



Extraordinary Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

Thursday 29 January 2026

Summons and Agenda



West Berkshire
COUNCIL

To: All Members of the Council

*You are requested to attend an
extraordinary meeting of*

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

to be held in the

**COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,
NEWBURY**

on

Thursday 29 January 2026

at 7.00 pm

Sarah Clarke .

Sarah Clarke
Executive Director – Resources
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 21 January 2026

AGENDA

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**)

Agenda – Extraordinary Council to be held on Thursday 29 January 2026 (continued)

3. REQUISITION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Purpose: To consider the impact on West Berkshire, its residents and communities, of the government's provisional financial settlement for local authorities. **(Pages 9 - 10)**

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Stephen Chard on telephone 01635 519778.

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Extraordinary Council – 29 January 2026

Item 1 – Apologies for Absence

Verbal Item

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Agenda Item 2.

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Item 2 – Declarations of Interest

Verbal Item

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Agenda Item 3.

The Government's Local Government Finance Settlement will leave West Berkshire Council among the hardest hit of all councils in the country.

The settlement sets out funding for councils for the next three years - up to 2028-29. While a three-year settlement will allow the Council to better plan its budgets, the figures show that West Berkshire will see one of the lowest increases in Core Spending Power nationally.

Core Spending Power being a measure used by government to show the total revenue funding a local authority has available to deliver local services through the local government finance settlement.

This includes:

- Revenue Support Grant
- Retained Business Rates
- Council Tax
- Applicable Government Grants

West Berkshire's Core Spending Power - which assumes council tax will increase at the upper limit of 4.99% each year - will rise by just over a third of the national average. Without those projected council tax increases, the Council would have seen an actual reduction in spending power.

The Revenue Support Grant, a key source of Government funding, will fall sharply from £27 million to £16 million in just two years - almost halving in a short space of time. By 2029, the Council's core spending power will be £191 million. With inflation at 3%, the cost of essential services such as adult and children's social care, waste services and debt repayments alone would consume virtually all of this.

Because of this, Council resolves to request that the Leader:

1. Writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), **The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP**, to request that the Government urgently review the proposed funding model being applied to West Berkshire Council to address the significant and unfair consequences to this Council's ability to deliver essential public services to our communities.
2. Writes to our two local MPs to ask that they support our efforts and urge MHCLG to address the negative impacts of the proposed settlement on West Berkshire Council, and request that this be reviewed as a matter of urgency.
3. Discusses this difficult situation with the Berkshire Unitary Authority Leaders and looks to develop a joint Berkshire wide response to this very distressing financial situation.

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