

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN 1 AUGUST 2026–30 NOVEMBER 2026

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 Vic 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 or by writing to the address below.

Publication Date: 1 August 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)
24 Sep 2026	Adult Social Care Strategy	To provide Executive with a summary of the outcome of the ASC Strategy 2026 – 2030 consultation and the intended next steps.	No	Executive			Melanie O'Rourke	Open
24 Sep 2026	Care Leaver Annual Report	To update West Berkshire Council on the performance of services for Care Leavers for the period 2025-26.	No	Executive			Karl Davis	Open
24 Sep 2026	Youth Justice Annual Plan	To provide Council with oversight of the annual Youth Justice Plan for 2026/2027 which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board.	No	Executive			Dave Wraight	Open
24 Sep 2026	West Berkshire Health Visitor	To ensure that the necessary approval	Yes	Executive			Steven Bow	Open

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	and School Nurse (0-19s) Recommissioning	processes are followed and scheduled within the required timescales						
24 Sep 2026	2026/27 Performance Report Q1	To provide assurance that the priority areas in the Council Strategy 2023-2027 are being managed effectively as at the end of Quarter One of 2026/27, and where performance has fallen below the expected level, present information on the remedial action taken and the impact of that action.	No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open
24 Sep 2026	Membership of the South	Executive is asked to agree to West	Yes	Executive			Rupa Parmar	Open

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	East Regional Care Co-Operative	Berkshire Council becoming a member of the South East Regional Care Cooperative (the RCC). The RCC is being run by the newly created not-for-profit company, Home + Future Limited (H&F), which has been developed by local authorities in the South East region. Regional Care Cooperatives are being established to enable local authorities to work together better to plan and commission homes for looked after						

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		children. They are part of a new national approach being introduced by the Department for Education (DfE), mandated by proposed legislation in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill that is currently progressing through Parliament.						
24 Sep 2026	Grazeley Solar Farm Business Case Update	To provide an update to the business case for the Grazeley Solar Farm.	Yes	Executive			Jon Winstanley	Open
24 Sep 2026	Revenue and Capital Performance Report Q1	To report on the financial performance of the Council's Revenue and Capital at the end of Quarter One for	Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open

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		2026/27.						
23 Oct 2026	Streatley Hill proposed 40 mph speed limit change	To approve the outcome of the public consultation exercise relating to a proposed change on speed limit on Streatley Hill Streatley	No	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways	Ward Member, Shadow Executive Member for Highways, Parish Council.		Gareth Dowding	Open
23 Oct 2026	Highway Winter Service Plan 2026/27	To seek approval of the 2026/27 Highway Winter Service Plan	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways	All Members, All Town and Parish Councils		Andrew Reynolds	Open
12 Nov 2026	Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report	To provide an overview of the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel between 2025 and 2026.	No	Executive			Karl Davis	Open
12 Nov 2026	PFI Waste Contract Expiry Programme	This report seeks approval to establish a corporate programme to prepare for the expiry of the	Yes	Executive			Daniel Warne	Open

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		Council's PFI Waste Contract in September 2032. The programme will oversee contract hand-back, asset assurance, service continuity, future delivery model appraisal, procurement planning and transition arrangements. It also recognises that Local Government Reorganisation will take effect on 1 April 2028 and that future decisions regarding waste infrastructure, service delivery and strategy						

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		development will be taken in the context of the successor authority. The expiry of a PFI waste contract should be treated as a major corporate programme, not simply a re-procurement exercise. The Infrastructure and Projects Authority's guidance states that PFI expiry involves both contract expiry management and transition to future service provision and should be approached through structured workstreams						

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		covering contract awareness, relationship management, assets, commercial strategy and future services. This report builds upon the Council's ongoing engagement with the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) PFI Expiry Health Check process, which is intended to assess organisational readiness and identify key actions required to						

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		support successful contract expiry. National guidance recommends that authorities begin planning several years before expiry due to the time required to undertake asset assurance, options appraisal, commercial planning and transition activities.						
12 Nov 2026	Response to 'Ending the use of the chemical weedkiller glyphosate'. motion	To provide a response to the motion proposed by Councillor David Marsh at the meeting of Council on 16 July 2026.	No	Executive			Kofi Adu-Gyamfi	Open
12 Nov 2026	Specialist	The proposed provision of a	Yes	Executive			Mark Lewis	Open

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	Inclusion Base - John O'Gaunt School	new Specialist Inclusion Base at John O'Gaunt School within the Council's Capital Programme. To approve inclusion of the project in the current capital programme to enable alignment with major DfE capital project at the school.						
12 Nov 2026	Strategic Asset Management Plan	The Strategic Asset Management Plan is a high-level document that provides a clear framework for making informed decisions about assets throughout their lifecycle,	No	Executive			Brittney Marsh	Open

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		ensuring they deliver value, remain fit for purpose, and support organisational priorities. It aligns asset management activities, investment decisions, and resource allocation with strategic goals, while balancing performance, risk, cost, compliance, and sustainability considerations.						
17 Dec 2026	Revenue and Capital Performance Report Q2	To report on the financial performance of the Council's Revenue and Capital at the end of Quarter Two for 2026/27.	Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open

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17 Dec 2026	Adoption of Tree Policy	The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Executive to formally adopt the Council's Tree Policy.	Yes	Executive			Paul Hendry	Open
17 Dec 2026	2026/27 Performance Report Q2	To provide assurance that the priority areas in the Council Strategy 2023-2027 are being managed effectively as at the end of Quarter Two of 2026/27, and where performance has fallen below the expected level, present information on the remedial action taken and the impact of that action.	No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open

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18 Dec 2026	English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) changes	To a make decision on offering non-statutory enhancements to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) to residents. The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) provides free local bus travel across England for eligible older and disabled residents. Locally, the scheme is administered by travel concession authorities (TCAs). This scheme is	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways			Louise Martin, Matthew Metcalfe	Open

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		enshrined in legislation through the Transport Act 1985, the Transport Act 2000 (as modified by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007) and the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA act 1999). The Council provides the statutory minimum scheme to it's residents.						
18 Dec 2026	Parking Amendment 39	To approve the recommendation of the results of consultation of the outcome of Parking Amendmnet 39 via ID Report	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways	Full public consultation via onstreet notices and WBC Consultation Hub Pages		Gareth Dowding	Open
18 Dec 2026	Removal of	To approve the recommendatio	No	Portfolio	Ward members,		Gareth	Open

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	unnecessary weight limit TRO Nalder Hill speed	n of the ID report following the results of a public consultation exercise into the removal of an existing weight limit on Nalder Hill Speed that is considered unnecessary.		Holder: Environment and Highways	Shadow Executive Member for Highways, Parish Council		Dowding	
15 Jan 2027	Englefield Road Theale, No Right Turn	To determine the outcome following objections received following public consultation	No	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways	3 week public consultation in September 2026 to include all mandatory stakeholders, local press and site notices		Julie Grimes	Open
11 Feb 2027	Revenue and Capital Performance Report Q3	To report on the financial performance of the Council's Revenue and Capital at the end of Quarter Three for 2026/27.	Yes	Executive			Toby Bradley	Open

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25 Feb 2027	Capital Budget 2027/28	To outline the Capital Strategy period 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	Yes	Council			Shail Vitish	Open

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		implications for future financial sustainability.						
25 Feb 2027	Revenue Budget 2027/28	In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Local Government Act 2003, the Council must set a balanced budget annually by 11 March. The budget acts as an indicator that the Council has set aside sufficient financial resources to achieve its objectives and to ensure that Council Tax bills can be issued to residents across the	Yes	Council			George Winterbourne	Open

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		district prior to the start of the new financial year. The report details the budget proposals for financial year 2027/28 and supporting Council Tax proposals and resolutions.						
25 Feb 2027	Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2027/28	The report seeks to consolidate the investment and borrowing strategy for the year ahead by detailing how and where the Council will invest and borrow in the forthcoming year, within a	Yes	Council			Shail Vitish	Open

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		particular framework. This strategy is monitored throughout the year, with a mid-year report going to the Audit and Risk Committee as well as an annual report being presented to Members.						
25 Feb 2027	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2027/28	The purpose of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is to determine financial planning assumptions for future years and	Yes	Council			Shail Vitish	Open

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		align these with the Council Strategy to ensure that strategic objectives are delivered.						
18 Mar 2027	2026/27 Performance Report Q3	To provide assurance that the priority areas in the Council Strategy 2023-2027 are being managed effectively as at the end of Quarter Three of 2026/27, and where performance has fallen below the expected level, present information on the remedial action taken and the impact of that action.	No	Executive			Beatriz Teixeira	Open

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	SACRE agreed syllabus		Yes	Individual Executive Member Decisions			James Stuart	Open
	West Berkshire Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme - 2026 update	To approve the updated West Berkshire Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme. DfT (Department for Transport) expects EP Plans and Schemes to contain minimum standards (as set out by statutory guidance) and implement the Social Necessary Local Service measure (SNLS) as set out by the Bus Services Act	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways			Emma Jameson, Louise Martin, Matthew Metcalfe	Open

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		2025 by March 2027. The above is condition of future years DfT Local Bus Grant Funding from 2027/28. As part of the consultation, we may look to submit items for consideration to the Highways Improvement Group (HIG) and before final the individual decision submission.						
	West Berkshire Bus Network Accessibility Plan	To make a decision regarding publication and subsequent implementation of the West Berkshire Bus Network Accessibility Plan (BNAP).	Yes	Portfolio Holder: Environment and Highways	The Bus Services Act 2025 requires LTA's to consult on the network accessibility plan. Bus operators and Enhanced		Emma Jameson, Louise Martin, Matthew Metcalfe	Open

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		Under section 21 of Bus Services Act 2025 Local Transport Authorities are required to write and publish a Bus Network Accessibility Plan before the period of one year beginning with day on which the measure came into force. The measure came into force 1 April 2026, so LTAs must publish BNAP by 31 March 2027. This is statutory requirement for LTAs. This is being put forward as			Partnership Forum members are aware of the requirement to have BNAP in place by 31 March 2027 and will have be consulted on the content of the plan. We will look to consult with contacts including the Learning Disability Partnership Board to hear views on what should be included within in a BNAP.			

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		individual decision for the portfolio holder, however as part of the consultation, we may look to submit items for consideration to the Highways Improvement Group (HIG) and before final the individual decision.						