

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN
2026 – 2027

1. This document gives notice of decisions which the Governance Committee is expected to take.
2. The document is updated as required and is available to the public on the Council's website.
3. Copies of the Council's Constitution and agenda and minutes for all meetings of the Governance Committee may be accessed on the Council's website.
4. For copies of reports or other documents, and for detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the committee, please contact the named Lead Officer for the item concerned.
5. For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please email executivecycle@westberkshire.gov.uk

Publication Date: 14 January 2026

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

| Decision Due Date | Title | Purpose | Lead Officer e.g report author | Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information) |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 27 January 2026 | | | | |
| 27 Jan 2026 | Internal Audit Update Report - Quarter Two 2025/26 | <p>To update the Committee on the status of Internal Audit work as at the end of quarter two 2025/26.</p> <p>The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), as adapted by CIPFA's "Local Government Application Note", require the Audit Manager to provide periodic updates to senior officers and members on performance against the Audit Plan. As stated in the Council's approved Internal Audit Charter, quarterly updates are required to be presented to the Committee.</p> <p>The periodic reports aim to provide a progress update against the work in the Audit Plan together with highlighting any emerging significant issues/risks that are of concern.</p> | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 27 Jan 2026 | Mid-Year Treasury Report | <p>To receive the Mid-Year Treasury Report, written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). One of the primary requirements of the Code is receipt by the full Council of a mid-year review report, measuring performance against the adopted annual Investment & Borrowing Strategy (I&B). This report satisfies the mid-year reporting requirement.</p> | Chris Dagnall | Open |

| Decision Due Date | Title | Purpose | Lead Officer e.g report author | Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information) |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 27 Jan 2026 | Strategic Risk Register Q2 2025/26 | To scrutinise individual items on the Risk Register. | Beatriz Teixeira | Part exempt |
| 28 April 2026 | | | | |
| 28 Apr 2026 | Internal Audit Update Report - Quarter Three 2025/26 | <p>To update the Committee on the status of Internal Audit work as at the end of quarter three 2025/26.</p> <p>The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), as adapted by CIPFA's "Local Government Application Note", require the Audit Manager to provide periodic updates to senior officers and members on performance against the Audit Plan. As stated in the Council's approved Internal Audit Charter, quarterly updates are required to be presented to the Committee.</p> <p>The periodic reports aim to provide a progress update against the work in the Audit Plan together with highlighting any emerging significant issues/risks that are of concern.</p> | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 28 Apr 2026 | Annual Governance Committee Report 2024-25 | | Sarah Clarke - Executive Director | Open |
| 28 Apr 2026 | Strategic Risk Register Q3 2025/26 | To scrutinise individual items on the Risk Register. | Beatriz Teixeira | Part exempt |
| 28 Apr 2026 | Constitution Update (Standing Item) | | | |
| 14 May 2026 | | | | |

| Decision Due Date | Title | Purpose | Lead Officer e.g report author | Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information) |
|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 14 May 2026 | Election of Chairman | | | Open |
| 14 May 2026 | Election of Vice-Chairman | | | Open |
| 23 June 2026 | | | | |
| 23 Jun 2026 | External Audit Plan 2025/26 | | Jonathan Brown, Jess Townsend | Open |
| 23 Jun 2026 | Internal Audit Draft Plan 2026-27 | The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the Council's Audit Plan and Internal Audit Charter to be approved by those charged with governance within the Council. The purpose of this report is to set out a risk-based plan of work for Internal Audit (IA) that will provide assurance to the Governance Committee on the operation of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, and support the Committee's review of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 23 Jun 2026 | Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report 2025/26 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 23 Jun 2026 | Annual Treasury Management Report | To summarises the results of the Council's management of cash-flow, borrowing and investments in the financial year 2025/26. | Shannon Coleman-Slaughter | Open |
| 23 Jun 2026 | Annual Governance Statement | To summarise the key governance issues for the Council and the action plan to address these. The Annual Governance Statement | Sarah Clarke | Open |

| Decision Due Date | Title | Purpose | Lead Officer e.g report author | Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information) |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | (AGS) will be approved by those charged with governance, the Governance Committee at West Berkshire, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The AGS will form part of the Council's Statement of Accounts. | | |
| 23 Jun 2026 | Annual Monitoring Officer's Report | | Sarah Clarke | Open |
| 29 September 2026 | | | | |
| 29 Sep 2026 | Internal Audit Update Report - Q1 2026/27 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 29 Sep 2026 | Draft Financial Statements and Going Concern Assessment | | Chris Dagnall | Open |
| 29 Sep 2026 | Strategic Risk Register - Q4 2025/26 | | Beatriz Teixeira | Part exempt |
| 17 November 2026 | | | | |
| 17 Nov 2026 | Internal Audit Assurance Report 2025/26 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 17 Nov 2026 | Constitution Update (Standing Item) | | | |
| 26 January 2027 | | | | |
| 26 Jan 2027 | Internal Audit Update Report - Q3 2026/27 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 26 Jan 2027 | Risk Management Strategy 2027 - 2030 | | | Open |

| Decision Due Date | Title | Purpose | Lead Officer e.g report author | Report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information) |
|---------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 26 Jan 2027 | Financial Year 2026/27 Mid-Year Treasury Report | | Chris Dagnall | Open |
| 26 Jan 2027 | Strategic Risk Register - Q2 2026/27 | | Beatriz Teixeira | Part exempt |
| 8 March 2027 | | | | |
| 8 Mar 2027 | Internal Audit Update Report - Quarter Three 2026/27 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 8 Mar 2027 | Internal Audit Draft Plan 2027-28 | | Julie Gillhespey | Open |
| 8 Mar 2027 | Strategic Risk Register - Q2026/27 | | Beatriz Teixeira Beatriz Teixeira | |