

West Berkshire Council Report to Theale Parish Council

12th January 2026

Council Finances

The government has informed councils of its Local Government Finance Settlement for the next three years. 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. This comes on top of a difficult budget situation for next and future years.

Theale C of E Primary School

The proposed expansion of Theale CofE Primary School from one and a half form entry to two form entry is no longer moving forward. This decision has been taken due to several factors:

- A decline in the birth rate means that the two major housing developments in the village are now expected to generate only 40 primary school-aged children across all year groups.
- Up to 40% of pupils in some classes currently come from outside the catchment area.
- Many surrounding schools are significantly under-subscribed.

The situation will be reviewed every year.

Road Maintenance Rating

West Berkshire is one of only about a dozen local authorities to be rated “green” by the Department for Transport (DFT). The DFT rated 154 local highway authorities as red, amber or green based on road conditions and how well they were using government funds.

Horsemen's Coaches

The Horsemen's Coach site in The Green has been sold. The new owners have carried out site clearance and erected a security fence and gate. It looks like they are planning to use the site commercially. The site was given planning permission in the 1980s for vehicular repair and maintenance.

Alan Macro

Councillor for Theale

West Berkshire Council

11th January 2026