

DRAFT

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

COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 1 MAY 2025**

Councillors Present: Adrian Abbs, Antony Amirtharaj, Phil Barnett, Dominic Boeck, Jeff Brooks, Nick Carter, Patrick Clark, Heather Codling, Martin Colston, Jeremy Cottam, Iain Cottingham, Carolyn Culver, Billy Drummond (Chairman), Nigel Foot, Denise Gaines, Stuart Gourley, Clive Hooker, Owen Jeffery, Paul Kander, Jane Langford, Janine Lewis (Present Online), Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Tom McCann, Erik Pattenden, Justin Pemberton, Vicky Poole, Christopher Read, Stephanie Steevenson, Louise Sturgess, Clive Taylor, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers (Vice-Chairman) and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: Paul Coe (Executive Director – Adult Social Care), AnnMarie Dodds (Executive Director - Children's Services), Clare Lawrence (Executive Director - Place), Sarah Clarke (Interim Executive Director (Resources)) and Rachel Elliott (PA to Chief Executive), Melanie Booth (Group Executive (Lib Dems)), Jake Carpenter (Group Executive (Cons)), Sam Chiverton (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer) and Benjamin Ryan (Democratic Services Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Dennis Benneyworth, Councillor Laura Coyle, Councillor Paul Dick, Councillor Biyi Oloko, Councillor Matt Shakespeare, Councillor Richard Somner, Councillor Joanne Stewart, Honorary Alderwoman Hilary Cole, Honorary Alderman Paul Bryant, Honorary Alderman Keith Chopping, Honorary Alderman Rick Jones, Honorary Alderman Tony Linden, Honorary Alderwoman Mollie Lock, Honorary Alderman Gordon Lundie and Honorary Alderman Graham Pask

Councillor(s) Absent: Councillor Geoff Mayes

PART I

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

17. Appointment of Head of Paid Service

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 3) concerning the Appointment of Head of Paid Service.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“that Council approve the appointment of the candidate for the role of Chief Executive proposed by the Member Appointment Panel as detailed in Appendix A, who will be designated as the Council’s head of paid service and returning officer with effect from a date to be confirmed in the contract of employment”.

Councillor Brooks introduced the report by outlining the necessity of appointing a Chief Executive, highlighting that West Berkshire Council had lacked a full-time Chief Executive since November. He also detailed the recruitment process, which included an advertising campaign that attracted 34 candidates, five of whom were shortlisted for interviews. The interview process involved an external stakeholder panel, including representatives from

COUNCIL - 1 MAY 2025 - MINUTES

the Integrated Care Board and Greenham Common Trust, as well as engagement with the Executive Directors.

Councillor Brooks explained that they had introduced a member stakeholder panel to allow Members to meet the candidates, which was a response to previous suggestions for increased member involvement in the selection process. Overall, he expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the interviews and indicated that further details would be revealed in part two of the meeting.

Councillor Dominic Boeck was pleased with the appointment process, in which he participated in, stating that he was very satisfied with the outcome and looked forward to the reveal of the successful candidate. These comments were concurred with by Councillor Owen Jeffery, acknowledging the commendable execution of the appointment process.

Councillor Mackinnon highlighted the importance of appointing a dynamic and respected Chief Executive to implement the administration's agenda effectively and echoed Councillor Boeck's sentiments over the appointment process.

18. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraphs(s) 1,2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the [Local Government \(Access to Information\)\(Variation\) Order 2006](#). [Section 10, Part 10 of the Constitution also refers](#).

19. Appointment of Head of Paid Service – Appendix A

RESOLVED that that Council approve the appointment of the candidate for the role of Chief Executive proposed in Appendix A.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and closed at 5.25 pm)

CHAIRMAN
Date of Signature