Bagnell	Open
21 May 2026	Prevention Strategies Children's Services		No	Executive			AnnMarie Dodds	Open
26 May 2026	Springfield School Streets Scheme	Seeks approval to make the scheme permanent, subject to amendments including ANPR enforcement and reduced	No	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways			Cheryl Evans	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
		restriction times.						
8 Jun 2026	Crisis Resilience Fund	To agree funding allocations to the voluntary sector	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Planning and Housing			Nick Caprara	Open
11 Jun 2026	West Berkshire Local Plan timetable and commencement		Yes	Executive			Paula Amorelli	Open
11 Jun 2026	New Procurement Strategy & Think Local Social Value Policy		No	Executive			Richard Howroyd	Open
11 Jun 2026	All Age Autism Strategy		Yes	Executive			Hannah Cole	Open
11 Jun 2026	0-19s procurement		No	Executive			Steven Bow	Open
11 Jun 2026	Highways		Yes	Executive			Sarah Wood	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
	Term Maintenance Contract							
11 Jun 2026	Planning Enforcement Plan	For the Executive to consider the outcome of the Draft Planning Enforcement Plan 6 week consultation and to approve the Plan.	Yes	Executive			Laura Callan	Open
11 Jun 2026	Prevention Strategy for Adults		No	Executive			Paul Coe	Open
11 Jun 2026	Asset Optimisation Plan		No	Executive			Sarah Clarke	Open
11 Jun 2026	Educational Neglect Policy & Section 19 Policy Statement		Yes	Portfolio Holder: Deputy Leader, Children and Family Services			Melissa Perry	Open
12 Jun 2026	Collection		No	Portfolio			Felicity	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
	disposal request West Berkshire Museum			Holder: Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside			Harrison	
2 Jul 2026	Automatic Fire Suppression Systems		Yes	Executive			Richard Turner	Open
2 Jul 2026	Standing item: Asset Disposal		No	Executive			Richard Turner	Open
2 Jul 2026	2025/26 Performance Report Q4		No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open
2 Jul 2026	Revenue and Capital Financing Performance Outturn 2025/26		Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open
2 Jul 2026	Spatial Development Strategy		No	Executive			Clare Lawrence	Open
31 Jul 2026	Ashmore		No	Portfolio			Gareth	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
	Green, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Bucklebury, Upper Bucklebury and Chapel Row 20 MPH Speed Limit Scheme			Holder: Environment and Highways			Dowding	
24 Sep 2026	Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report		No	Executive			Karl Davis	Open
24 Sep 2026	Adult Social Care Strategy		No	Executive			Melanie O'Rourke	Open
24 Sep 2026	Early Help Response Hub Annual report		No	Executive			Georgie Hicks	Open
24 Sep 2026	Care Leaver Annual Report		No	Executive			Karl Davis	Open
24 Sep 2026	Youth Justice Annual Plan		No	Executive			Dave Wraight	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
24 Sep 2026	West Berkshire Health Visitor and School Nurse (0-19s) Re-commissioning	To ensure that the necessary approval processes are followed and scheduled within the required timescales	Yes	Executive			Steven Bow	Open
24 Sep 2026	2026/27 Performance Report Q1		No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open
24 Sep 2026	Revenue and Capital Performance Report Q1		Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open
17 Dec 2026	Revenue and Capital Performance Report Q2		Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open
17 Dec 2026	2026/27 Performance Report Q2		No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open
18 Mar 2027	Revenue and Capital		Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open

Decision Due Date	Title	Purpose	Key Decision e.g. Yes/ No	Decision Maker e.g. Executive Individual Decision Officer decision	Consultation e.g. Members including shadow exec members	Background Papers (All Papers are available for inspection via the Lead Officer)	Lead Officer e.g report author	Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)
	Performance Report Q3							
	SACRE agreed syllabus		Yes	Individual Executive Member Decisions			James Stuart	Open
	Henwick Worthy Masterplan		Yes	Executive			Jude Thomas	Open

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## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Item	Scrutiny Theme	Purpose	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder/ Lead Member	Pre or post decision?
<b>10 September 2026</b>					
SEN Tribunals	Corporate Effectiveness	To provide an update on SEN Tribunals in West Berkshire.	Emma Ferry	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	CYPSC Decision
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Policy	Policy Effectiveness	To present the draft EOTAS Policy for review.	Emma Ferry	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	Pre-Decision
Families First Update	Policy Effectiveness	To provide an update on how the Families First Programme is being implemented in West Berkshire, bringing professionals together to ensure children and their families receive clear, joined-up support.	Rebecca Wilshire	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	CYPSC Decision
Children's Services Complaints and Compliments Annual Report	Corporate Effectiveness	To present the Children's Social Care Complaints Annual Report for 2025/26, including feedback from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman	Sue O'Brien	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	CYPSC Decision
Child Protection Annual Report 2025-26	Corporate Effectiveness	To report upon the performance of services for children and young people subject to a child protection plan between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026, providing breakdown and commentary regarding the quality of practice within West Berkshire's child protection conference process and to make recommendations for any required remedial action.	Nicola Robertson	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	CYPSC Decision
<b>03 December 2026</b>					
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	Policy Effectiveness	To provide an overview of childcare provision in West Berkshire and whether this is sufficient to support working parents and ensure that every child is able to access their entitlement to free early education and care.		Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	Pre-Decision
Update on response to DfE Regional Director comments	Corporate Effectiveness	To provide an update on the local education system's response to issues raised by the DfT Regional Director	AnnMarie Dodds/ Ashley Milum	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	CYPSC Decision
<b>02 March 2027</b>					

### Council Strategy Priorities

- Priority Area 1: Services We Are Proud Of
- Priority Area 2: A Fairer West Berkshire with Opportunities for All
- Priority Area 3: Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency
- Priority Area 4: A Prosperous and Resilient West Berkshire
- Priority Area 5: Thriving Communities with a Strong Local Voice

### Scrutiny Themes

- Policy Effectiveness
- Corporate Effectiveness
- Partnership Effectiveness

Last updated:

20 May 2026

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