



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held at the Civic Offices,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 23
MARCH 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 15 March 2017

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
81.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
82.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2017.	15 - 32
83.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
84.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Council Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
84.1	None Specific	Philip Meadowcroft has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question: Question The Constitution of the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor repeatedly welcomes the involvement of the Borough's residents in Council Meetings which are open to the public. Maidenhead's Constitution, like Wokingham's, is silent on the issue of Points of Order being raised by a member of the public. Maidenhead have adopted a simple, common sense, and entirely workable solution as advised to me by their Democratic Services office on March 6 earlier this month; namely, at a Maidenhead Council meeting, a Point of Order can be raised by a member of the public and will be dealt with there and then	

entirely at the discretion of the Chairman.

Will Wokingham Borough Council adopt the same policy and so put an end to the unfortunate situation which has manifested itself at the last two Full Council meetings where a member of the public, indeed it was me, attempted unsuccessfully to raise a Point of Order but it was deemed totally out of order and immediately dismissed by the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor respectively on the guidance of the Chief Executive.

84.2 None Specific

Tom Berman has asked the Mayor the following question:

Question

My question relates to the minutes of the Council meeting of 23rd February 2017 (which have now been approved).

Would the Mayor agree that, where these minutes state that "Councillor Gary Cowan sought clarification regarding points of order which was provided by the Mayor" this is an incorrect and seriously misleading statement of what actually occurred (as the video record shows), because the matter was not clarified in so far as (i) the Mayor incorrectly cited paragraph 14 in the Constitution, when he must have meant paragraph 4.2.13.13, and (ii) he quoted this section as stating that "Only a member may raise a point of order..." though the word "only" does not appear here in the Constitution, and (iii) when Councillor Cowan specifically asked who had given the professional advice that the Constitution could be interpreted as prohibiting residents from raising points of order, the Mayor did not answer the member's question?

85.

PETITIONS

To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.

86.

PETITION DEBATE

To debate a petition.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 3.5.4.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for petitions to be debated.

The process below will be followed at the meeting:

a) the petition organiser(s) will be given five

minutes to present the petition (if there is more than one petition organiser then they will share this time);

- b) the petition will then be debated by Councillors for a period not exceeding 30 minutes;
- c) the petition organiser(s) will have the right of reply of up to a maximum of three minutes;
- d) the Mayor will then ask for motions on how the Council wishes to respond to the Petition which may include;
 - i) taking the action or some of the action the petition requests;
 - ii) not taking the action the petition requests;
 - iii) referring the petition to another body for them to consider the matter and take the appropriate action;
- e) once a motion has been put forward it will be voted on without discussion or amendment;
- f) if the motion falls then the Mayor will ask for a further motion to be put forward;
- g) if the Mayor is of the opinion that a decision on how to respond to the petition cannot be reached then he/she can decide, on behalf of the Council, not to take the action that the petition requests.

86.1 None Specific

Petition submitted by Rachel Bradley

On 1 March 2017 the following petition was submitted to the Chief Executive. The petition contained in excess of 1,500 signatures, which is the threshold to trigger a debate at Council:

“Fair Funding for Wokingham Borough Schools

We, the undersigned, petition Wokingham Borough Council to do everything in its power to persuade the Government to improve the level of funding for schools in the Borough. Our schools deliver a high standard of education but receive the lowest level of funding in the country and additional money is needed now to prevent their financial position becoming unsustainable, as well as in the longer term when the national funding formula is introduced.”

87.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
88.	None Specific	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS To appoint members to the Independent Review Panel. RECOMMENDATION: That Council appoint Thomas Berman, David George and Nicholas Oxborough to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of 3 years, commencing on 24 March 2017.	33 - 36
89.	None Specific	ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2016- 17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the past year. RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be noted.	37 - 66
90.	None Specific	AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the work undertaken over the past year. RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee be noted.	67 - 70
91.	None Specific	STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee on the work undertaken over the past year. RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee be noted.	71 - 76
92.	None Specific	REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES To note those reports received from Members on Outside Bodies as circulated in the agenda. RECOMMENDATION: That the reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies be noted.	77 - 130

93. Hawkedon;
Twyford
- OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**
As a result of complaints received about Councillors Lindsay Ferris and Clive Jones an investigation was conducted into the matter.
- A Hearings Panel met on 20 February 2017 and determined that Councillor Ferris and Jones had failed to follow Wokingham Borough Council's Code of Conduct and decided to formally censure the Members in writing and instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Members.
- In accordance with Rule 9.1.16.3 of the Council's Constitution the decision notice was published on the Council's website on 24 February 2017. The Constitution also requires that the matter is reported to the next meeting of the Council. In relation to this complaint there is no further action required.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That Council notes that Councillors Lindsay Ferris and Clive Jones were found to be in breach of the Member Code of Conduct.
94. None Specific
- STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**
To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council, Executive Members, and Deputy Executive Members.
- In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.23 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes
95. None Specific
- STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES**
To receive any statements from Directors of Council Owned Companies.
- In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 10 minutes, and no Director, except with the consent of Council, shall speak for more than 3 minutes.
- 96.
- MEMBER QUESTION TIME**
To answer any member questions
- A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply

96.1 None Specific

Tim Holton has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Can the Executive Member inform the Council of the attendance for this year's Budget Engagement Sessions with Borough residents?

96.2 None Specific

Alistair Auty has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

The Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is working to ensure that schools and public buildings are safely equipped to deal with fires. Could the Executive Member confirm that all schools currently being planned or built will be fitted with sprinkler systems?

96.3 None Specific

Chris Smith has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Does the Executive Member for Finance agree that changes to the Council Tax Discount for empty homes brings greater fairness to our Council Tax system?

96.4 None Specific

Shahid Younis has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

21st Century Council will see a transition to greater use of self-service to make our residents' interactions with the Council more efficient. What steps is the Council taking to ensure that our residents who are less IT-literate, particularly the elderly, still have the means of contacting us if they have a problem?

96.5 None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Could the Executive Member set out what part the Council played in the changes to the Reading Buses Orange routes in Woodley?

- | | | |
|-------|---------------|---|
| 96.6 | None Specific | <p>Alison Swaddle has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:</p> <p>Question
 Could the Executive Member provide an update on the Multi-Academy Trust Working Group in light of the Government's confirmation that it will no longer pursue compulsory academisation of all schools?</p> |
| 96.7 | None Specific | <p>Abdul Loyes has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:</p> <p>Question
 Could the Leader set out the ways in which our residents will benefit from the changes from 21st Century Council?</p> |
| 96.8 | None Specific | <p>Mike Haines has asked the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing the following question:</p> <p>Question
 Every morning on my way to work outside Reading station I see a number of people huddled in doorways; some sleeping, some begging, and some wandering around with a number of bags looking as if they have been out all night. To my untrained eye the number of homeless appears to be increasing and clearly this problem isn't going to stop at the Borough boundary. Please could the Executive Member responsible advise what trends are we seeing in the number of people presenting as being Homeless across Wokingham Borough over the recent 3 year period?</p> |
| 96.9 | None Specific | <p>Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:</p> <p>Question
 Would you provide several examples of each of WBC contracts on major infrastructure and roads that are delivered on time and on budget and when it goes wrong with slipping timetables and cost overruns?</p> |
| 96.10 | None Specific | <p>Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:</p> <p>Question
 At the Council's budget meeting on February 23rd, I asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question which he chose not to answer. Could you answer it for me?</p> |

Why do you think there will be a saving of over £1M in the waste and recycling budget in 2019-20? Especially as we will have to collect from many more new houses by that time.

96.11 None Specific

Imogen Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Because, quite rightly, we have parental choice about where children go to school it means that many parents have no choice but to drive their children lengthy distances to get them there on time. This, of course, is exacerbating our traffic problems at peak times, with parking problems around our schools.

For children where walking to school is not possible, what transport solutions have been considered?

96.12 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration the following question:

Question

In the light of two recent Planning Appeal decisions at Charvil and Spencer's Wood where the 5 year land supply was challenged by the inspectorate as well as in social media Pegasus Planning was the decision to secretly raise the Core Strategy number of houses from 661 a year to 856 a year in April 1st 2013 a wise and justifiable move.

96.13 Winnersh

Philip Houldsworth has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Phase I of the Winnersh Relief Road will be finished this year and there will be a demand to use it before Phase II is built. In the light of this urgency when will the Council finish the building of Phase II?

96.14 None Specific

Ian Pittock has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

WBC plans to build an unlit greenway from the FBC Centre in Finchampstead via California Country Park up to Commonfield Road and then through an unlit SANG to Bohunt School. With her children's safeguarding hat firmly on her head will the Executive Member for Children's Services confirm that she is

fully satisfied that this route will be safe for unaccompanied school children aged 11 and 12 to use as WBC's designated safe cycle route to the school from Finchampstead throughout the entire school year starting September 2017?

97.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters

98.

MOTIONS

To consider any motions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.11.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30-minute period debate will cease immediately, the mover of the Motion or amendment will have the right of reply before the Motion or amendment is put to the vote

98.1 None Specific

Motion 392 submitted by Lindsay Ferris:

This Council believes that our current Objectively Assessed Housing Need figure of 856 homes per annum which covers the period up to 2036 is far too high and unsustainable.

This volume of house building (in excess of 17000 homes) will cause significant harm to this area and destroy the rural nature of many parts of the Borough for ever. It will also cause significant traffic problems over and above our current ones, potentially leading to grid lock in various parts of the Borough.

We call on the Senior Members of this Council to:

- (a) Actively lobby for a substantial reduction in this figure to one more in line with, or below those of our neighbouring councils.
- (b) Ensure that any homes being proposed include housing for low income families, plus make allowance for key workers, without whom our Hospitals, Schools, Nursing Homes and other vital services would not be able to function properly in the future.
- (c) Ensure that the Green Belt is protected wherever possible, with any impact kept to an absolute minimum.

- 98.2 None Specific **Motion 393 submitted by Ian Pittock:**
Whitehall requires that where the Executive System is used each Executive Member shall be subject to a scrutiny committee. This Council believes that it is essential to demonstrate avoidance of clear conflicts of interest and over centralisation of power through patronage provided by the Special Responsibility Allowance system. Therefore, the Council Leader, who appoints the Executive Members and such Executive Members themselves, should in no way be involved in the pre-Council and Council processes used to appoint Members to scrutiny and audit committees, nor the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of such.
- This Council resolves that non-Executive Members themselves shall pre-appoint Members to scrutiny and audit committees, ensuring political balance, and the Members of each committee shall themselves pre-appoint their own Chair and Vice-Chair with these names then being sent to Council for formal appointment, with Executive Members declaring an interest and abstaining in the vote.
- 98.3 None Specific **Motion 394 submitted by Parry Batth:**
This Council encourages public buildings in Wokingham Borough to fly the Union Flag. In a time of discord and uncertainty, this Council believes that these actions would help to inspire residents of different faiths and backgrounds to feel united as part of our national life and proud to be British.
- 98.4 None Specific **Motion 395 submitted by David Sleight:**
Our Vision is that our Borough should be a great place to live and an even better place to do business. The latter needs excellent transport links but our journey times by train from Wokingham to Waterloo are uncompetitive having been extended over the past 40 years. With the re-franchising of the South Western about to be completed, we call for a journey time reduction so that journeys from and to Waterloo take no more than 59 minutes – in other words, Wokingham in One.
- 98.5 None Specific **Motion 396 submitted by Richard Dolinski:**
Recent figures have revealed that the number of blood donors in England has fallen by 25 percent in the last 10 years. A particular shortage has been identified in young blood donors, black and Asian donors, and donors with blood groups O-negative and A-negative. This Council supports the Missing Type campaign run by NHS Blood and Transport, which is

encouraging people to register as donors. This Council will publicise details of the campaign and how to give blood on its website and in Council publications. Further, this Council will lead a drive to increase blood donations from Wokingham Borough councillors and staff.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017 FROM 8.00 PM TO 9.40 PM**

Members Present

Councillors: Bob Pitts (Mayor), Rob Stanton (Deputy Mayor), Mark Ashwell, Alistair Auty, Parry Bath, Laura Blumenthal, Chris Bowring, Prue Bray, David Chopping, UllaKarin Clark, Gary Cowan, Andy Croy, Richard Dolinski, Lindsay Ferris, Michael Firmager, Kate Haines, Mike Haines, Emma Hobbs, Tim Holton, Dianne King, John Jarvis, Clive Jones, Norman Jorgensen, Pauline Jorgensen, John Kaiser, David Lee, Abdul Loyes, Charles Margetts, Julian McGhee-Sumner, Ken Miall, Philip Mirfin, Stuart Munro, Ian Pittock, Anthony Pollock, Malcolm Richards, Angus Ross, Beth Rowland, ImogenShepherd-Dubey, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey, Chris Smith, Bill Soane, Alison Swaddle, Simon Weeks, Oliver Whittle and Shahid Younis

75. WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Imogen Shepherd-DuBey, newly elected Member for Emmbrook, to her first Council meeting.

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Keith Baker, Charlotte Haitham Taylor, John Halsall, Pauline Helliard-Symons, Philip Houldsworth, Barrie Patman, David Sleight, Wayne Smith and Paul Swaddle.

77. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Gary Cowan sought clarification regarding points of order which was provided by the Mayor. A member of the public sought to raise a point of order but this was ruled inadmissible as it was not in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments:

In Minute 62 'Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances Levels,' insertion of 'That Special Responsibility Allowances or Non Executive Member payments should be limited to one per Member, being the one with the highest value, to bring the Council into line with the industry standard;' between '2) that Recommendation (3)' and 'not be adopted;'

The Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chris Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 77 Auditor Appointment 2017/18 on the grounds that he was employed by KPMG, one of the five audit firms which the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) could select from. He left the meeting during discussion of this item and did not vote on this item.

79. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Mayor invited members of the public to submit questions to the appropriate Members.

80.1 John Russell asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

The Council is currently updating its Transport Plan. What is the 2016-17 budget spend on transport across the Borough and how much is being spent on the following elements : (a) Highway maintenance; (b) Traffic management of the existing road network, eg traffic lights, islands and speed controls; (d) Bus services; (e) Community transport and (f) Responsive transport.

Answer:

The answer is as follows:

Revenue

- £1.4million on highway maintenance, that is reactive road and footway repairs including patching and potholes;
- £480,000 on traffic management of the existing road network that includes minor traffic schemes, signing and lining, Traffic Regulation Orders, road safety activities, traffic signal maintenance, traffic surveys and data collection;
- £734,000 on bus services; and
- £98,000 on community transport and responsive transport.

On the capital side there are numerous highway and transport capital projects and initiatives and these are all listed in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Of the capital sums allocated to highways and transport there is £2.28million per annum allocated to "Carriageway Structural Maintenance" which includes the annual road resurfacing programme, where the Borough's roads are assessed to identify those most in need of treatment, including their structural condition and usage.

Supplementary Question:

Would the Council please make this information available to the wider public by including it on your website in order to present a more complete picture of the highways and transport expenditure across the Borough, information on an element not covered by my original question; namely new roadworks. If so could you also include on the website, details of the cost and length of new roadworks over the same period?

Supplementary Answer:

We will be making notes of those and we will discuss this obviously with the relevant Officers and with the finance people and the web people, and find out how much of that can be provided and how.

80.2 Guy Grandison asked the Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance the following question:

Question

Could the Executive Member for Finance tell me what Capital investments the Council will be making in Earley as part of the 2017/18 budget?

Answer

The schemes included in the Budget, specific to only the area of Earley are: the expansion of Loddon Primary School £2.4m over the next 2 years and the proposed expansion of Aldryngton Primary at £4.8m over the next 2 years.

However, there are a number of other programmes in the capital vision which though Borough wide involves additional investment in Earley. Amongst these are:

- Schools urgent maintenance
- School kitchens maintenance
- Schools LED enhancement (that is lighting)
- Special Education Needs
- Enhancing provision for children and young people with disabilities
- Highway drainage schemes
- Street lighting column structural testing
- Highway infrastructure flood alleviation schemes
- Highways carriageways structural maintenance
- Highways footway structural maintenance
- LED streetlight replacement programme
- Traffic signal upgrade programme
- Wokingham Borough wide cycle network
- Sports provision across the Borough
- Waste schemes and
- Library service

I would also like to stress that even where capital investment is made outside the area of Earley, it is also of benefit to the residents of Earley, as they can utilise the roads and community facilities and other facilities beyond their immediate boundaries.

Supplementary Question:

Based on this would you agree that this Council is supporting Earley in a fair manner?

Supplementary Answer:

I believe that we spend money in Earley in a financially responsible manner.

81. PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted.

82. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that that week he had attended the Poppy Awards Presentation and on behalf of the Council, had received a certificate of appreciation.

83. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ASSOCIATED REPORTS

The Council considered four reports which together comprised a single Agenda item:

- the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/20 as set out on Agenda pages 53 to 66;
- the Capital Programme and Strategy 2017/20 as set out on Agenda pages 67 to 84;
- the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 as set out on Agenda pages 85 to 128;
- the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/20 – Revenue Budget Submission on Agenda pages 129 to 134, subject to the tabled amended statutory resolution 2017/18, Updated Parish Precepts 2017/18 and Updated Council Tax by Band and Parish 2017/18.

The Mayor reminded Members that a total of 90 minutes would be set aside for debate.

Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner, Deputy Leader of the Council, made a statement on the 2017/18 budget (attached as Appendix A to the Minutes).

Councillor Lindsay Ferris, the Leader of the Opposition, then made his Budget statement on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group (attached as Appendix B to the Minutes).

Following the two speeches, Members discussed the various aspects of the proposed budget in detail.

83.1 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/20

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the recommendations as set out on Agenda page 53 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That the following be approved:

- 1) The Housing Revenue Account budget;
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be reduced by 1% effective from April 2017 in line with the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015;
- 3) Garage rents be increased by 1.9% effective from April 2017 in line with council fees and charges;
- 4) Shared Equity Rents will be increased by 2% based on September RPI, effective from April 2017;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges are set in line with estimated costs;
- 6) The Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix C;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges increase from £8.20 per night to £9.00 effective from April 2017.

83.2 Capital Programme and Strategy 2017/20

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2017/20, as set out on Agenda pages 67 to 83, be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That :

- 1) the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2017/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved;
- 2) the draft vision for capital investment over the next 10 years, as set out in Appendix B to the report be noted; and
- 3) the developer contribution S106 and CIL as set out in Appendix C to the report be

noted, noting that the S106 and CIL values are estimated and approval is sought up to the scheme budget.

83.3 Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the recommendations as set out on Agenda page 85 be approved.

Councillor Lindsay Ferris requested that it be recorded that the Liberal Democrat Group had voted against the proposals contained in the report.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That the following be approved:

- 1) Capital Prudential indicators, 2017/18;
- 2) Borrowing Strategy 2017/18;
- 3) Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18;
- 4) Flexible use of capital receipts strategy;
- 5) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy; and
- 6) Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity 2017/18.

83.4 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2017/20

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/20, including the Revenue Budget Submission for 2017/18 and the Statutory Resolution setting out the 2017/18 Council Tax levels, as amended and tabled at the meeting, be approved.

In line with the requirements of the 'The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014', a recorded vote was taken.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mark Ashwell	Prue Bray	Ian Pittock
Alistair Auty	Gary Cowan	Bob Pitts
Parry Batth	Andy Croy	Rob Stanton
Laura Blumenthal	Lindsay Ferris	
Chris Bowring	Clive Jones	
David Chopping	Beth Rowland	
UllaKarin Clark	Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	
Richard Dolinski	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Michael Firmager		
Kate Haines		
Mike Haines		
Emma Hobbs		
Tim Holton		
John Jarvis		
Norman Jorgensen		
Pauline Jorgensen		
John Kaiser		

Dianne King		
David Lee		
Abdul Loyes		
Charles Margetts		
Julian McGhee-Sumner		
Ken Miall		
Philip Mirfin		
Stuart Munro		
Anthony Pollock		
Malcolm Richards		
Angus Ross		
Chris Smith		
Bill Soane		
Alison Swaddle		
Simon Weeks		
Oliver Whittle		
Shahid Younis		

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/20 including the revenue budget submission for 2017/18 be approved;
- 2) the Statutory Resolution that sets out the 2017/18 council tax levels. (Appendix A), as tabled at the meeting, be approved and that it be noted that that at its meeting on 26th January 2017 Special Council Executive calculated the following amounts for the year 2017/18 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012:-
 - (a) 67,433.40 being the amount calculated by the Council, (Item T) in accordance with regulation 31B of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012), as its council tax base for the year

(b) Part of the Council's area.

Arborfield and Newland	1,263.4
Barkham	1,526.9
Charvil	1,409.3
Earley	11,755.9
Finchampstead	5,725.0
Remenham	321.9
Ruscombe	501.5
St. Nicholas Hurst	1,053.1
Shinfield	5,144.0
Sonning	808.3
Swallowfield	1,006.0
Twyford	2,994.5

Wargrave	2,098.3
Winnersh	3,897.1
Wokingham	14,685.2
Wokingham	3,109.9
Without	
Woodley	10,133.1
	67,433.4

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates.

2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £91,660,197. This includes £4,300,902 in respect of the Adult Social Care precept for 2017/18; this is based on a 3% increase on the 2016/17 council tax level and a 2% increase on the 2015/16 council tax level.
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011. However, the precepts shown below for the parishes of Arborfield, Earley and Winnersh are provisional and are subject to approval at the parishes annual precept meetings between February 14th and February 22nd 2017. The precept shown below for the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is also provisional subject to approval at a meeting of the Fire Authority on 27 February 2017:-
 - (a) £300,610,752 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils
 - (b) (£205,018,692) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) of the Act
 - (c) £95,592,061 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above, exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (Item R)
 - (d) £1,417.58 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by 1(a) above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the 'basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £3,931,863 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the table below).

	2017/18			2016/17			Council
	TAX	PARISH	PARISH	TAX	PARISH	PARISH	Tax
	BASE	PRECEPT	BAND D	BASE	PRECEPT	BAND D	Increase
		£	£		£	£	%
Arborfield and Newland	1,263.4	95,150	75.31	1,260.0	87,866	69.73	8.00
Barkham	1,526.9	46,342	30.35	1,440.6	42,342	29.39	3.26

Charvil	1,409.3	40,715	28.89	1,399.6	39,655	28.33	1.97
Earley	11,755.9	812,780	69.14	11,704.0	778,784	66.54	3.91
Finchampstead	5,725.0	126,944	22.17	5,665.3	123,848	21.86	1.41
Remenham	321.9	23,150	71.92	317.5	22,250	70.08	2.63
Ruscombe	501.5	10,266	20.47	497.9	10,266	20.62	(0.72)
St. Nicholas Hurst	1,053.1	30,000	28.49	1,044.2	25,035	23.98	18.83
Shinfield	5,144.0	341,047	66.30	4,780.7	316,950	66.30	0.00
Sonning	808.3	35,568	44.00	806.9	34,700	43.00	2.32
Swallowfield	1,006.0	19,308	19.19	995.1	19,108	19.20	(0.06)
Twyford	2,994.5	77,921	26.02	2,961.5	67,798	22.89	13.66
Wargrave	2,098.3	168,345	80.23	2,085.0	161,465	77.44	3.60
Winnersh	3,897.1	110,521	28.36	3,801.3	107,801	28.36	0.00
Wokingham	14,685.2	766,961	52.23	14,294.6	710,990	49.74	5.01
Wokingham Without	3,109.9	145,543	46.80	3,107.1	145,415	46.80	(0.00)
Woodley	10,133.1	1,081,303	106.71	9,840.1	1,039,607	105.65	1.00
Total / Average	67,433.4	3,931,863	58.31	66,001.4	3,733,880	56.57	3.07

- (f) £1,359.27 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.
4. That it be noted that for the year 2017/2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below. The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Authority is due to approve its precept on 27th February 2017, and their provisional precept has been used based on the report going to their management committee on 14th February 2017.
5. That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/2018 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL TAX 2017/2018

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Wokingham Borough Council	906.18	1,057.21	1,208.24	1,359.27	1,661.33	1,963.39	2,265.45	2,718.54
Thames Valley Police Authority	113.52	132.44	151.36	170.28	208.12	245.96	283.80	340.56
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	41.66	48.60	55.55	62.49	76.38	90.26	104.15	124.98

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirement for each parish and the borough for each part of the Council's area:-

Arborfield and Newland	956.39	1,115.78	1,275.18	1,434.58	1,753.38	2,072.17	2,390.97	2,869.16
Barkham	926.41	1,080.82	1,235.22	1,389.62	1,698.42	2,007.23	2,316.03	2,779.24
Charvil	925.44	1,079.68	1,233.92	1,388.16	1,696.64	2,005.12	2,313.60	2,776.32
Earley	952.27	1,110.99	1,269.70	1,428.41	1,745.83	2,063.26	2,380.68	2,856.82
Finchampstead	920.96	1,074.45	1,227.95	1,381.44	1,688.43	1,995.41	2,302.40	2,762.88
Remenham	954.13	1,113.15	1,272.17	1,431.19	1,749.23	2,067.27	2,385.32	2,862.38
Ruscombe	919.83	1,073.13	1,226.44	1,379.74	1,686.35	1,992.96	2,299.57	2,759.48
St. Nicholas Hurst	925.17	1,079.37	1,233.56	1,387.76	1,696.15	2,004.54	2,312.93	2,775.52
Shinfield	950.38	1,108.78	1,267.17	1,425.57	1,742.36	2,059.16	2,375.95	2,851.14
Sonning	935.51	1,091.43	1,247.35	1,403.27	1,715.11	2,026.95	2,338.78	2,806.54
Swallowfield	918.97	1,072.14	1,225.30	1,378.46	1,684.78	1,991.11	2,297.43	2,756.92
Twyford	923.53	1,077.45	1,231.37	1,385.29	1,693.13	2,000.97	2,308.82	2,770.58
Wargrave	959.67	1,119.61	1,279.56	1,439.50	1,759.39	2,079.28	2,399.17	2,879.00
Winnersh	925.09	1,079.27	1,233.45	1,387.63	1,695.99	2,004.35	2,312.72	2,775.26
Wokingham	941.00	1,097.83	1,254.67	1,411.50	1,725.17	2,038.83	2,352.50	2,823.00
Wokingham Without	937.38	1,093.61	1,249.84	1,406.07	1,718.53	2,030.99	2,343.45	2,812.14
Woodley	977.32	1,140.21	1,303.09	1,465.98	1,791.75	2,117.53	2,443.30	2,931.96

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements for each part of the Council's area:-

Arborfield and Newland	1,111.57	1,296.82	1,482.09	1,667.35	2,037.88	2,408.39	2,778.92	3,334.70
Barkham	1,081.59	1,261.86	1,442.13	1,622.39	1,982.92	2,343.45	2,703.98	3,244.78
Charvil	1,080.62	1,260.72	1,440.83	1,620.93	1,981.14	2,341.34	2,701.55	3,241.86
Earley	1,107.45	1,292.03	1,476.61	1,661.18	2,030.33	2,399.48	2,768.63	3,322.36
Finchampstead	1,076.14	1,255.49	1,434.86	1,614.21	1,972.93	2,331.63	2,690.35	3,228.42
Remenham	1,109.31	1,294.19	1,479.08	1,663.96	2,033.73	2,403.49	2,773.27	3,327.92
Ruscombe	1,075.01	1,254.17	1,433.35	1,612.51	1,970.85	2,329.18	2,687.52	3,225.02
St. Nicholas Hurst	1,080.35	1,260.41	1,440.47	1,620.53	1,980.65	2,340.76	2,700.88	3,241.06
Shinfield	1,105.56	1,289.82	1,474.08	1,658.34	2,026.86	2,395.38	2,763.90	3,316.68
Sonning	1,090.69	1,272.47	1,454.26	1,636.04	1,999.61	2,363.17	2,726.73	3,272.08
Swallowfield	1,074.15	1,253.18	1,432.21	1,611.23	1,969.28	2,327.33	2,685.38	3,222.46
Twyford	1,078.71	1,258.49	1,438.28	1,618.06	1,977.63	2,337.19	2,696.77	3,236.12
Wargrave	1,114.85	1,300.65	1,486.47	1,672.27	2,043.89	2,415.50	2,787.12	3,344.54
Winnersh	1,080.27	1,260.31	1,440.36	1,620.40	1,980.49	2,340.57	2,700.67	3,240.80
Wokingham	1,096.18	1,278.87	1,461.58	1,644.27	2,009.67	2,375.05	2,740.45	3,288.54
Wokingham Without	1,092.56	1,274.65	1,456.75	1,638.84	2,003.03	2,367.21	2,731.40	3,277.68
Woodley	1,132.50	1,321.25	1,510.00	1,698.75	2,076.25	2,453.75	2,831.25	3,397.50

- 3) that in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Fire Authority, arising from their precept setting meeting being held on 27 February, the Director of Corporate Services is delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the MTFP, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

84. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2016-17

The Council considered the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2016/17 as set out on Agenda pages 135 to 160. The Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2016/17 detailed the treasury management operations during the first six months of 2016/17.

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the recommendations as set out on Agenda page 135 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the mid-year Treasury Management report for 2016/17 be approved;
- 2) the actual 2016/17 prudential indicators within the report be noted;

85. AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2018/19

The Council considered a report regarding the appointment of the Council's external auditor as set out on Agenda pages 161 to 164.

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the recommendations within the report be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That:

- 1) it be noted that this report was presented to the Audit committee on 5 December 2016;
- 2) Option A, as recommended by the Audit Committee and as set out in the report, i.e. opting into the Public Sector Audit Appointment process be approved.

86. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Council considered a report, set out on Agenda pages 165 to 167, relating to the outcome of a Community Governance Review.

It was proposed by Councillor Pauline Jorgensen and seconded by Councillor Alison Swaddle that the recommendations within the report be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That the following be agreed:

- 1) that no changes be implemented following the Community Governance Review (CGR) that was initiated in February 2016;
- 2) that the matters considered by the review should be reconsidered by a new CGR at a later date. It is recommended that this is after formal planning applications have been submitted for that part of the South Wokingham Strategic Development Location (SDL) that is currently within the Wokingham Without Parish.

87. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered a report regarding proposed changes to the Constitution as recommended by the Constitution Review Working Group, as set out on Agenda pages 169 to 174.

It was proposed by Councillor Pauline Jorgensen and seconded by Councillor Prue Bray that the recommendations within the report be approved.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the following changes to the Constitution as recommended by the Constitution Review Working Group be agreed:

- a) that Appendix A – Process for Appointing Independent Remuneration Panel Members be amended as follows:
“1. Advert placed on the website etc and in the local newspaper if appropriate.”
- b) that Rule 4.4.3.2d)iii) be amended as follows:
“To review, revise as necessary and recommend adoption of the Risk Management Policy and Strategy to Executive when changes occur.”
- c) that Rule 8.2.1 be amended as follows:
“8.2.1 Meetings of the Planning Committee
The Planning Committee shall meet as scheduled in the Timetable of Meetings agreed by Council.”

2) the Terms of Reference of the Constitution Review Working Group be noted.

88. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2017/18

The Council considered the proposed Timetable of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year as set out on Agenda page 175.

It was proposed by Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pollock that the 2017/18 Timetable of Meetings be approved.

Councillors Lindsay Ferris, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey and Ian Pittock commented that consideration should be given to holding a Council meeting in January to enable further opportunities for debate.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED That the Timetable of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, as set out in the Agenda, be approved.

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Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner, Deputy Leader of the Council – Budget Speech

Before I move on to talking about the Budget, I would also like to welcome Councillor Imogen Shepherd-DuBey to her place. I am sure that she will bring her well-known dynamism and hard work to the Opposition benches. That's three welcomes in about the space of 25 minutes so you are doing pretty well.

First of all, I would like to explain why I am delivering the Budget speech this year, rather than the Leader of the Council. Unfortunately, Councillor Baker has to be away for a long-standing family commitment, and asked me if I could propose the Budget instead.

Looking at the newspapers the other week, Councillor Baker and I were amazed to see Reading Borough Council complaining about their supposed impoverished finances, telling the world that we here in Wokingham are spoilt by the Government, which was news to us. We were so astonished that Councillor Baker felt compelled to write to the paper to point out that in 2017/18, 76% of our core spending will come from residents' Council Tax. By 2019/20, the end of the four-year settlement, this will rise to 91%. By contrast, for 2017/18, for Reading it is 68% which will come from Council Tax. Put another way, the Government grant received per head will be £81.70 for Wokingham and £236.55 for Reading, nearly three times the Wokingham number and I did get them to check that and it is correct sadly.

The reduction in Council grants is not the only pressure on the Council's Budget. Positive changes brought in will have an impact on our finances too, as they must, including the National Living Wage, the Apprenticeship levy, council tenant rent reduction to name but three. These stand alongside growth in Children's Services and Health and Wellbeing at £2.9million. When you put this together, and net off any potential increased income from Council Tax, this leaves a savings target of £5.4million. With these facts in mind, my fellow Executive Members have worked hard to get to this final Budget. They have had to be extremely flexible as the financial landscape has changed. I would like to thank them and their officers for their supreme effort.

Because our finances have changed in such a way that the Council Tax now accounts for more than 81% of our spending power, it is vital that we continue to see a healthy income from the Council Tax. We are fortunate then that we have an extremely strong tax base, and that we have extremely efficient officers who collect a rate of 98.85%, one of the highest in the country.

Last year, the Council realised that making efficiencies in individual service areas, in isolation, was no longer viable. With an ambition to avoid any cuts in services, something quite radical had to be put in place in order to achieve savings. That is where the 21st Century Council project comes in. This is a fundamentally different method of operating, which will result in £2million of savings next year and £4million of savings in future years. It involves personalising our services – giving residents the choice of how they access those services, providing more online and self-service access, whilst ensuring that those who need to see a real person can do so.

We could have clung to the belief that the best way of doing things is the way we have always done them in the past. Instead, we have had to radically reshape the nature of what we do and how we do it. We on this side of the chamber know that it is our duty,

even in times of financial difficulty, to invest. By investing in our services, we are investing in our residents' future security and wellbeing.

This Budget includes a significant level of new capital investment in the Borough for 2017/18. A total of £152.8million shows our commitment to the provision of infrastructure and regeneration across the Borough. Much of this is funded by developer contributions or by borrowings that we will more than repay in future years, as is the case of the Town Centre Regeneration or our Housing Company development projects. All of our borrowing is undertaken at fixed interest rates, at a time when these rates are incredibly low so there is no danger of the Council being affected by a sudden rise in interest rates.

All communities across the Borough will benefit from this Capital Investment Strategy. They will get the benefit of improved Highways infrastructure, new school places in our high performing schools and our income generating development schemes. It shows the ambition the Council has for regenerating the Borough and our innovative ways of generating Capital funding.

This year saw the first major Wokingham Town Centre regeneration project get underway, and more companies have signed up for the leases. Whilst we appreciate that there are a number of people who had concerns whether this regeneration would take place, we are pleased to see that a number now actually see that things are beginning to move and progress is being made.

Our companies continue to grow and mature, setting a high standard for local authority companies across the country. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are joining Optalis, which will triple turnover: a great success that will save taxpayers' money whilst improving our social care. Wokingham Housing are well on the way to completing the work at Phoenix and Fosters. Meanwhile, Loddon Homes, a subsidiary of Wokingham Housing, has become the first Council company to be granted Registered Provider status as a 'for-profit' company.

Leisure is a key component in the Health and Wellbeing agenda. Therefore, it is important that this Council provides facilities that residents can use to keep them fit and well. We are approaching the magic figure of 100 hectares of new country parks (or SANGS as they are more commonly known) paid for by developer contributions. It is important to note that residents can get a lot of their daily exercise by simply walking for short periods of time which they will be able to do in these new parks. The Leisure contract for managing the Council's leisure centres is up for renewal soon and a capital budget has been put in place to upgrade or rebuild existing centres. This is a leisure spend, but it will have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.

On schools, Councillor Haitham Taylor or Richard Dolinski who is sitting in for her today, is spearheading our campaign to fight for a fairer funding formula. She is ably supported by our local MPs and Members of the Executive. We could have put together petitions or held endless debates in this chamber but rather than read from the Corbyn Book of Protest as a Leadership, we are actually working to bring about real change.

Nonetheless, our Budget is providing £14million of significant increase in primary school capacity, and the first new secondary school for many years has been built, providing the long awaited school in the south.

Highways are also receiving a real boost, with £18million for new roads and enhancements to existing ones.

These are just a few highlights of the capital programme. The Medium Term Financial Plan contains the full details of investments, and I have no doubt that my Executive colleagues will speak on their individual portfolios shortly.

It is a time-honoured Conservative principle that public bodies should spend within their means, whilst protecting and expanding the services that people need most. It is a principle we have to stick to since the financial crash, and it is a principle that we continue to take into action with this Budget.

In holding the reins of power, we must sometimes do what is hard. So, I say to the Opposition: do not take the easy option of carping, making gimmicky gestures, or throwing out vague generalisations on how you would have done it better. Join together with us tonight and vote for this Budget. This is a balanced Budget that provides for our residents in a time when other councils are cutting services. If you are serious about being in power: be bold, as we are being bold; be strong, as we are being strong; and show leadership, as this Conservative administration continues to show leadership.

I commend this Budget to the Council.

Councillor Lindsay Ferris, Leader of the Opposition – Budget Speech

For the fourth time, I as Leader of the Group am pleased to welcome Imogen here and I was going to ask Keith how his holiday was but, I think I have to say Keith where for art thou.

Within the Lib Dem team we discuss and agree policies openly so I shall focus on our major concern which is the size of the future debt contained within this Budget and the impact that this could have on the Council, whilst the team will concentrate on their portfolio areas, highlighting differences between our approach and yours.

I acknowledge that many of the ruling group are trying to do their best for our community in these difficult times but we in the Opposition Group feel you need to stand up against the Government more strongly than you have done. Often there is deference to them just because they are of the same party as you. If you are not prepared to say what is needed in so many areas, including local business rates, school funding, or the threat to take the local money away from our area, then we will, loudly, clearly and often. What we have from you at the moment is just not good enough and local people are beginning to realise it.

We fully support the proposal to increase council tax by 3% to cover the adult social care. I mentioned to Anthony recently that we would have done the same. However, in the medium to long term we do not believe that council tax is the correct means by which adult social care should be funded. We believe that there needs to be a national debate on this topic and one that is cross party. Norman Lamb MP has made a sensible suggestion as to how we could move forward and something like his proposal would be a better way to fund this important area. On the subject of the council tax of 1.94%, this is rather predictable. You mentioned the figure to the Chief Executive several months ago within plus or minus 0.01%. However, we believe that you have missed an important opportunity to provide a much needed boost for additional funding to our services. If you had gone for a referendum last summer or autumn to seek the views of the residents in Wokingham to raise council tax above the 2% ceiling, I believe you may well have got that approval. I do not think you will now though. I have been advised that the cost of such a referendum is around £150,000. You continually bleat on about having a poor deal here in Wokingham but when you had the opportunity to do something locally yourselves you fluffed it. Remember it is your Conservative government that is cutting our funding, no one else.

The Budget we have before us is the most risky, potentially dangerous Budget I have seen in all my time on Wokingham Borough Council. At the moment we are a medium risk, medium borrowing Council but with the implementation of all the projected borrowing we will soon become a high risk, high debt council, with little room for movement. My fire is therefore aimed at the Executive Member for Finance for presenting such a Budget. You expected it. I told you it was coming. You are currently planning to borrow a further £82million alone this coming year and by 2019/20 this will have grown to £191million. At that time the external debt is estimated to total £271million. Internal debt is to rise to £29million this coming year, further rising to £70million in 2019/20. This means you are using our investments to pay off debt. If the level of investments falls too low then the viability of the council and the ability to pay its way comes into doubt. This is a very dangerous concern.

Now if we look at the individual increasing borrowing areas, and this is on page 97 of the MTFP, what do we find? Forward funding; this is monies associated with SDL developments. It is used to pay for infrastructure including schools and roads etc. The Council has to provide this infrastructure irrespective of the rate of which the houses are built and sold. Any slow down in this market will leave the Council exposed to considerable levels of borrowing and increased costs. These additional costs will be supported by the General Fund, paid for by council tax. This increase is £47.3million over the next three years and I categorise this as high risk.

Wokingham Housing, next line, or it is one of the lines. This is money borrowed by Wokingham Housing Limited from Wokingham Borough Council and is used to pay for social housing and other related areas. If anything should happen to the viability of WHL then the Council would be exposed to increased debt. This increase is £31.23million over the next three years. I think this is a medium risk.

Town centre regeneration. This is money borrowed by the Council to pay for the regeneration of the town centre. I am not sure if you are aware that any additional costs, interest etc. is being ploughed back in to the regeneration project, making it more expensive and therefore less viable. It is very susceptible to market forces and changes to the economy. This increase is £74.22million over the next three years and I categorise it as very high risk. In fact when I had a discussion with our Director on this subject, the word risk was mentioned many times.

Invest to save. This is money borrowed by Wokingham Borough Council to pay for new facilities such as leisure centres. This increase is £26.06million over the next three years. Whilst this is more conventional council type borrowing, it is still not without risk.

Standard allocation. This is the one area I do not think is risky. This is money borrowed by the Council to allow the Council extra freedom to use on non-specified projects. This is just under £12million over the next three years and I consider it to be low risk.

Internal borrowing. The Council plans to use its current investments to largely cover this area. During 2017/18 the Council used £29million of its investments, leaving only £40million. Over the three year period internal borrowing will increase by £70million. The use of these investments is extremely risky as it has the effect of the Council selling its own silver. Once it is gone there is no fall back. If this area falls too low, and the £40million seems to be a low ceiling figure, then the actual work in the Council could be seriously impacted. This, I feel, is not safe use of funds. This is extremely high risk.

I am going to summarise now. Of the £260million plus to be borrowed over £191million can be categorised as extremely high risk or high risk. This covers about 75% of the total projected debt. Anthony, you seem to be gung ho with the Council finances. I will bet that you do not do the same with your own. Levels of projected debt I have mentioned are eye wateringly high. I can see no contingencies within the Budget to meet unexpected need. It seems to me no more than a 'let us hope for the best' or 'it will be alright on the night' approach. In addition you have also left an overspend of £800,000 from the 2016/17 financial year which shows up as a £700,000 spend requirement in 2017/18. For a long time now you have gone on about an overspend in budget dating back from 2002. Well, you have left an overspend that is at least three times the 2002 figure, so perhaps you would like to comment on that. No, this Budget shows almost a complete disregard for the residents and council tax payers of Wokingham Borough. I believe you are being foolhardy to propose such a risky Budget, particularly at a time of uncertainty. Without a

doubt interest rates are going to rise, inflation is growing and projected costs are more than likely to increase to a higher level than that currently forecast. I have yet to see the cost of a road, for example, go down. Often they double or even triple in cost. I see no contingencies in the Budget to cover this type of thing. If I had enough votes I would propose a vote of no confidence in you but that would depend on whether enough of your Group would stand up against you. Last year I joked about the Capital Programme being a load of tripe. This year it is too serious for me to make such comments. The Council is at yet another crossroads and it is difficult to see which way the finances will fall. In conclusion, all I will say is that this is a wasted opportunity Budget produced by an absent, waste of time Leader of the Council, laying waste to Council services. We shall be voting against this Budget because we feel the levels of borrowing, not necessarily the council tax rise or the adult social care element, I hasten to say, are far too high making it a very risky Budget indeed, if not unsafe.

TITLE	Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel Members
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 23 March 2017
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To ensure transparency, openness and scrutiny of the Members' scheme of allowances and enable Wokingham Borough Council to fulfil its statutory obligation to review the remuneration paid to its elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended to appoint Thomas Berman, David George and Nicholas Oxborough to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of 3 years, commencing on 24 March 2017.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Following the submission of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) report to Council on 17 November 2016 the IRP resigned en masse; which has resulted in vacancies on the panel.

This report advises Council that following a recent recruitment process, it is recommended that Thomas Berman, David George and Nicholas Oxborough be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Background

1. Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000, makes provision in relation to basic, special responsibility, childcare and dependents' carers' allowances for Members of local authorities. The Secretary of State makes regulations under this section requiring local authorities to make a scheme of allowances for their Members and to establish and maintain a panel to make recommendations to the Council about the scheme.
2. Section 100 of Local Government Act 2000 allows the Secretary of State to make provision in relation to travel and subsistence allowance for Members of local authorities and an allowance for non-Councillors who are members of a Council's committee or sub-committee. This includes the amendment or repeal of provisions of sections 173 to 178 of the Local Government Act 1972.
3. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 have been made under these provisions. The Regulations provide that it is for each local authority to decide its scheme and the amounts to be paid under that scheme.
4. Councils are required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel which will broadly have the functions of providing the local authority with advice on its scheme and the amounts to be paid as allowances where relevant. Local authorities must have regard to this advice.
5. In November 2016, all of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel members resigned. The Council was therefore required to appoint a new Independent Remuneration Panel.
6. Following a recruitment process, carried out in accordance with the Constitution, members of the public came forward and following interviews with the Monitoring Officer and the Service Manager Democratic Services, it was recommended that the following be appointed to serve on the panel:

Tom Berman has been a resident of Wargrave for the past 40 years. He is married with two grown-up children and has been involved with various local voluntary groups over the years, of which Wargrave Surgery Patient Participation Group, Wokingham Area PPG Forum and Hennerton Backwater Association are the current main activities.

David George has been living in Wokingham Borough since 1982, firstly in Woodley and then since 1999 in Arborfield. He retired from Air Traffic Control in December 2016 aged 55 after nearly 36 years' service. In addition to his role in Air Traffic Control he was a Union representative in the Prospect Union which represents ATC staff. He held the position of National Treasurer for the Controllers section looking after a budget of approx £70 000 for several years.

Nicholas Oxborough has lived in Wokingham Borough since 1967. He attended Primary and Comprehensive schools in Wokingham and then a local college where he studied photography. He has worked in the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue

Service in an operational role for 34 years and now specialises as a Fire Safety Inspector. During his career in the service he has had opportunity to manage and be responsible for the delivery of the service to the community of Wokingham Borough, as well as working with members of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. He is a Member of the Institute of Fire Engineers and has also achieved other management and technical qualifications associated with his roles in the Service.

7. The Council's Constitution states that the Independent Remuneration Panel shall consist of five members However as the Constitution Review Working Group is due to consider the process for reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme in the near future it was considered prudent to only appoint three members at this stage and appoint additional members, if required, once the review was completed. This would take account of any changes that might come forward as a result of the review.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications related to this report.

Cross-Council Implications

There are no cross-Council implications related to this report.

List of Background Papers

- 1) Sections 173 to 178 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 2) Section 18 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (as amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000)
- 3) Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000
- 4) Part 3 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003
- 5) Regulation 26 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014

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Date 8 March 2017	Version No. 1

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Annual Reports 2016-17

Produced: March 2017
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Contents	Page No
Foreword by Councillor Simon Weeks, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	3
Section 1 – Executive Summary	4
Section 2 – Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny	5
Section 3 – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	9
Section 4 – Report of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14
Section 5 - Report of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19
Section 6 – Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	24
Section 7 - Getting Involved in Overview and Scrutiny	29
Section 8 - Dates of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings 2017-18	30



**Foreword by Councillor Simon Weeks
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee**

Welcome to the Annual Reports of Wokingham Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2016-17. The reports describe how the Overview and Scrutiny Committees reviewed the delivery of key services and raised the profile of topics of local importance.

Overview and Scrutiny is currently operating during a period of significant change and uncertainty for the country and for local government. The ongoing reduction in central Government funding for local authorities is having a major impact on local communities. Wokingham Borough Council has found savings of £30m over the past five year period and is faced with a further savings target of £19m over the next four years. During that time funding pressures on the NHS, social care and local schools will continue to grow. At the same time we are witnessing major investment into new homes and supporting infrastructure in the Borough's Strategic Development Locations, investment which, inevitably, is causing disruption to local communities.

In order to meet these challenges the Council has embarked on the ambitious 21st Century Council programme which will result in a fundamental change to the way the Council organises itself and the way it provides services for residents and local communities. Inevitably, the breadth and depth of change highlighted above will result in a new role for the Council, new methods of service delivery and new relationships with partners and our local communities. So what role will Overview and Scrutiny play in this changing environment?

Effective scrutiny underpins good governance and good governance leads to better outcomes for the residents of the Borough. So, as resources continue to reduce it is essential that spending decisions are robust and evidence-based. It is also essential that service changes and new ways of working are scrutinised and well publicised in advance to ensure smooth implementation, value for money and risk mitigation. Contributing to new policy development and pre-decision scrutiny of service changes will be key priorities for 2017/18. Providing robust challenge to draft policies and service changes before they are implemented is much more effective than asking questions after implementation to learn lessons and understand why things have gone wrong. This will be a major focus and a major challenge for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the year ahead.

**Simon Weeks
March 2017**

SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview and Scrutiny is a key element in the system of checks and balances which ensure that Wokingham Borough Council and its partners make and implement effective decisions for the benefit of the residents of the Borough. The Council's Executive is empowered to take decisions within the financial and policy framework set by the full Council. Non-Executive Members of the Council are appointed to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review those decisions and the way they impact on the performance of key services.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny function is delivered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and three Committees focussing on Children's Services, Community and Corporate Services and Health issues. Overview and Scrutiny Committees make recommendations for improvement to full Council and Executive and to partner organisations.

The report sets out the range of issues and submissions considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2016 -17, including:

- Regular review of performance indicators which highlight how services are performing.
- Review of the findings of Ofsted inspections of schools and Children's Services.
- The Council's response to flooding and measures to improve flood prevention.
- Performance of health services, including hospitals, GPs and the ambulance service.
- Proposals to develop closer working between health and social care services.
- Implementation of the Council's 21st Century Council change programme.
- Operation of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership.
- Changes to the Borough's policing arrangements and trends in annual crime statistics.
- Proposed changes relating to the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Effective Overview and Scrutiny utilises information and ideas from a wide range of sources including residents, service users and community groups. During 2017-18 Members involved in Overview and Scrutiny will continue to hold the Council and its partners to account, providing "critical friend" challenge to the Council's Executive and other public service providers. In so doing Members will seek to reflect the aspirations and concerns of local residents and communities. Particular focus will be placed on improvements to pre-decision scrutiny and input to support new policy development.

The report outlines the range of Overview and Scrutiny issues to be considered in 2017-18 and explains how residents and community groups can submit issues for consideration and get involved in the process.

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

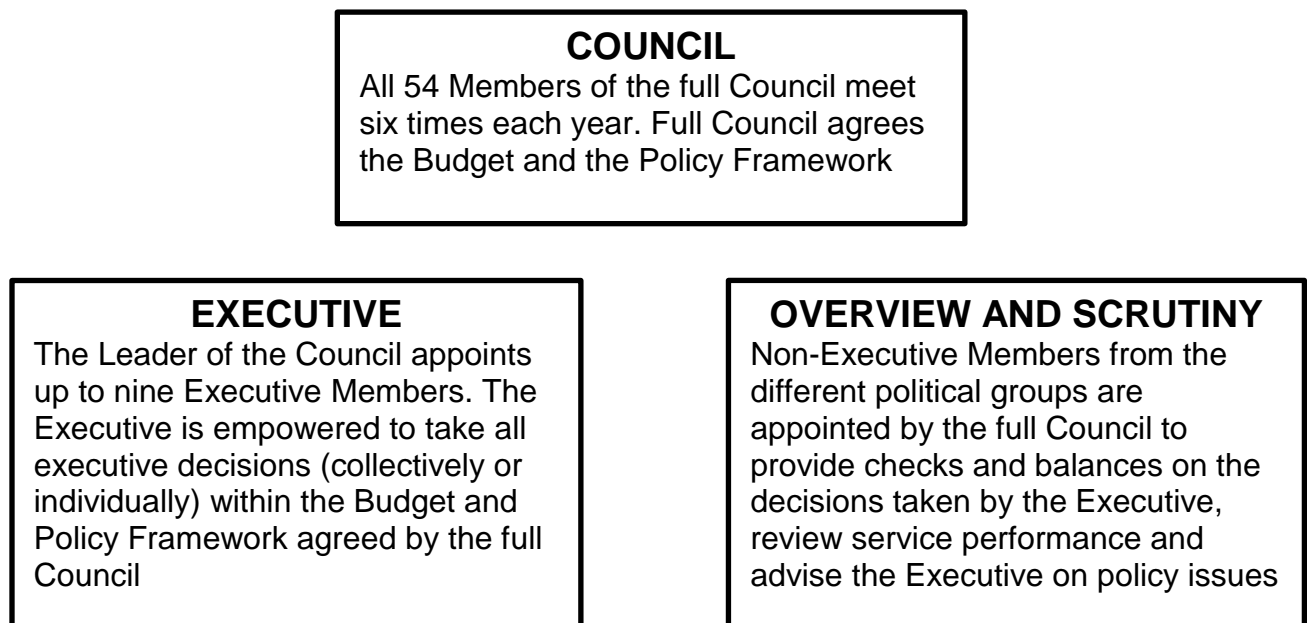
Context

Wokingham Borough Council is a large, complex organisation with a thousand employees and an annual budget in excess of £100m. The Council's Vision is to make the Borough "a great place to live, an even better place to do business". The Council makes major strategic decisions which affect the long-term future of the area and its communities. It also makes decisions on a daily basis which affect the lives of some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents. In order to ensure that the Council spends public money wisely and makes well informed decisions about key services it is essential that an effective system of checks and balances is in place.

The current Overview and Scrutiny system was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 as a counterweight to the increased decision making powers given to Leaders and Executives or directly elected mayors. The system reflected the arrangements in Parliament where Government decisions are scrutinised by a range of Select Committees.

The Council's Executive is empowered to take decisions within the financial and policy framework set by the full Council. Non-Executive Members of the Council (representing each of the political groups) are appointed to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review those decisions and the performance of key services. The relationship between Council, Executive and Overview and Scrutiny is illustrated in the diagram below.

Diagram: Council, Executive and Overview and Scrutiny



Origins

Following legislative changes to the old Committee system in 2000, the (then) Wokingham District Council adopted the Leader and Executive model whereby the Council Leader and up to nine Executive Members take key decisions either collectively or individually. In order to provide checks and balances for these powers Councils were given Overview and Scrutiny functions to be exercised by non-Executive Members. Subsequent legislation provided further powers relating to the scrutiny of health services and local arrangements for tackling crime and disorder.

The role of Overview and Scrutiny can be summarised as:

- Being a “critical friend” - holding the Executive to account by scrutinising decisions and “calling in” any decisions causing concern.
- Policy development and review – participating in the development of new policies and reviewing the effectiveness of existing policies.
- Performance monitoring – driving improvement in services by reviewing key indicators which underpin delivery of the Council’s Vision, priorities and plans.
- External scrutiny of public services such as health, crime reduction and community safety and flood risk management.
- Engaging with residents and community groups to ensure that their concerns are heard and are reflected in the Overview and Scrutiny work programme.

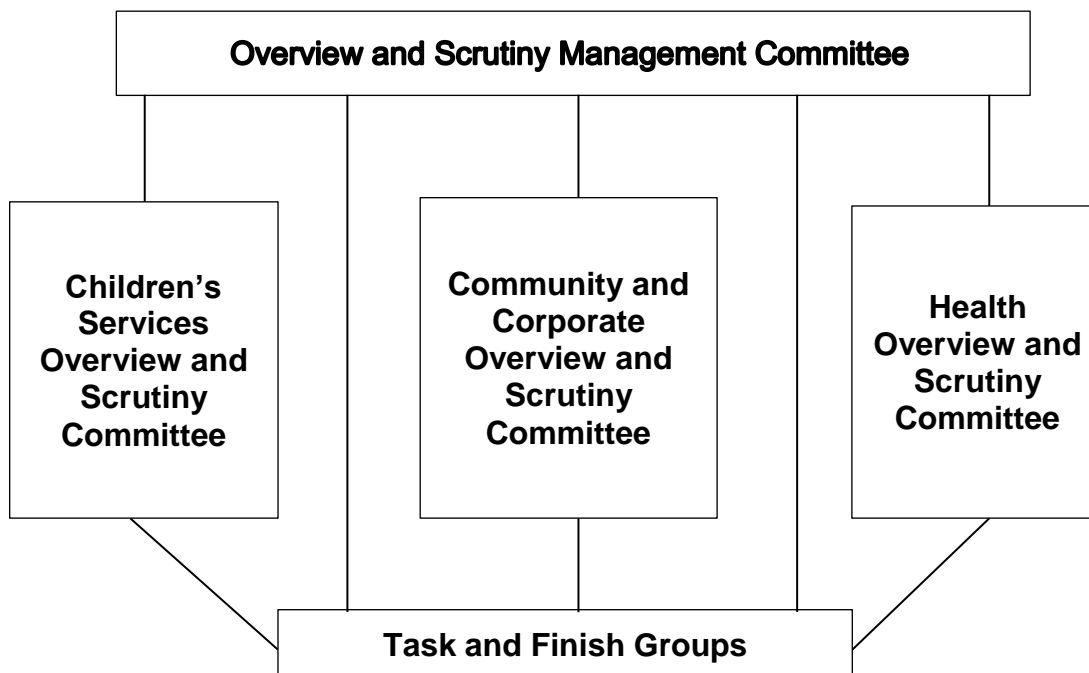
Structure

In order to deliver the Overview and Scrutiny function the Council has established the following Committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – responsible for overseeing the Overview and Scrutiny function and developing an annual work programme for each of the Committees.
- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – responsible for scrutiny of services relating to schools, safeguarding and child protection, looked after children and children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - responsible for scrutiny of Council services, crime reduction and community safety and flood risk management.
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – responsible for scrutiny of local NHS bodies, public health arrangements and the work of the Local Healthwatch service.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny structure is illustrated in the diagram below.

Diagram: Overview and Scrutiny Structure



Each of the Overview Scrutiny Committees is made up of non-Executive Members of the Council. The membership of each Committee is set out later in the report. In addressing specific issues the Committees may decide to appoint time limited Task and Finish Groups. Meetings are held in public and residents and community groups are encouraged to attend. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees are supported by Officers from the Council's Democratic Services team.

Overview and Scrutiny aims to provide an open and inclusive forum where a range of contributors can be heard – Members, Officers, partners and members of the public. Effective Overview and Scrutiny results in greater openness and accountability and a more robust decision making process. This is increasingly important as the demographic, financial and service challenges facing the Council continue to grow.

Select Committee Inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny

The need for effective Overview and Scrutiny in local government has been highlighted following a number of major service failures. These include poor care and high mortality rates at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and major governance failures in Tower Hamlets relating to divisive community politics and mismanagement of public money through the allocation of Council grants. In each of these cases an Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in place but was unable or unwilling to identify and highlight concerns which could have led to corrective action.

In response to these cases, in January 2017, the Communities and Local Government Select Committee launched an inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny in local government. The inquiry is assessing whether Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of local Councils. The terms of reference of the inquiry focus on the following issues:

- Whether Scrutiny Committees in local authorities are effective in holding decision-makers to account;
- The extent to which Scrutiny Committees operate with political impartiality and independence from Executives;
- How Scrutiny Chairmen, Scrutiny Members and items for investigation are selected;
- The potential for local authority Scrutiny to act as a voice for local service users;
- The support given to the Scrutiny function by political leaders and senior officers;
- The effectiveness and importance of the Scrutiny of external organisations.

These questions provide a useful framework for self-evaluation of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has put forward other key questions which help Members to focus on the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny, as follows:

- How do I know that the Council and its partners will be able to identify significant problems and take appropriate action?
- Does Overview and Scrutiny have access to accurate, timely information which enables Members to challenge statements about the quality of a service?
- Do Council Officers and partner organisations agree and accept that this is the role of Overview and Scrutiny?

As the CfPS states, elected Scrutiny Members have a unique credibility and legitimacy to exercise this role. It is about Scrutiny Members asking the questions to assure themselves that there are systems in place which ensure that they will be able to trust the data they receive, to know that it is recording the right things, to know that major issues are not being ignored and to know that emerging risks are recognised and acted upon without delay.

Exclusions

Overview and Scrutiny is not about the investigation of minor matters or individual complaints. The Council has a separate corporate Complaints procedure which is used to investigate individual complaints about services. Similarly, Overview and Scrutiny does not look at quasi-judicial matters such planning or licensing issues. Finally, Overview and Scrutiny is not used for raising issues of a party political nature as these matters can be addressed through debate at the meetings of the full Council.

SECTION 3

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



**Councillor Simon Weeks, Chairman
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

The report highlights the issues scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in 2016-17. The role of the Management Committee is twofold. Firstly to oversee the operation of the corporate Overview and Scrutiny process and, secondly, to investigate issues formally referred to it and to scrutinise matters which fall outside the remit of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees. During the year the Management Committee considered a number of issues which impact on the residents of the Borough. These included the performance management of key services, effectiveness of the Council's public Budget Consultation process and the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act. The Committee also considered the "call-in" of an Executive decision relating to the introduction of evening and weekend car park charges.

The Committee also invited Executive Members and Directors to give evidence about key services and upcoming challenges facing the Council. This helped to strengthen the working relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive. As I mentioned earlier, improving the input of Overview and Scrutiny into new policy development and improving pre-decision scrutiny of emerging issues will be a key part of the work programme for 2017/18. Overview and Scrutiny Members recognise the importance of making the process more forward looking in order to add value to the work of the Council.

In the face of the major demographic, financial and service challenges facing the Council, Overview and Scrutiny Members are determined to support the Council in delivering its Vision and priorities. It is timely, therefore, that this report coincides with the launch of a major review of Overview and Scrutiny in local government by the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee. The outcome of the review is awaited with interest.

This report marks the completion of my first year as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. I would like to record my thanks to the Members of the Committee for their hard work and support and to the Officers, residents and partner organisations who contributed to the work of the Committee during the year.

Simon Weeks

Remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee oversees the Council's Scrutiny function and is responsible for developing and co-ordinating the work programmes of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Committee also organises a training programme to ensure that non-Executive Members involved in Scrutiny have the requisite skills and knowledge to carry out their roles.

Membership

Councillor Simon Weeks (Chairman).

Councillors Parry Batth, Prue Bray/Lindsay Ferris, Michael Firmager, Kate Haines, Pauline Helliard-Symons, John Jarvis, John Kaiser (Vice-Chairman), Ken Miall, Philip Mirfin, Ian Pittock and Shahid Younis.

Substitute Members: Councillors Laura Blumenthal, Abdul Loyes and Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey.

Officer contact: Neil Carr neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk

Work Programme 2016-17

Consideration of 'Call-Ins'

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has the power to review decisions made by the Executive and decisions made by individual Executive Members. Under the Council's Constitution five Members who are not members of the Executive can request that decisions made, but not yet implemented, be reviewed.

During 2016/17 one call-in was received, relating to the introduction of evening and Sunday charges at the Council's car parks and charges for the Shute End Council offices car park. The Executive decision was called in on the grounds that it was not proportionate, adequate consultation had not taken place, the decision making process had not been transparent with clear objectives and only one option was presented.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held a special meeting, on 17 May 2016, to consider the call in and hear evidence from a number of witnesses. Having considered the evidence the Committee concluded that decision had been taken in line with the Council's Constitution and the relevant decision making principles. The Committee did note that the decision making process could have been supported by more effective communication and asked Officers to clarify the decision making process for any future variations of car park charges.

Performance Management

Throughout the year the Committee received a quarterly performance management report setting out details of the Council's performance against a number of financial, staffing and

operational/project indicators. The reports included a commentary section with information on indicators falling below target and the proposed actions to bring performance back on track. Members asked questions on the key indicators and asked for further information about target setting and the involvement of Executive Members in the process. The Committee made strong representations about the timeliness of the performance management reports and suggested that Officers consider ways to improve both presentation and timetabling. It was noted that the Council's 21st Century Council change programme included major IT investment that would enable the production of more timely performance reports.

In addition to the performance management reports, Executive Members and Directors were invited to attend to provide an update on their service areas and to answer questions from the Committee.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Committee sought confirmation that the Council was meeting its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act placed a general duty on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who shared a protected characteristic and those who did not. The Act also set out specific duties to publish information about the Council's actions and to set out and monitor specific Equality Objectives.

Members supported the development of refreshed Equality Objectives and the publication of information to demonstrate that the design and delivery of services was appropriate for everyone who uses them. This process would help Members and Officers to understand changing trends and needs, which would enable the Council to ensure that services were targeted correctly.

Following the Committee's intervention Officers developed updated Equality Objectives relating to accessibility of services, support for vulnerable residents, effective consultation, workforce monitoring and the 21st Century Council programme. At the time of writing the refreshed Equality Objectives were due to be considered by the Executive in March 2017. The Committee and the Executive will receive annual reports providing evidence of compliance with the Equality Objectives and composition of the Council's workforce.

Public Budget Consultation

The Committee considered reports on the Council's annual public Budget consultation exercises for 2015 and 2016. Councillor Anthony Pollock, Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance, and Graham Ebers, Director of Finance and Resources, attended to give a presentation to the Committee and answer Member questions. The aim of public Budget consultation was to provide information on the financial challenges facing the Council and develop a better understanding of the views and priorities of local residents.

Members provided feedback on the Budget consultation to date and made suggestions to improve the process in future years. These included earlier publicity and better locations for the public sessions, establishing clear aims for the consultation, identifying measures of success and more effective use of social media to support the process.

It was noted that the Committee's ideas and suggestions had helped to strengthen the Budget consultation process to date and would be taken forward into the 2017 exercise.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Committee considered a presentation on the service redesign consultation being undertaken by the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. Andy Fry, Chief Fire Officer, attended the Committee's meeting, on 24 January 2017, to answer Member questions. Members noted that the Fire and Rescue service had consulted on its strategic plans and response standards in 2016. It was now consulting on its service redesign proposals. The proposals aimed to deliver a more effective, targeted service whilst generating significant savings.

Members sought more information on the impact of the proposals on residents in the Borough and were satisfied that the range of options under consideration would have minimum impact on the quality of service provided. Members also welcomed the extensive consultation programme under way and noted the ongoing work to develop closer working and shared facilities with the other emergency services.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes

The Committee considered ideas to improve the annual work programming process. These included proposals to start the process earlier in the year and to establish a closer working relationship with the Executive. The aim was increase the input of Overview and Scrutiny into new policy development and to provide more effective pre-decision scrutiny of policy and service changes. This change of focus would help to ensure that new policies and service developments were tested more rigorously prior to implementation, thereby ensuring smoother implementation with fewer risks.

Councillor Keith Baker, Leader of the Council, attended the Committee's meeting on 22 November 2016 to discuss the operation of Overview and Scrutiny and opportunities for closer working between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. A further meeting was held between Executive Members and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen to consider practical measures to deliver a more symbiotic process.

Consideration of Forward Programmes

The Committee continued to consider the forward programmes for the Executive and Individual Executive Member Decisions in order to identify potential items for Overview and Scrutiny to consider.

Update Reports from the Scrutiny Committees

At each meeting the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees presented a short report highlighting the issues considered at recent meetings. The purpose of these items was to share information on the key topics under consideration, reduce the potential for duplication and enable the Management Committee to carry out its oversight role.

Shared Services Task and Finish Group

The Committee established a Task and Finish Group to examine the Council's approach to the delivery of Shared Services. However, it was subsequently reported that Shared Services was one of the work streams under consideration as part of the 21st Century Council programme. Consequently, the work of the Task and Finish Group was put on hold pending the outcome of the review undertaken by the 21st Century Council team.

Training and Development

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees recognise the importance of ongoing training and development to ensure that skills and knowledge are constantly upgraded. In June 2016 a lively, well-attended, training session was held which examined key elements of effective Overview and Scrutiny, including the scoping of reviews, questioning techniques, interpreting evidence and following up on recommendations.

A further session will be held in June 2017 to ensure that Members are aware of changes in legislation and best practice in Overview and Scrutiny. Training and support will also be provided for Members newly appointed to Overview and Scrutiny roles. The 2017 training event will include feedback from the ongoing Select Committee review into the operation of Overview and Scrutiny in local government.

Work Programme 2017-18

The Committee will continue to carry out its challenge and support functions through consideration of key performance indicators and the Executive's Forward Programme. Executive Members and Service Directors will be invited to attend and discuss specific issues relating to their portfolios and a key priority will be more effective pre-decision scrutiny relating to new policies and service developments.

The Committee will also scrutinise the following issues:

- Council Plan and Corporate Peer Review Action Plan;
- Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and development of the new Local Plan;
- The Council's annual Budget Consultation exercise;
- Operation and performance of Council-owned companies;
- Compliance with the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act.

The Committee will also consider adding items to the Work Programme as a result of consultation with residents, community groups and partners organisations.

SECTION 4

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Pauline Helliars-Symons, Chairman
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee's work is divided between scrutiny of children's social care and educational attainment. As well as monitoring recommendations put in place by earlier Committees and Task and Finish Groups, the new issues arising during the year are outlined below. This is in addition to the regular performance monitoring carried out at each meeting which involves challenging performance against the targets that Officers have set. This process keeps the Committee in touch with the performance of different elements of the service and the performance of schools via the monitoring of Ofsted reports.

We also monitor what the service is doing to help schools requiring improvement to improve. This is now more complex, with the advent of academies and free schools, as the Council has little control over what they do but retains accountability for their educational outcomes. In undertaking its duty to scrutinise schools' performance, the Committee requested that a cross-party Task and Finish Group be set up to identify the reasons that led to the Coombes C of E Primary School rating of 'inadequate' following an Ofsted inspection which took place in May 2016. At the time of writing, recommendations from the Task and Finish Group were due to be submitted to Executive for consideration.

The Committee continued to monitor the social worker recruitment and retention strategy. The rate of Social Worker retention has improved from 2015. However, the evidence indicates that there will be an ongoing need for agency staff due to the work advantages offered by agencies, which can outweigh the benefits of working for a Local Authority.

Members of the Committee and their substitutes attend training at the start of the first meeting each year. As Children's Services is an area where so much changes so quickly, we are keen to keep up to date with new legislation and service developments.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Committee, and the substitutes who have frequently been asked to attend, for their commitment to and interest in the work that we do, and for all the positive and useful contributions that they have made.

Pauline Helliars-Symons

Remit of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny and assisting with policy development in relation to services for children and young people. This includes schools, early years settings and children's centres, safeguarding and child protection, children in care and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The Committee also scrutinises the parts of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that relate to children and young people.

Membership:

Councillor Pauline Helliard-Symons (Chairman).
Councillors Laura Blumenthal, Richard Dolinski, Ken Miall, Beth Rowland, Bill Soane, Alison Swaddle and Shahid Younis (Vice-Chairman).

Substitute Members:

Councillors Chris Bowring, Prue Bray, Kate Haines and Clive Jones.

Representatives of the Church of England Diocese and the Roman Catholic Diocese, together with a Parent Governor are also able to attend meetings of the Committee when Education issues are being considered. At the moment these posts are vacant.

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Tel 0118 974 6091

Work Programme 2016-17

Performance Management

At each meeting the Committee reviewed the performance of the service in relation to key Performance Indicators. These indicators demonstrate the contribution made by Children's Services to achieving key Council priorities relating to looking after vulnerable people, improving educational attainment and focussing on every child achieving their potential. Members asked detailed questions on the performance indicators and requested further information to support the direction of travel set out in the report. At its meeting in November 2016 the Committee challenged the target for the 'schools causing concern' indicator and Officers agreed to make this a target of zero. The Committee asked the Service to include a further indicator to start the monitoring of Adoption services.

School Performance Data

The Committee received regular School Performance data reports. Summaries of recently published School OFSTED reports were also considered. The Committee noted that many schools had improved their Ofsted inspection results over the last year. The Committee challenged the performance gap between boys and girls and enquired about the efforts in narrowing the gap for disadvantaged pupils.

Members were informed that Southfields Special School (which had undergone special measures) was now closed and a new school has been formed in partnership with the Northern House Trust. An inspection took place in December 2016 and significant improvements had already been achieved with the support of the Local Authority and the Trust. The Committee requested to be regularly informed of any school(s) causing concern. In future such reports would be considered in a part 2 session with the local ward Member(s) being invited to attend the meeting.

The Committee noted that 'reading' and 'grammar' tended to perform better than 'writing' in the Early Years, KS1 and KS2. Officers were asked to provide evidence of work being undertaken to improve 'writing' in schools and Early Years settings across the Borough. The Committee noted high achievements, and on the whole, the fact that Wokingham schools continued to perform well, as evidenced by national statistics.

Coombes School Task and Finish Group

The Task and Finish Group was set up to examine the reasons that led to the school's unsatisfactory Ofsted rating following an inspection in May 2016. The Group's remit was firstly to find out how the Council supported the school and how it could have supported the school more effectively; secondly, to determine what measures could be introduced to prevent what happened to the Coombes School from happening to other schools; and thirdly, to develop a system to keep local ward Members informed of schools' performance in their ward, in particular to provide early warning if a particular school was in danger of underperforming.

The cross-party Group consisted of six Members. Six meetings were held from August to November 2016, during which various Officers and Headteachers were interviewed. A final report containing its findings and recommendations was presented to the March 2017 meeting of the Committee. Details of the Task and Finish Group's investigations and conclusions are contained in the final report which can be found on the Council's website.

Multi Agency Safeguarding

Members noted that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was implemented in April 2016 and had been rated a success. MASH was a programme that facilitated information sharing between agencies. The project offered a safe environment to hold conversations about safeguarding and helped to speed up processes. The Committee received an update at its June 2016 meeting from Graham Enright of Thames Valley Police.

The Committee was also informed that there were other systems already in place to ensure effective safeguarding, such as the MARAC map (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Committee received a report on the work undertaken by all these safeguarding projects at its September 2016 meeting. The Committee will continue to monitor MASH as part of its work programme.

Post OFSTED Action Plan

The Committee continued to monitor the action plan developed following the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in November 2015. The Service also submitted a self-

assessment plan containing targets for improvement. The Committee was informed that Ofsted had not revised the action plan, this demonstrated confidence in the Service's ability to improve and move forward.

Wokingham Multi Academy Trust

The Committee was informed that a Member and Officer Task and Finish Group was set up to establish the best way to develop a Trust. Councillor Charlotte Haitham Taylor, Executive Member for Children's Services addressed the Committee at its meeting in January 2017 to update the Committee on the work of the Task and Finish Group. Since the Task and Finish Group was first established, there has been a shift in government policy in relation to academies. The Committee was informed of the loss of the Education Services Grant and its implication for schools' funding. The Council will continue to explore various options and the potential benefits of setting up a partnership model.

Wokingham Borough Council Policies Regarding Transsexual Issues in Schools

Members requested a review of the Council's policies in relation to transsexual issues in schools following enquires from residents. Members were informed that transsexual issues only affected a small number of children in the Borough and where necessary this was dealt with by the Education Psychology Service. The small number of cases did not warrant the development of a specific policy at this stage. The Committee recommended that schools' awareness of this issue should be raised and that access to information should be made available to schools. The Service agreed to make more information available to schools by sharing another Council's policy document. The Committee agreed to monitor this issue within the equalities review.

Regional Adoption Agency

The Committee considered the proposal for Wokingham Borough Council to join a Regional Adoption Agency. This was a government initiative which encouraged local authorities to join in partnership with other adoption agencies. The Committee was informed that there were many benefits to joining the agency, including: a bigger pool of children and adopters; better value for money through economies of scale in the recruitment and assessment process for adopters; potential savings through placing children with adopters more quickly and improved adoption services across a wider geographical area. After careful consideration, the Committee agreed to support the proposal.

Career Choice, Guidance and Training Opportunities for Children in the Borough

The Committee was informed that this service provision was delivered through schools. Schools made use of links with education, businesses, networks with the public and voluntary sectors to provide students with a variety of opportunities. Members recommended that training and guidance about career choice should be extended to parents. The Committee also noted that it was important to encourage girls to take up STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. The Committee learnt that children with disabilities received career guidance through Addington School in partnership with Elevate. Members recommended that the Service promote partnerships between schools and major companies to facilitate work experience for young people.

Staff Recruitment and Retention

The Committee was pleased to note that the recent strategies to improve social worker recruitment and retention had started to produce positive results. There were now more experienced Social Workers in the Borough in comparison to 2015/16. However, the Committee was informed that there would always be a need to use agency workers because the benefits of working for the Council did not always outweigh the advantages of a flexible approach to work offered by agencies. The Service offered substantial training opportunities through the Innovation Programme and the Practice Framework.

Members noted that children in care had asked for more consistency with social workers. As a result, the Service had made social worker retention one of its priorities. It was important not to become complacent and, therefore, there would be continuous effort to improve social worker recruitment and retention.

Work Programme 2017-18

The Committee will continue to monitor key Performance Indicators to track the overall improvement of Children's Services and will continue to monitor school improvement, particularly in relation to 'narrowing the gap' between high and low achievers and the delivery of effective safeguarding services for children. Additionally, the Committee will closely monitor any school(s) causing concern. The forward programme will now include a standing item on 'school(s) causing concern' (to be considered in a part 2 session). The Committee's work programme is flexible and will allow for items to be added if the need for a particular review arises. Task and Finish Groups will be established if required by the Committee, either to carry out specific investigations or to have an input into policy development. The Committee's work programme for 2017-18 will include the following topics:

- Workforce Strategy;
- The impact of the 21st Century Council programme on Children's Services;
- Children and Young People's Plan – refresh;
- Early Years Strategy (including the impact of the 30 free hours for 3-4 year olds)
- Sufficiency Strategy for Children In Care and Care Leavers – refresh 2017-19
- Secondary School place planning;
- Engagement Plan 2017/18 (receiving feedback from young people and their families);
- Disability Strategy 2016/18;
- Children Missing Education Strategy 2015-18 (including children educated at home);
- Primary Strategy 2016/18.

SECTION 5

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Philip Mirfin, Chairman
Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

2016-17 was the second year of operation for the Committee following the merger of the former Corporate Services and Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

During the year the Committee looked at a number of issues which are important to the residents of the Borough and to the delivery of high quality services by the Council and key partners. These included parking, flood risk management, the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration, community safety and policing arrangements, houses in multiple occupation, unauthorised traveller encampments and cycle lanes.

The Committee also scrutinised the Council's major change programme: 21st Century Council. The programme aims to improve customer choice, implement "state of the art" information technology and systems, increase partnership and community working whilst, at the same time, delivering significant savings. These are ambitious aims. The Committee will monitor the implementation of the change programme to ensure that its aims are achieved, the positive impact on residents and local communities is delivered and the most vulnerable residents in the Borough are not disadvantaged by the new ways of working.

We already have a number of important topics on the agenda for coming meetings, as you can see from this report, and more will be added during the next two months as proposals are evaluated and prioritised.

This report marks the completion of my first year as Chairman of the Committee. I thank the Members of the Committee, Officers and those others who took part in our meetings for their valuable contributions during the year.

Philip Mirfin

Remit of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of internal Council operations and partnership working across the Borough. It also has responsibilities under the Police and Justice Act 2006 which involves oversight of the operation of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership. The Committee is also responsible for the scrutiny of flood risk management.

Membership

Councillor Philip Mirfin (Chairman).

Councillors Chris Bowring, Michael Firmager (Vice-Chairman), Ken Miall, Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey, David Sleight, Bill Soane and Shahid Younis.

Substitute Members: Councillors Parry Batth, Chris Smith, Lindsay Ferris and Clive Jones.

Officer contact: Arabella Yandle: arabella.yandle@wokingham.gov.uk

Work Programme 2016-17

21st Century Council

As part of its role the Committee holds a watching brief over the changes that are currently taking place within the Council under the 21st Century Council change programme. During the year, the Committee received two presentations on the change programme. The first was a presentation by the Chief Executive and the Programme Director, submitted in June 2016, outlining the key drivers of the changes and the projected benefits relating to improved customer service and financial savings. Members asked a number of questions regarding the need for resilience and the need to maintain focus on key customer and statutory services.

The second presentation was submitted in January 2017 at the start of Phase 1 of the restructuring process, i.e. the restructuring of senior management, support services, IT and strategy and commissioning. As part of this submission, the Chief Executive explained the methodology being used to minimise job losses and to involve the trade unions and other consultative bodies through the process. The Committee welcomed the report and asked for a further report in November 2017 following the commencement of Phase 2 of the programme.

Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

In October 2015, the Committee received a report on the proposals to regenerate Wokingham Town Centre. Members requested further updates as the scheme progressed, with future updates to include financial data. An update was duly presented to the Committee in November 2016, prior to the commencement of the Peach Place refurbishment. The update included details of the four priority projects within the scheme as well as information regarding the financial implications of the scheme which was projected to deliver a financial surplus of £16m to the Council. Members subsequently received information about trends in the retail market and projected growth in retail activity linked to the regeneration scheme.

Members asked a number of questions relating to the risks facing the Council in its role as developer, the variety of retail, food and entertainment facilities to be delivered by the scheme and the implications for vulnerable residents such as the visually impaired.

Cycle Lanes

The Council has been carrying out a programme of cycle lane development within the Borough and with Reading Borough Council, with the intention of creating a cycle path along the A329 corridor as part of the National Cycle Route across Berkshire. The Committee received an update on the cycle lane programme, in January 2017, which outlined the progress that had been made since the start of the programme. The Committee were pleased to note that funding continued to be identified and that the “My Journey” brand had been successfully launched.

Members reported that a number of residents had raised concerns about shared pavements and the apparent lack of courtesy displayed by many cyclists, for example by not making pedestrians aware of their presence by means of cycle bells or similar. Officers were asked to broaden engagement with all ages of cyclists to make them aware that it is mandatory to have a bell on a bicycle when it is sold, for a very good reason, so that pedestrians and other users of shared spaces could be alerted to the danger of speeding bicycles approaching. Members continued to be concerned about safety and asked for a further update on this issue in September 2017 following the completion of Phase 4 of the programme, which would link Woodlands Road to Station Approach.

Road Repairs and Road Improvement Schemes

The Committee received a report on road repairs in 2015 and asked for an update in June 2016. As part of the update report, the Committee was informed about changes in staffing and how this had impacted on the road repairs programme. The Committee was happy to learn that, over the previous year, the target of 85% of works meeting required standards had been successfully achieved and would continue to be improved upon by working closely with the contractor. Officers also reported that new Government guidelines were to be issued later in the year, promoting an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure.

At the November 2016 meeting, the Committee welcomed the new “Highways for Members” service and its positive impact on the handling of queries. In response to being informed that the contracts with professional services and highway maintenance and structures were being extended until March 2019, Members raised the issue of highway works carried out by utility companies and asked for more information about the number and range of fines imposed due to work overruns, etc. Members were subsequently informed of the figures and that income from fines was being directed towards the Highways and Transport service.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Strategy

Following an initial report in January 2016, the Committee received an update on the SuDS strategy in September 2016 outlining the Council’s long term vision on its use with regard to managing flood risk and improving water management. The Committee was briefed on current flood risk management issues across the Borough and the benefits that would accrue

through the adoption of SuDS through the planning system. With the potential building of 800-900 new houses each year it was essential that the approach to water management was sustainable and appropriate.

Members sought clarification on a number of points around responsibility, asset management and the interface with other authorities as well as working with farmers and their organisations. The strategy went to consultation in July 2016 and was submitted to the Executive in January 2017 when it was adopted. As a result SuDS would be incorporated into the consideration of all future planning applications. The Committee requested an annual update on the impact of the SuDS strategy, commencing in June 2017.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Following on from a report on HMOs, received in November 2015, the Committee received an update in September 2016 which outlined the current position in the Borough. A resident submitted a question to the Committee relating to the Council's application of HMO regulations to three storey houses when many HMOs in Shinfield Park were based on two storey properties.

Officers informed the Committee that there had been a sizeable reduction in the number of applications for planning and licensing HMOs due to the change of rules around 'buy-to-let' investments. The report stated that the Shinfield Neighbourhood Plan was due to be considered by the Executive followed by a local referendum on its adoption. The Neighbourhood Plan contained provisions relating to parking which could help to alleviate parking problems relating to HMOs.

The update went on to discuss parking issues, which were a key concern around HMOs. The Shinfield Parish Plan included a requirement for parking surveys to take place prior to planning and licensing permission being granted. Members were also informed that the adoption of Civil Parking Enforcement across the Borough would enable the Council to address specific parking issues. The decision was made at Executive in September 2016 to make a submission to the Department of Transport to undertake Civil Parking Enforcement. Progress was ongoing with a public consultation due later in 2017, with the Committee receiving a report on its progress at the March 2017 Meeting.

Unauthorised Traveller Encampments

The Committee received a presentation at the November 2016 meeting outlining the background to the rise in unauthorised Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) encampments in 2016, the costs involved and the measures open to the Council to address the problem. The presentation highlighted a large increase in unauthorised encampments during 2016 with 35 encampments in the year to September. The presentation gave details of the financial implications of the increased incidence of encampments with £25k committed to date.

Members raised concerns relating to the Council's timeframe for removing unauthorised encampments compared to the timeframe for private landowners. Members requested that Officers write to the Lord Chancellor's office to highlight this issue and request appropriate legal changes. The Committee welcomed the use of preventative measures at key sites and

supported the more proactive approach taken by Officers. A further update was requested on unauthorised encampments during 2017.

Policing – Wokingham and Bracknell

The Wokingham and Bracknell local police areas (LPAs) were merged in April 2016 and Members asked for an update on the progress and the impact of the merger to be delivered to the Committee in January 2017. Superintendent Rob France, Bracknell and Wokingham LPA Commander, delivered a detailed report on the benefits of the combined force. He replied to Member questions on crime statistics and reporting and updated the Committee on possible changes to the force in future. Members agreed that this was a valuable report and requested that it be repeated on an annual basis, due next in January 2018.

Community Safety Partnership

At its meeting in March 2017 the Committee scrutinised the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the previous year. Members asked how the partnership and its delivery groups had progressed the four strategic priorities relating to the reporting of domestic abuse, reducing the level of repeat offending, understanding hidden crime and communicating the work of the partnership to make all residents feel safer.

Members considered the range of performance indicators underpinning each of the priorities and provided evidence of local issues which impacted on community safety and the work of the partnership.

Work Programme 2017-2018

Apart from receiving further updates mentioned above on the 21st Century Council programme, cycle lanes, the SuDS strategy and Civil Parking Enforcement, the Committee will also scrutinise the following issues:

- Operation of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership;
- Council Budget monitoring;
- Wokingham Town Centre regeneration project;
- Council support to Voluntary Sector organisations;
- Government Right to Buy Scheme;
- Impact of new legislation on the Council's Procurement Policy

SECTION 6

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Ken Miall, Chairman
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The challenges facing the NHS and social care services continue to be front page news. Demand for services continues to increase as a result of new medical technologies, a growing population, longer lifespans and the effect of lifestyle factors such as alcohol consumption, poor diet and lack of exercise. At the same time financial constraints continue to increase as evidenced by record NHS trust deficits and significant reductions in funding for social care. Additionally, the Government is seeking to deliver major service changes such as seven day working in the NHS and new models of care are being introduced through Sustainability and Transformation Plans. Finally, the implications of Brexit, for example in relation to health and social care staffing, are yet to be understood.

The impact of the challenges outlined above on the most vulnerable members of our communities means that there has never been a more important time for robust scrutiny of existing services and detailed analysis of proposed changes. Against this backdrop, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to test the effectiveness of local health services and explore the potential for more collaborative working between health and social care. In so doing, it has considered evidence from a wide range of sources, including residents, service users, health and care providers and the Borough's Healthwatch team.

During the year the Committee addressed a number of key issues such as the performance of the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, care home provision, maternity services and progress relating to ongoing Better Care Fund projects.

In delivering its work programme, the Committee continues to build on effective working relationships with key health service providers, the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Board, the Borough's Clinical Commissioning Group and the local Healthwatch team.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to the Members, Council Officers, external partners and residents who contributed to the work of the Committee during the year.

Ken Miall

Remit of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) reviews and scrutinises matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Borough. This includes acute and community health services, family and public health services and the work of the Local Healthwatch team.

The Committee exercises powers conferred through the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. The Committee also scrutinises social care services and other health related services jointly commissioned by the Council and local health bodies.

Membership

Councillor Ken Miall (Chairman).

Councillors Parry Batth, Laura Blumenthal, Richard Dolinski, Kate Haines (Vice Chairman), Philip Houldsworth, Clive Jones, Abdul Loyes, Chris Smith, and Bill Soane.

Substitute Members: Chris Bowring, Lindsay Ferris, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey and David Sleight.

All attendees at HOSC meetings, including members of the public, may ask questions after each presentation is delivered.

Officer contact: Madeleine Shopland madeleine.shopland@wokingham.gov.uk

Work Programme 2016-17

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The Committee received a presentation on the performance of the Trust from Julian Emms, Chief Executive, and David Cahill, Locality Director for the Borough. The Trust was the main provider of mental health and community health services across Berkshire. The Trust operated from more than 100 sites across the county including community hospitals, Prospect Park hospital, clinics and GP practices.

The Committee were informed that a Care Quality Commission inspection had rated the Trust as “Good” overall with several services rated as “Outstanding”. This meant that the Trust was the first combined community and mental health trust in the south of England to achieve such a rating. All services located within the Borough, including Westcall, were rated as “Good”.

Members welcomed the outcome of the inspection and asked about the Trust’s plans to move to an “Outstanding” rating. Julian Emms outlined how the Trust intended to build upon the strengths highlighted during the inspection, including a strong leadership team, well motivated and trained staff, high standards of cleanliness in wards and clinics and responsive services which adopted best practice and innovation.

Care Homes

At its meeting in July 2016, the Committee received an update on the provision of care homes within the Borough. Members were informed that there were 21 care homes providing a total of 356 residential care beds and 542 nursing beds. There were also three extra care units with 106 flats. Existing capacity was considered to be adequate. However, the impact of quality assurance frameworks and organisational safeguarding concerns on a provider could have a major impact number of places available within the local market.

Members asked about the impact of a growing population and other trends which would impact on the care home market. It was confirmed that the number of people with high levels needs in the Borough stood at 4,442 in 2015. This number was projected to rise to 7,280 by 2030. It was clear that future market shaping would need to be based on accurate projections of population growth and an assessment of the availability of alternative types of care.

The Committee sought assurance about quality assurance and the process for identifying concerns about local providers. It was confirmed that the Care Governance Board met monthly to analyse feedback and any safeguarding alerts received. It was also reported that the Healthwatch team were undertaking a project on extra care homes, working with Optalis to understand the experience of residents living in extra care housing.

Local Health and Care Economy

Members discussed the local health and care economy, at the meeting in November 2016, and considered how it was meeting the needs of the growing care home population. This followed concerns about difficulties faced by care home residents in registering with local GPs.

Members were briefed on the projected increase in the number of older people in the Borough with the number of residents over the age of 80 likely to double over the next 10 years. In relation to GP registration it was considered to be more practical if care home residents registered with the General Practice linked to the home rather than staying with their own GP. Members recognised that the growing number of older people in the Borough would have ongoing implications and requested updates to future meetings.

Support for Carers

The Committee considered the level and quality of support available for carers across the Borough. It was reported that the Council provided statutory services to around 700 carers. Members were reminded of the Council's Carers' Strategy (2016/18) which focussed on support for carers, enabling carers to keep healthy, social isolation, self-help and the promotion of community based support. In addition, more carers were supported by the voluntary sector.

Members were briefed on the development of a new model of carer support services which included extensive consultation with carers about advice, information and outreach services. The specification for the new service had been informed by the views of local carers and carers would also assist in the process for selecting the new provider. Members welcomed

service improvements which included a carers club for carers of people with dementia, an advocacy service for carers and a dedicated young carers service.

Independent Living Fund

Members considered an update on the transfer of Independent Living Fund (ILF) cases to the Council. The ILF had been established in 1988 to make direct payments to enable disabled people and, where appropriate, their carers to purchase support that could not be obtained from Councils. Members were briefed on the 18 cases transferred to the Council and the grant monies allocated by central Government.

Better Care Fund – Step Up, Step Down

The Committee considered progress relating to the Step Up, Step Down project which was one of the eight schemes being delivered under the Better Care Fund. The Better Care Fund had created a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to develop services which focussed on the wellbeing of local residents. Step Up related to people who experienced a sudden and severe change in need requiring a period of intensive support and rehabilitation to avoid hospital admission or permanent placement in a residential or nursing home. Step Down related to people in hospital who were medically well but were not ready to return to their home or level of independence. Step Up, Step Down was based at the Alexandra Place Extra Care scheme with 24/7 staffing.

Members asked about the level of usage of the service and the measures used to assess service quality. It was confirmed that during the year from July 2015 to July 2016 the service had been used by 37 people for a cumulative total of 698 days. This meant that 339 days in hospital were saved along with 25 admissions to residential care. The estimated cost of the service for the year was £110k against which NHS savings of £155k and Council savings of £92k had been identified. Service users were asked to complete a questionnaire and, to date, feedback had been largely positive.

Maternity Services

Gill Valentine, Director of Midwifery at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, attended the November 2016 meeting to brief Members about maternity services. The services delivered included community midwifery, hospital based ante-natal and post-natal care. The briefing covered staffing levels, quality assurance and service priorities for the future.

Members were informed that a Care Quality Commission inspection in November 2015 had resulted in positive feedback for the service. The inspection found that feedback from service users was consistently positive, delivery rates were comparable with the England average and clinical areas were visibly clean.

Members asked about any issues which impacted on the recruitment of midwives, including housing costs and other challenges facing the service. It was confirmed that the cost of housing was a major challenge and that the age profile of staff meant that recruiting younger midwives was a priority. New housing developments in the Borough were also likely to result in additional demand for maternity services.

Healthwatch

At each Committee meeting Healthwatch Wokingham Borough updated Members on its work. Members also considered the Healthwatch Annual Report for 2015/16. The annual report stated that over 650 people had shared their experiences with Healthwatch during the year and 167 people had been signposted to advice and guidance.

The Committee expressed concern that future funding for Healthwatch was not guaranteed. Members felt that Healthwatch provided a valuable service to local communities.

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The Committee accepted an invitation to join with West Berkshire, Reading, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Councils in the joint scrutiny of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The STP includes key programmes and enabling work streams focussing on prevention relating to child and adult obesity and exercise, urgent care, mental health, workforce issues and digital interoperability.

Delivery of the STP will help to tackle major challenges relating to the increased demand for services, pockets of deprivation, population growth, out of date facilities, variable access to services and staff recruitment and retention. It will also generate significant savings to bridge the major funding gap facing health services across the region.

Work Programme 2017-18

The Committee's work programme for 2017/18 will be an evolving piece of work. The Committee will continue to receive the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Outcomes Report and updates from Healthwatch. It will also continue to monitor current health related consultations and will scrutinise the following issues:

- Performance of the local NHS Foundation Trusts;
- Progress relating to the integration of health and social care services;
- The provision of effective community mental health services;
- Access to primary care services within the Borough's Strategic Development Locations.

SECTION 7

GETTING INVOLVED IN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Council is committed to making Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings accessible to all residents of the Borough. A key aim is to increase public involvement in the process and to remove barriers to participation.

Residents can get involved in Overview and Scrutiny by attending meetings - all Overview and Scrutiny meetings are open to the public and are held in the early evening to make attendance easier. In addition, copies of Agendas including reports to be considered are published five working days before each meeting and can be accessed on the Council's website:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings

Residents can also elect to receive automatic notification when new Overview and Scrutiny Agenda and Minutes are published.

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting includes a Public Question Time session which allows residents to raise issues of general interest and/or specific issues relating to the items under consideration.

Members of the public are also able to contribute to Scrutiny reviews by giving evidence either as an individual or as part of a community group. Residents can also request that a specific item is considered by Overview and Scrutiny as a review item. Residents can complete an online Scrutiny review suggestion form at:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/decisions/ask-for-a-scrutiny-review

During 2017-18 the Council will be seeking to make more use of local and social media to raise awareness of issues coming before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to allow residents to provide comments and feedback.

The Council's Twitter feed is accessible here: [WokinghamBorough@WokinghamBC](https://twitter.com/WokinghamBC)

If you want to learn more about Overview and Scrutiny or want to discuss a specific issue, please contact Neil Carr, the Council's Scrutiny Officer:

by telephone: 0118 974 6058, or

by email: neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk or by post:

Democratic Services, Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN.

SECTION 8

DATES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2017/18

- **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 11 July 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 20 September 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 22 November 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7pm
Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7pm

- **Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 7pm
Tuesday 23 January 2018 at 7pm
Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 7pm

- **Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 19 June 2017 at 7pm
Monday 4 September 2017 at 7pm
Monday 6 November 2017 at 7pm
Monday 15 January 2018 at 7pm
Monday 12 March 2018 at 7pm

- **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 5 June 2017 at 7pm
Monday 10 July 2017 at 7pm
Monday 11 September 2017 at 7pm
Monday 22 January 2018 at 7pm
Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 7pm



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit Committee Annual Report 2016/17

1. ROLE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee monitors the effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control. In order to do this it receives reports from various sources including External Audit and the Shared Audit and Investigations team which help to provide assurance over the key areas of governance, risk management and internal controls.

The Committee also reviews and agrees the annual statement of accounts and the Annual Governance Statement and monitors treasury management decisions to ensure compliance with the previously approved Treasury Management Strategy.

(a) Internal and External Audit

The Audit Committee has responsibility for monitoring the Council's internal controls and governance arrangements. In doing so the Committee frequently received progress reports on the work and performance of the Shared Audit and Investigations Service and Ernst & Young, the Council's external auditor.

The Committee considered and approved the 2017/18 Internal Audit and Investigation Plan which detailed those audits which were proposed to be undertaken during 2017/18 and the scope of these reviews.

Members reviewed and approved the external audit plan. The Committee also received the External Audit Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 following the completion of the audit procedures for the year ended 31 March 2016 which outlined the areas of work carried out and the conclusions drawn.

Auditor appointment:

Members received a report at the December Audit Committee meeting regarding the pros and cons of two proposed options for appointing the Council's auditors for the five years commencing for the audit of the Council's 2018/19 annual accounts. The Committee recommended to Full Council that the Council opt into the Public Sector Audit Appointment process.

(b) Investigations

During the year the Committee has been informed of the reactive work of the Investigations Team, part of the Shared Audit and Investigation Service. Members were also informed of proactive counter fraud drives undertaken including around the New Homes Bonus and Council Tax Student Exemptions.

It was noted that both the Internal Audit and Investigation teams were selling their services, undertaking work on behalf of other local authorities.

(c) Risk Management

The Committee monitored the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements and received updates on the Corporate Risk Register at every

meeting. Members asked for further detail and context regarding a number of risks throughout the year in order to seek assurance.

Members considered the Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Guidance and recommended that it be adopted unchanged.

(d) Statement of Accounts

The Committee must approve the annual statement of accounts and in doing so must consider whether appropriate accounting policies were followed and whether there were concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that Council needed to be informed of. Members considered and approved the annual statement of accounts in September 2016.

(e) Corporate Governance

The Committee has responsibility for considering the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing the necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice. As part of this Members oversaw the production of the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement and approved it on behalf of the Council prior to its inclusion in the final Statement of Accounts.

Members received a report in February 2017 which provided information on the various claims and returns for which local authorities were required to make their own audit arrangements; Teachers' Pension Return; the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts Return, and the Review of Sub Contracting Arrangements for the Skills Funding Agency.

(f) Treasury Management

The Committee monitored treasury management decisions to ensure compliance with the Treasury Management Strategy.

The agreement of the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies and making recommendations to the Executive and Council regarding these is a key responsibility of the Audit Committee. The Committee received the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 in February 2017, prior to its approval by Council. The Strategy detailed the expected treasury activity for the forthcoming year and includes prudential indicators relating specifically to Treasury Management for the next three years.

In December 2016 the Committee considered the Treasury Management Mid-Year report 2016-17 which summarises the Treasury Management operations during the first six months of 2016/17. It was confirmed that as at 30th September 2016 there had been no breaches of the treasury strategy 2016/17.

(g) Retrospective Purchase Orders

The Committee requested regular updates on retrospective purchase orders and monitored actions taken by Officers to reduce their prevalence. The Committee was pleased to note that the rate of occurrence continued to decrease.

(h) Corporate Complaints process

The Committee received an update on the implementation of the Council's corporate complaints process and compliments at its meeting in December 2016.

(i) 21st Century Council

The Committee considered whether the governance arrangements in place to implement the 21st Century Council project, were sufficient.

3. CONCLUSION

The Council's systems of internal control, governance and risk management arrangements are appropriate to ensure the achievements of the Council's objectives.

David Lee
Chairman, Audit Committee
March 2017



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Standards Committee

Annual Report

2016/17

Submitted to the Council – March 2017



Introduction by Ken Miall, Chairman of the Standards Committee

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2016/17.

The Standards Committee met three times during the year and continued to focus on the maintenance of the highest standards of conduct by elected Members on the Borough, Town and Parish Councils.

The main role of the Committee is to ensure that the Borough Council's policies, as set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, are up to date and underpinned by best practice. In order to achieve these aims the Committee considered items on voting rights for Town and Parish Council representatives and a proposed amendment to the Code of Conduct relating to a more consistent approach to the publication of information when Members were found to be in breach of the Code.

Also during the year two Standards Committee Hearings Panel meetings were held to consider alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct relating to the alleged disclosure of confidential information. The two cases considered highlighted the importance of Members understanding their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct and I would take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of Members attending the relevant training sessions and, if in doubt about specific issues, taking advice from the Monitoring Officer.

The level of complaint activity in 2016/17 was similar to previous years. However, I am concerned that the majority of complaints were made by Members complaining about the actions of other Members. The Committee will consider any underlying issues relating to this trend and will provide additional guidance and support as necessary. In so doing the Committee will continue in its efforts to drive continuous improvement and maintain the highest standards across the Borough.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to the Borough, Town and Parish Members and Officers who contributed to the work of the Committee during the year. I would also like to thank the Independent Persons who were called in on a regular basis and provided robust independent challenge and advice to myself, the Monitoring Officer and Panel Members.

**Ken Miall
March 2017**

1.0 What does the Standards Committee Do?

The role of the Standards Committee is to promote, monitor and enforce probity and ethical standards amongst elected Members within the Wokingham Borough, including Town and Parish Councillors.

The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement for a national code of conduct and statutory Standards Committees. The Act introduced a locally focussed “light touch” framework for the adoption of a Member Code of Conduct, and processes for the receipt and consideration of complaints. Although not obliged to do so under the terms of the Localism Act, Wokingham Borough Council decided to maintain a dedicated Standards Committee.

In addition to the receipt and consideration of Code of Conduct complaints against Wokingham Borough Council Members, the Committee is also responsible for the receipt and consideration of complaints against Town and Parish Councillors.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee, recorded in Chapter 9 of the Borough Council’s Constitution, are set out below:

Role and Functions

The Standards Committee has the following role and functions:

- a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members, including church and parent governor representatives;
- b) assisting the Councillors, co-opted members, including church and parent governor representatives, to observe the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of its Members’ Code of Conduct;
- d) monitoring the operation of the Members’ Code of Conduct, the Officers’ Code of Conduct and the Council’s Whistleblowing policy and any other appropriate codes of conduct and procedures;
- e) advising, training or arranging to train Councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members’ Code of Conduct;
- f) the exercise of (a) to (e) above in relation to the Parish/Town Councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those parish/town councils;
- g) the presentation of an annual report by the Chairman of the Standards Committee to Council.

2.0 Who Sits on the Standards Committee?

The Committee is made up of six Wokingham Borough Council Members. These Members are voting members of the Committee and are appointed on the basis of

political proportionality. An elected Member from Wokingham Borough Council chairs the Committee. The current Chairman is Councillor Ken Miall.

The Committee also includes three, non-voting, Town and Parish Council representatives.

The 2016/2017 membership of the Committee was as follows:

- Ken Miall, (Chairman)
- Pauline Helliard-Symons (Vice-Chairman)
- Chris Bowring
- Ulla Karin Clark
- Beth Rowland
- Paul Swaddle

- Sally Gurney (Wokingham Town Council)
- Roger Loader (Barkham Parish Council)
- Roy Mantel (Twyford Parish Council).

3.0 Independent Persons

Under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, Wokingham Borough Council is required to appoint an Independent Person (a member of the public, not a Council Officer or elected Member) whose views must be sought before the Standards Committee takes a decision on an allegation it has decided to investigate. The Independent Person's views may also be sought on an allegation prior to that stage. In addition, a Member who is subject of an allegation may seek the views of an Independent Person. Two people are currently acting in the Independent Person role:

- David Comben
- Carole Luurtsema

An Independent Person cannot sit as a member of the Standards Committee, but may attend meetings with the same rights as a member of the public.

David Jones withdrew from the role as an Independent Person during the year.

4.0 Who Supports the Standards Committee?

The Committee is supported by:

- Andrew Moulton, Monitoring Officer and Head of Governance and Improvement Services.
- Mary Severin, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Borough Solicitor.
- Neil Carr, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

5.0 Complaint Statistics 2016/17

During the 2016/17 Municipal Year ten Code of Conduct complaints were received. Nine of the complaints were made against Members of Wokingham Borough Council with one complaint against a Parish Councillor. Three complaints were made by members of the public with the other seven made by Borough Council

Members against other Borough Council Members. The complaints related to a range of issues including planning applications, Member behaviour at Council meetings, election publications and the handling of confidential information. The Standards Committee considered an update report on the complaints and investigations at each of its meetings.

A Standards Committee Hearings Panel was held in February 2017 following an investigation into a complaint received against two Borough Council Members. The Panel found that the two Members had breached the Code Conduct and, in addition to censuring the Members, instructed the Monitoring Officer to provide additional training. At the time of writing, a second Hearings Panel was due to be held in late March 2017. In the other eight cases it was concluded that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct.

It is worth reiterating the point that the number of complaints received should be seen in the context of there being 54 Borough Council Members and over 200 Members of Town and Parish Councils across the Borough. Whilst recognising that the level of complaint activity is low, the Committee continues to recognise the importance of dealing with every complaint seriously and expeditiously.

6.0 Standards Committee Activity 2016/17

Since the previous Annual Report to the Council, in March 2016, the Committee has met three times and has considered a range of issues including:

- Regular updates on complaints and feedback – to provide Members with feedback on the operation of the Member complaints process, the outcome of individual cases and any learning points arising.
- Voting rights for Town and Parish Council representatives – the Committee were advised that the relevant legislation meant that Town and Parish Councillors could only attend in a non-voting capacity. The Committee noted the legal position and highlighted the positive contribution made by Town and Parish representatives to its work.
- Amendments to the Code of Conduct – the Committee considered a request to amend the Code of Conduct to ensure a consistent approach to the publication of information when Members breached the Code. Under the current provisions, breaches could be resolved “informally” without the relevant Member’s name being publicised. In contrast, where a Member was found to have breached the Code following a Hearings Panel details were published on the Council’s website. The Committee requested further guidance about best practice and suggested the production of guidelines to support the Monitoring Officer in the handling of complaints.

Training and support for Members was provided during the year, particularly with regard to the provision of practical advice around the declaration of interests.

7.0 Standards Committee – Future Action

The Committee will continue to seek improvements to the Code of Conduct and supporting processes to ensure continuous improvement in line with best practice.

In so doing it will seek to maintain the credibility and good governance of the Borough, Town and Parish Councils. It will also deliver further training and support, as necessary, to underpin high standards of ethical behaviour by elected Members and Officers across the Borough.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2016/17

NAME OF ORGANISATION	Author	Page
Age UK Berkshire	Andy Croy	2
Atomic Weapons Establishment – Local Liaison Committee	Barrie Patman	4
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Richard Dolinski	6
Berkshire Maestros	Bill Soane	8
Berkshire Museum of Aviation Trust	Gary Cowan	9
Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel	Rob Stanton	10
Bracknell & Wokingham College	Rob Stanton	12
Citizens Advice Wokingham	Parry Batth	14
Keep Mobile	Alison Swaddle	19
Local Government Association General Assembly	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	21
Mid & West Berks Local Access Forum	Angus Ross	22
Readibus Management Committee	Guy Grandison	23
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Alistair Auty, Pauline Helliard-Symons, Philip Mirfin, Angus Ross	25
Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust Board of Governors	Richard Dolinski	29
Sonning & District Welfare and Educational Trust	Mike Haines	30
South East Employers	Stuart Munro	34
South East Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association (SERFCA)	David Sleight	35
Standing Conference on Archives	Pauline Jorgensen	37
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the LGA (SASIG)	David Sleight	39
Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd and Thames Valley Berkshire City Deal Joint Committee	Stuart Munro	41
The Piggott Trust	John Halsall	43
Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly (WADE)	Dianne King (Sub Oliver Whittle)	44
Wokingham Borough Sports Council	Michael Firmager	45
Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee	Stuart Munro	46
Wokingham Volunteer Centre	Dianne King	48
Wokingham Waterside Centre	Alison Swaddle	49
Wokingham Youth Counselling and Information Service (ARC)	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	50
Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative	Kate Haines	51
Woodley Volunteer Centre	Abdul Loyes	53

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Age UK Berkshire
Name of Member	Andy Croy
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Pressure of work
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Age UK Berkshire (AUKB) provides a variety of services in support of elderly residents and their families. In particular, AUKB works to promote inclusion, foster independent living and improve the resilience of residents.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Mike Allen and I met. Mike took some time to explain the scope of the service provided by AUKB and also the financial challenges faced with the loss of tax-payer funding. At regular intervals AUKB has provided me with briefings, minutes and other documents which allow me to better understand the operation of the Charity and the challenging environment in which it operates.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>AUKB continues to provide services to which contribute to the lives of residents.</p> <p>With continued underfunding of NHS and Social Services the work of Age UK Berkshire is essential.</p> <p>It cannot pick up anything like all the pieces but I am convinced of the valuable role AUKB plays. It seems to me it is an 'essential' rather than a 'nice to have'.</p> <p>It is clear the ongoing austerity agenda is providing a challenging financial environment for the charity.</p>	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>Increasingly, and funding allowing, AUKB will be an essential provider of services to residents. Many of these services should conceivably be provided by WBC and it is right that a WBC member should be exposed to the 'sharp end' of social care provision.</p>	

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

AUKB continues to provide services to which contribute to the lives of vulnerable residents.

To some extent this is in spite of the WBC rather than with WBC support. In particular, WBC's refusal to pay AUKB anything remotely resembling the cost to AUKB for Financial and Personal Support Services has led AUKB to declining to renew its contract with WBC. WBC refused to increase the fee from £550 per person per annum. West Berks and Reading Councils both agreed £740 ppa which is closer to the average cost of the current service.

Councillor: Andy Croy

Dated: 9 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Local Liaison Group	
Name of Member	Barrie Patman	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	4	
Number of Meetings attended	4	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>This is a group of members representing Local Authorities who are adjacent to the Aldermaston and Burghfield AWE sites and includes Parish District and Borough Councils</p> <p>The main role of the Group is to receive and discuss information received from AWE regarding safety aspects of the sites and their impact on local communities. They also provide an overview of some of their working practices and their support for local organisations.</p> <p>The Government have been re-considering the size of the emergency planning zones surrounding both sites and as a result have decreased the size of the Aldermaston zone we expect to hear from them in the summer regarding Burghfield.</p>		
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>The Constitution was recently reviewed after requests from some Authorities to include some local groups. It was thought that this would not help the group's activities and was rejected. There has been ample provision of information regarding the role of AWE and the Group.</p>		
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>This body does not contribute directly to the Council's Vision but it could be seen to contribute to the concept of safe and stronger communities.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative		
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p> <p>The Burghfield emergency safety zone is close to the site being considered for 15,000</p>		

houses near Grazeley. If the zone is extended any further then it could have an impact on the ability to site houses there.

Councillor: Barrie Patman

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Name of Member	Richard Dolinski
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	Council of Governors: 5 Locality: 4 Joint Board: 1 Board: 1
Number of Meetings attended	Council of Governors: 4 Locality: 3 Joint Board: 1 Board: 1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashes with WBC Meetings
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Quality activities: internal quality monitoring inspections of services conducted by members Executive Directors, Non-Executive Directors and Governors. Structured around; the service users, the 'ward', the service and the team. Recurring observations and discussions points, recruitment and retention of staff, safeguarding, risk assessment, patient experience.</p> <p>Executive: Care Quality Commission (CQC) developments, Secretary of State for Health announcement that NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Improvement (NHSI) are to consider a series of measures which may be taken in particularly distressed systems. This will include working with the CQC on rapid re-inspection where there are restrictions on community health and social care bed capacity. Also, where there are restrictions on admission, potential to increase capacity including A&E. Challenges include; staff absence through illness, agency and 'bank' staffing levels, recruitment and retention. Executive focus on the Equality and Inclusion Strategy; to provide accessible, safe clinically effective services. There is a continued drive to improve patient experience and outcomes of care.</p> <p>Performance indicators: the Trust has reported an improvement on the NHSI's total +£1.5M, forecast +£2M net surplus driven by the take up of £750K incentive fund offered by NHSI, matched against a non-recurrent improvement of £750K by the Trust.</p> <p>Other key indicators include, user safety, people (staff), NHS improvement (non-financial) & (financial), service efficiency & effectiveness, and contractual performance.</p>	

Strategy: the Trust is rated as good by CQC and is in NHSi segment 1. However, the Board is ambitious and has tendered for a strategic partner to achieve 'outstanding'. The focus is on reducing waste, rapid improvement (technique to increase change), methodology to support evidence based on change, help staff find their personal way forward built on an organisational development programme.

What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?

The constitution, aims and objectives are explicitly referred to in documents provide by the Trust. Agendas and supporting papers to **all meetings** including Board, Joint Board, Committee, Council of Governors and Locality meetings are made available in both hard and electronic copy.

Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a strategic healthcare partner with Children Services and Adult Social Care. For example, Intermediate Care Wokingham service is run by a multi-disciplinary team that includes employees from Berkshire Healthcare and from Wokingham Borough Council. There is a single point of access that mainly takes health service related referrals. However the coordinators will take the details if the referral comes to them instead of Wokingham Borough Council and will pass it on to the appropriate service.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a partner stakeholder providing community healthcare with Wokingham Borough Council.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Recent developments include, BHFT mental health team working in A&E Royal Berkshire Hospital.

BHFT have produced a paper that summarises the work programme and engagement with the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN). Focused work has included Medicines Optimisation and on Children's network contributions to the wider public health of children through its immunisation programme. Although not directly involved BHFT have contributed clinical expertise and good practice examples and also benefited from the support of the AHSN Clinical Networks including Dementia. Relevant activity; 'Young People With Dementia' (YPWD) service is co-located with Berkshire Healthcare at Wokingham Hospital.

Councillor: Richard Dolinski

Dated: 19 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Maestros	
Name of Member	Bill Soane	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee	
Number of meetings called to attend	4	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Meetings clashed with Town or Borough Meetings	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.		
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?		
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? Continues to provide high quality music education at all levels and age groups of youngsters		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative To enable the Borough to assess the effectiveness and ensure our grants are being used appropriately		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Bill Soane

Dated: 4 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Museum of Aviation		
Name of Member	Gary Cowan		
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Borough Council Representative		
Number of meetings called to attend	None		
Number of Meetings attended	None Unable to attend the last meeting of the 4th of February due to other commitments.		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Next meeting scheduled for the 25/3/17 with the AGM on the 24th of May which I shall be attending		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. The Museum goes from strength to strength while remaining financially stable. The museum's aim is to provide a safe and enjoyable historical aviation experience for visitors and groups. The museum sees its role to preserve the place of Berkshire in the tapestry of aviation history. The shop is self-sufficient and its engineering projects are proving to be very successful thanks to the volunteers and support the museum has from its 118 members. 21 groups visited the museum last year mainly Wokingham Borough schools, which is a great achievement.			
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? Considerable email communication			
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? A very positive contribution to the Borough's visions and priorities			
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?			Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative It delivers an excellent nationally first rate facility with historical connections			
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful A hidden treasure which Wokingham Borough Council should be proud of and well worth a visit			

Councillor: Gary Cowan

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel
Name of Member	Rob Stanton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Appointed as Trustee
Number of meetings called to attend	22
Number of Meetings attended	19
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	In Hospital (RBH)
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund operates a Defined Benefit Pension Scheme for all employees of the 6 Unitary Authorities together with about 200 admitted bodies like the support staff for Academies and the Berkshire Fire Authority. In total, there are about 65,000 members. I am the representative for Wokingham on the advisory panel.</p> <p>I also sit on the Investment advisory panel which monitors investment as well as agrees new potential investments.</p> <p>The Fund Panel is managed by the RBWM with the support of one Advisory Panel Member from each Unitary Authority and I am the member for Wokingham. Five other key employers representing Trade Unions and Admitted bodies are also members as is the Berkshire Fire Brigade. This body sets the strategy which is then implemented by an Investment Working Group of Councillors and external advisors.</p> <p>At the triennial Review on 31 March 2016 the Fund had assets of £1.645bn and future liabilities of £2.242bn, a funding level of 73%. In common with other Defined Benefit Schemes the shortfall in funding is the result of the extremely low interest rates that have prevailed since the crash of 2008. The fund however has an extremely long time horizon for example a typical 20 year old employee is now earning a pension that will still be being paid in 70 years' time! There will be varying periods of high and low returns over the next 70 years and the fund's investment strategy is to earn a long-term return of RPI plus 6.5%.</p> <p>Recent investments have included agricultural land in New Zealand, oil wells in North America, seeding the British Innovation Fund and rented housing in Wokingham.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>There is lots of briefing on an ongoing basis and a massive information flow.</p> <p>There is a high number of meetings (between the two panels) and on average once a</p>	

month and is a big commitment.	
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? Our immediate concern is a decision by Central Government to force Local Government Pension Funds to transfer their investments into about 6 funds. The original reason was to tap these pools for infrastructure projects (like HS2) but the primary motive now appears to be the belief that this would lead to greater efficiency.	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative It's essential to have a representative on this panel as the responsibility is vast for such a large investment level and millions paid out in Pensions.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor: Rob Stanton

Dated: 13 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Bracknell and Wokingham College
Name of Member	Rob Stanton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	12
Number of Meetings attended	10
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Other duties or holiday.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The College is going through a lot of change much directed by Government Legislation on further education and Apprenticeships in particular. It currently enjoys a good OFSTED report, albeit a new inspection is expected this year as it is now 4 years since the last one.</p> <p>The Government are currently encouraging the College to merge due to costs and in some cases not enough students. It is clear further education is getting to be a much more competitive business with new academies, and technical colleges providing competition and greater choice.</p> <p>The proposals have been to merge the College with East Berks college and Strobes college in Egham, under a programme called Area Based Reviews but I am not convinced it is the answer at this time. In fact, East Berks and Strobes have merged, renamed as Windsor Forest College Group. Bracknell and Wokingham College do have an option to join that group at a later date but not sure how the Windsor name would go down in Bracknell or Wokingham. We need to see what advantage that has if any.</p> <p>The College is well placed and keen to provide a new service in support of the Government's strategy announced in the budget to provide a good quality Technical Education – so called T level. Finance has for some years been a challenge and the lower adult learner start since January has put further pressure on. The college has recently sold its Wick Hill area for housing but still awaits the cash.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Yes, very much so the briefing from the Principal is excellent on an ongoing basis. I also sit on the audit committee of the college and able to influence financial decisions.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p>	

It has been successful as it has had its best exam results for many years, certainly one of the highest achievers in the college industry. It has targeted Apprenticeship and been successful at that, albeit the rate of uptake is slower than one would wish, due, no doubt, to the wish of parents in Wokingham to encourage their children to go to University.

That is changing but it has a way to go. The college has a number of areas of expertise on which it will focus on including electrical qualification. It is very good at talking to local business to help it plan its future programmes and does focus on employability skills in conjunction with business.

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

It's essential to be fully represented on the governing body as this college has hundreds of Wokingham's young people attending. While it is a college of further education (16 – 19 year olds) it also has many part time courses as well as evening classes cross a wide range of subjects. The Local Authority provides many of the students and we need to be able to monitor key results.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

I think this gives a balanced situation report from the college

Councillor: Rob Stanton

Dated: 13 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Citizens Advice Wokingham
Name of Member	Councillor Parry Batth
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee and Director
Number of meetings called to attend	10
Number of Meetings attended	5
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Mayoral and other council business
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Wokingham is an independent registered charity employing 10 people part time in 2 offices in Wokingham Borough. They have around 95 people that volunteer for them.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Wokingham provides a free, confidential, impartial and independent service of problem solving information, advice, mediation, representation and support for all members of the community regardless of race, gender, age, sexuality or disability. They help people with their problems in welfare benefits, debt, consumer issues, employment, housing, legal, relationship, tax, utilities, community Care, education, health and immigration.</p> <p>Their aim is to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively, and equally to exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services both locally and nationally.</p> <p>The aims of the Citizens Advice service are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide the advice people need for the problems they face • to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives • In the year 2016-17 they expect to see around 4,200 new unique clients with around 3,400 of them living within Wokingham Borough. They expect that the 3,400 people from Wokingham will need help with around 7,800 new problems. 	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>I have been a trustee and director for 2½ years and was fully briefed by the Chief Executive when I started on the board. Since then I have attended a number of board meetings, where amongst other things, there is a current briefing from the Chief Executive on all aspects of the organisation.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate</p>	

your reply?

I think Wokingham CAB is very effective indeed in helping to resolve many issues for the Wokingham residents. The organisation is funded by WBC and serves the local Wokingham Community very well. The advice given is very well defined on the organisation's website – www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk.

Increasing the vibrancy, strength and sustainability of the borough's local communities

The key indicators related to increasing the vibrancy, strength and sustainability of local communities are Welfare Benefits, Employment, Debt, Relationships and Housing.

These are the latest released figures - for the 6 months (Apr – Sep 16), - which will be updated in April/May 2017- are:

	No. in period	%	% change from same period in 2015
Benefits	1,277	29.9%	+3.7%
Debt	666	15.6%	-3.7%
Employment	491	11.5%	-0.1%
Housing	445	10.4%	-0.5%
Relationship	420	10.1%	-0.6%

The total number of problems in the half year increased by 358, the overall numbers for the five indicators also increased - by 235 issues. Problems with welfare benefits are still the number one problem and still increasing. This is not surprising because of all the recent on-going changes.

Some outcomes in the 12 months to 30 Sept 2016:

51 families kept their homes because of our help.

9 people had DROs

6 people went bankrupt with our help.

5 people had full and final settlement negotiations

7 people had their debts written off

Many others had payment plans agreed

To work with local residents, volunteers and partner agencies to improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life of local residents

There are currently have 95 local residents volunteering in various roles, including advisers, assessors, admin and reception staff and Trustees.

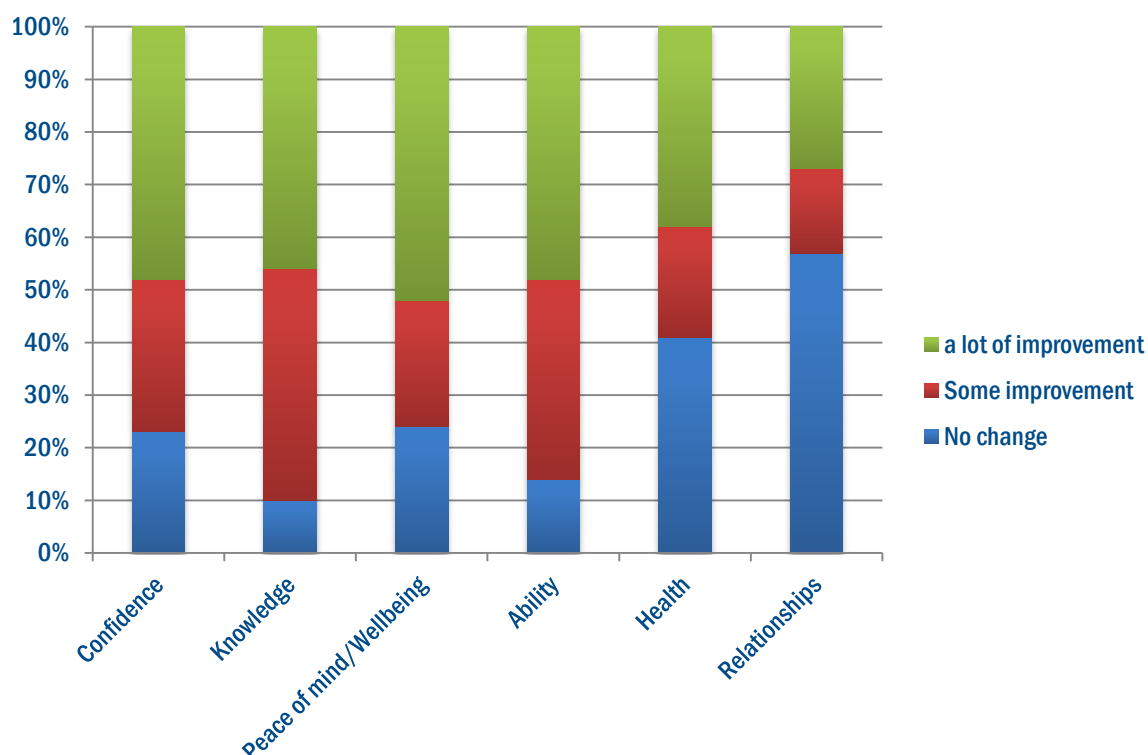
During the year they have closely worked with Transform Housing in order to provide personalized help and advice for their clients. They also work with the local food banks and have, this year, seen a dramatic increase in referrals.

They also have a home visiting team, who visit clients that cannot travel, or are housebound, to help them with any issue. This is mainly with disability benefit issues.

They have also gathered evidence and helped Citizens Advice campaign on the unfairness of the current disability benefits assessment system.

They are currently gathering evidence on Homelessness and work closely with Wokingham Borough Councils Housing Needs Team. They are also monitoring how Personal Independence Payments claimants are doing.

Outcomes



Client satisfaction

Access to service	98% satisfied
Opening Times	97% satisfied
Waiting Time	96% satisfied
Advice Time	100% satisfied
Advice given	99% satisfied
Overall Service	99% satisfied
Use Again	100%
Would recommend	99%

To help local residents to access the full range of council services and improve their customer experience

Referrals to WBC services in the 6 months

Housing	31
HB/CTB Office	18
Council Tax	8
Social Services	16
Environmental Health	2
Other	14
Children's Services	15
Education	5
Planning	2

Neighbourhood Office	16
Trading Standards	20
	147

To support vulnerable members of the community to maintain or increase their independence, and to help them become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

This is a summary of vulnerable members of the community that were helped in the 6 months.

Age		
Aged under 25	126	5.9%
Aged over 64	381	18.1%

73 clients (3.5%) did not divulge their age.

Disability		
Disabled	160	7.6%
Long term health condition	405	19.3%

258 clients (12.3%) did not divulge if they had a disability or not.

Housing Types		
Staying with relative/friends	147	7.0%
Homeless (inc B&B)	18	0.9%
Hostel	6	0.3%
Prison	0	0.0%

392 clients (18.7%) gave no information on their housing.

Occupation		
Unemployed	167	7.9%
Sick/disabled	98	4.7%
Carer	38	1.8%

692 clients (32.9%) did not divulge their occupation.

Low income households (pcm)		
Single parent <£1,500	186	8.9%
Single person <£600	129	6.1%
Couple parents <£1,500	151	7.2%
Couple <£1,000	38	1.8%
	504	24.0%

1,041 clients (49.5%) did not divulge their household income.

The figures are based on the CPAG poverty indicators

BME groups		
Asian	140	6.7%
Black	76	3.6%

Other	45	2.1%
Mixed	70	3.3%
	331	15.8%
<p>Other includes:</p> <p>Any other</p> <p>Other – Arab</p> <p>White Irish</p> <p>White Gypsy or Irish Traveller</p> <p>118 clients (5.6%) did not divulge their ethnicity.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>To allow WBC to have a voice at Citizens Advice Wokingham and monitor the organisation's activities to ensure fair play.</p>		
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p> <p>N/A</p>		

Councillor: Parry Batth

Dated: 14 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Keep Mobile
Name of Member	Alison Swaddle
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representative
Number of meetings called to attend	11
Number of Meetings attended	8
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with borough or town council meetings and also family issues.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Oversight of the management and finances of a service which enables residents with reduced mobility to have door to door transport.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>I joined the management committee in May 2015 when I was given a folder of useful information and the Chairman Fred Rule explained the aims and operations to me. I have been able to email any queries and receive prompt responses in between meetings.</p> <p>I have also been out with a driver to gain insight to the service and meet passengers. I recently helped with staff appraisal interviews and have been involved with fundraising days at the Wokingham Winter Carnival and the Woodley Extravaganza.</p> <p>I have also written to staff passing their probationary period to praise and thank them.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>An invaluable service is provided for the vulnerable; those with less mobility and the elderly enabling them to escape their own four walls and so have improved well-being and quality of life.</p> <p>The buses are used for regular transport to day centres, for dial ride to be able to for example: visit friends and family, for hospital, clinic or GP appointments, to attend club meetings, to go to church, to sports fixtures or to work. Additionally an extensive range of interesting day trips is offered.</p> <p>Work is currently undertaken work for Local Authorities and voluntary organisations, Social Services and the Health Authority and this may be for transport to regular meetings or one off outings to a venue.</p> <p>Passengers receive an excellent and affordable door to door service looked after by</p>	

well-trained drivers and assistants who ensure that every individual is treated with the highest respect and care.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR having a representative

To ensure that the services provided meet the high standard expected by the Council, to provide strong support to the volunteers who form the management committee and to help with communication and co-ordination.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

This year Keep Mobile celebrates 25 years of service!

In Dec 2016 Keep Mobile was received an Investors in People award.

With 12 customised accessible buses, it is necessary to purchase a replacement every nine months just to maintain the fleet to the current standard. These buses cost approximately £60,000 to put into service.

30% of the funds needed for Keep Mobile are provided through fundraising and a dedicated volunteer team of those who appreciate the service for their family members or friends run coffee mornings, car boot sales, a balloon race, fete stalls etc to do this. Part-time paid and voluntary non-PSV mini-bus drivers are desperately needed to join the team to drive our fully accessible 16 seat minibuses taking elderly and disabled people from the Bracknell and Wokingham area wherever they need to go using the dial-a-ride, shopping and excursion services.

And anyone early retired with time on their hands who likes meeting and helping people on a day out would enjoy working or volunteering as a passenger assistant.

Councillor: Alison Swaddle

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Local Government Association General Assembly	
Name of Member	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	1	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. The Assembly looked at housing numbers, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Highway Construction		
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? I was provided with the Housing White Paper proposals and the latest proposals changing Planning Regulations.		
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? Yes, it helped me understand how housing numbers are calculated.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative It helps me understand how the Government is planning changes to local Government funding.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful		

Councillor: Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Dated: 9 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Mid and West Berks Local Access Forum	
Name of Member	Councillor Angus Ross	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Appointed WBC Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	4	
Number of Meetings attended	4	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of progress with Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) across the three councils. • Finding new Members • Finding ways to improve access to Public Rights of Way (PROW) (Stiles into kissing gates etc) • Advising on issues of access, wrong vehicles using PROW, how to contribute to planning applications and local and neighbourhood plans. • Selling our Greenways and Loddon Path initiatives 		
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? I have worked closely with our Public Rights of Way officer and the Chairman of the LAF		
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? Not directly related to our Vision but aims to enhance the outdoor off-road access and linkages to built-up areas, country parks etc.		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative Joint approach in area on PROW. Savings by three councils sharing the support costs		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful N/A		

Councillor: Angus Ross

Dated: 6 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	ReadiBus
Name of Member	Guy Grandison
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee/director
Number of meetings called to attend	6
Number of Meetings attended	4
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Other Meetings & Paternity Leave
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>ReadiBus is the dial-a-ride bus service for people with restricted mobility in and around Reading. The bus service is for people of all ages who cannot make use of the mainstream bus services offered in the area. When ReadiBus started out, mainstream bus services and other forms of public transport were much more difficult for people with restricted mobility to use.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Before all Meetings, we receive additional information from the General Manager and other Trustees as to the operational capacity and financial stability of ReadiBus. This information is highly detailed and informative and should further information be required then all that is needed to be done is ask the General Manager for further information either before or during a meeting.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>Readibus has some challenges moving forward due to the changing financial nature of its core operational funding due to continued budget cuts on local authorities. They are however, rising up to these challenges and are already in the process of moving forward with restructure and re-assessment of certain areas of the service.</p> <p>In the last year there had been changes to the charges for using ReadiBus in order to make it more streamlined with number of fare bands being cut by half.</p> <p>Due to the changes in operational funding some buses have been stood down from active duty and rotation and certain routes have been discontinued in order to provide a more sustainable service In the long run.</p> <p>In most cases users have been able to move to other ReadiBus services. As a result the number of complaints in the last year has dropped and punctuality has improved again.</p>	

The number of miles travelled per bus has decreased but the efficiency of passengers carried per mile has increased.

Readibus is doing reasonably well in this increasingly uncertain financial times but there is only so much that can be cut before it effects services and they are looking into future funding areas from an operational point of view.

They are for example taking part in the Berkshire “a life less lonely” campaign to encourage users to take friendship trips. Having been on the buses there is a great community atmosphere between users and all are felt welcome during trips.

ReadiBus has some challenges ahead and is rising to meet them and they deserve the continued support of Wokingham Borough Council as they perform a vital community service to local residents and there is more that WBC can do to support them beyond the purely financial side.

It is a fantastically run organisation both in terms of passion and belief in what is being done and has been running in the reading area for over 35 years now.

Long may it continue.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

They provide a vital community service for thousands of WBC residents.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Date & Location of AGM to be confirmed for July

Representative: Guy Grandison

Dated: 6 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Name of Member	Pauline Helliard-Symons (Vice chairman of the Fire Authority, and Champion for Organisational Development) Angus Ross (Lead member for Strategic Asset Management) Philip Mirfin Alistair Auty.
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representatives, along with representatives from the other five Unitary Authorities
Number of meetings called to attend	Not possible to give a number: it depends on the person's role, but varies between an average of one a week to an average one a month – but it changes throughout the year, depending on the volume of business happening at the time, e.g.; more meetings at budget time or strategic planning time. Many of these meetings are of working groups or individual meetings informally with officers.
Number of Meetings attended	Again, not possible to count, but most of us attend most of the meetings we are called to.
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Other meetings that clash.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>This has been an extremely busy and productive year for members, including the four Wokingham Borough Council members, with a number of big initiatives being progressed.</p> <p>There has been quite a significant turnaround in senior staff this year, as Andy Fry, the Chief Fire officer, and Paul Southern, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, have both retired, and another Director has moved on in her career. However, the training and organisational development that has been put in place for middle managers has enabled continuity. We have appointed Trevor Ferguson, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer as the new CFO – Trevor has been very instrumental in working with members to develop our Vision 2019 – and are about to appoint a new DCFO and ACFO.</p> <p>We have just had an LGA peer review, to check on our progress over the last three years and they reported that this has been “huge”.</p> <p>With the move from a committee to a Lead Member organisation, Angus Ross has adopted the Strategic Asset Investment Framework 2016/20 (SAIF), updated last month, which provides for the planning for investment in new Fire Stations or refurbishments, mostly as collaborative projects with other Blue Light Services and putting Fire Stations in the heart of communities, with local access and better identification of the community roles the Fire Stations provide. The SAIF also plans for investment in Fire Appliances and Support Vehicles, and also IT, as well as supporting the ground breaking Thames Valley Fire Control Service for Berks Bucks & Oxon, located and run for the three counties by RBFRS in their HQ in Calcot.</p>	

A new Fire Station is planned outside Theale to replace Station 3 in Tilehurst, the old HQ site which will be sold off for housing once the Fire Station can relocate to Theale. We are also planning a redevelopment of the Whitley Wood station which also houses most of the Training support for RBFRS. Other station improvements are also planned. These are all essential development's to ensure a 'fit for purpose' modern complement of stations, appliances and support, funded by Reserves, Capital Receipts and some borrowing. A new Property Development task and finish group has been set up under the Lead Member which meets quarterly, and which Philip Mirfin also sits on, to identify areas for member support with regard to the property capital programme.

Prevention work continues as a priority, and the Fire Service has worked with Local Authorities to share information on where vulnerable people live and to make their homes safer. The (very few) fire deaths in the County this last year have been in homes where such people were not identified by anyone, and it continues to be a challenge to find out where these people are. But we have carried out over 10,000 home fire safety checks this year throughout the County, fitting such things as smoke alarms and handrails. Work with young people, especially those at risk of setting fires, has continued to develop.

We have also addressed the rationalisation of fire engine response times: in the past different fire stations measured this in different ways, but now all response times are measured from the moment when a resident makes an emergency call to the moment when the first fire engine arrives, so that performance is measured in a consistent way across the whole service

Recruitment of new fire fighters has been very successful with about two dozen new fire fighters having joined the service this year, with two very successful passing out parades – this recruitment is essential as so many are reaching retirement age. Recruitment of retained fire fighters, however, remains a challenge in this area where so many residents are also commuters and do not work near their local fire station. It would also be helpful if more local employers were willing to allow their employees to be released on the rare occasion that they might need to attend an incident during their working hours.

Co-responding has continued at Hungerford, Wargrave and Wokingham fire stations, and has attended many emergency medical calls and undoubtedly saved lives. It is still to be seen whether the Fire Brigades Union nationally will agree to this pilot being continued, but we understand that it is popular with the fire fighters themselves all over the country, so we sincerely hope they will agree and that we can expand this in other parts of Berkshire.

The biggest challenge has been the need to cut the budget. Officers have worked hard to bring about a 10% cut in costs across every department, and we have increased the local tax by 1.99% - in reality this amounts to only 2.5p a week increase on an average home, a total of just £1.20 a week that residents are paying towards their fire and rescue service – we are still the lowest precepting Fire Authority in the country. The work on collaboration with other blue light services and local Authorities has also assisted the savings. But this still leaves a short fall of £1.4m a year – the resetting of the Business rates alone will cost us £135K - and we have had a very successful consultation on how to redesign the whole service, with over 700 responses from fire fighters, residents and local Authorities to our seven options put forward to save this money; this has included the production of a video by the Chief Fire officer and

Chairman (which 3,500 people have logged into), and a visit from the Chief Fire Officer and a colleague to our own Overview and Scrutiny committee, to explain the different options. There will be some difficult decisions for members to make.

On a lighter note, 'Smokey Paws', a not for profit organisation, has donated pet oxygen masks to all fire engines across the country that fit pets from large dogs to hamsters! It fits round their snout and provides concentrated oxygen to help save people's pets' lives in a fire.

The Fire Service has also recently returned to the Home Office; there is a view in Government that PCCs might take on governance of Fire Authorities if local conditions need it, but we are firmly of the view that they are quite different services, and that this move should be resisted in Berkshire, since we have a very good Fire Service already, and collaboration is working effectively as our relations with the Police as well as the Ambulance Service continue to strengthen.

Finally, we still wish it was mandatory for all Councils to require developers to put sprinklers into all new homes: the cost is very little and can often benefit a resident's insurance costs. They undoubtedly save a fire from becoming a serious risk to life.

All four of us have been active and have striven to keep WBC officers and members aware of how we as a Council can help the needs of the Fire Service and vice versa, in the interests of rationalising all our resources.

What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?

We as members, along with officers, have jointly put together the strategic aims and objectives of the RBFRS, and there is a printed constitution which everyone receives. Therefore we are all fully briefed – indeed make the brief, the budget and the plans for the future.

Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?

Absolutely. It safeguards the people of Berkshire and saves their lives. It does a great deal of work on preventing fires and identifying, with Local Authorities, where vulnerable people live to advise and help them on how to keep safer, cutting road casualties out of vehicles that have been in collisions, and dealing with floods and other emergencies. This contributes to many of the Council's priorities, but notably offering excellent value for council tax, looking after the vulnerable, improving health, wellbeing and quality of life, and delivering quality in all we do.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

It is vital that the Fire Service is driven by members who work in the interests of residents. In fact it is statutory that we have representatives on this body, as part of the Combined Fire Service of the County of Berkshire.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

N/A

Councillor: Pauline Helliard-Symons

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust Board of Governors
Name of Member	Richard Dolinski
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	Council of Governors: 5 Joint Board: 2 Board: 1 Open day: 2 Ward inspection: 1
Number of Meetings attended	Council of Governors: 3 Joint: 2 Open day: 1 Ward inspection: 1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashes with WBC meetings.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Recruitment of new CEO: following the retirement of Jean O'Callaghan Staff, Board members and Governors were involved in the interview process for the Trust's new Chief Executive. Three candidates were shortlisted and interviewed in September 2016. The Council of Governors approved the appointment of Steve McManus as the new CEO as from January 2017.</p> <p>Financial outlook: the control total has not been achieved, but is in line with Q2F expectation. There is a £0.72M Sustainability and Transformation Fund (STF) included in month of December of £2.17M in Q3. Cost savings are being tracked and currently stand at £19.7m.</p> <p>Clinical priorities: Screening patients for sepsis on arrival to the Emergency Department and administering antibiotics where indicated within 1 hour, a Trust Quality Account priority for 2016-17. The Emergency Department along with the Trust sepsis leads have significantly improved since April 2016.</p> <p>The Referral to Treatment (RTT) incomplete standard continues to be achieved at around 93% compared to the 92.0% target. However, the Trust has not achieved the Emergency Access standard in December with 91.8% of patients being seen, treated, admitted or discharged within 4 hours against a target of 95%. The Trust continues to drive internal improvements through the patient flow programme, including opening a new Emergency Department (ED) extension last November.</p> <p>In addition, the two week standard for suspected cancer and the symptomatic breast</p>	

pathways were achieved in November seeing 97.1% and 99.4% of patients within 14 days. The Trust is projecting continued compliance of these standards in December and for Quarter 3.

The Trust's Referral to Treatment (RTT) performance is compliant for the incomplete pathways standard at over 92%. In September the national Friends and Family survey results show that the Trust was the top-performing non-specialist acute trust in the country with 99% of the inpatients stating that they would recommend the RBH to their friends and family.

Strategy highlights: RBH has introduced the role of Guardian of safe working (GSW). It will give an update of the current scenarios in relation to working hours of junior doctors on new contracts, and outline the strategy to assure safe working through the next phases of the contract implementation. Recruitment and retention of staff, safeguarding, risk assessment and patient experience remain a priority.

The Council of Governors: has set objectives for achievement reflecting a combination of statutory duties that the Council is likely to be asked in the coming year, along with membership and other activities which the Council sets as priorities. These include, the review of annual reports and accounts, monitor the Trust's progress on achieving strategic imperatives and implementation of the Operational Strategic Plan.

What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?

The constitution, aims and objectives are explicitly referred to in documents provide by the Trust. Agendas and supporting papers to Board, Joint Board, Committee, and Council of Governors meetings are made available in both hard and electronic copy. In addition, a monthly CEO Blog is published.

Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is a strategic healthcare partner with Children Services and Adult Social Care. Amongst its activities the Trust has provided paediatric Health Assessments for Wokingham Borough Looked After Children and Young People. Also, the Trust has made presentations to the WBC Corporate Parenting Board.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is a partner stakeholder providing community healthcare with Wokingham Borough Council.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

In November 2017 the Trust announced the closure of the Hydrotherapy Pool but has since deferred the decision to June 2017. The Trust is in consultation with service users and partners with the hope of securing a Hydrotherapy Service in the Reading area.

The Council of Governors is undertaking a membership engagement programme comprising of:

- A health seminar in each of the five area constituencies.
- An annual open day in September.
- Annual Trust Members meeting.
- One attendance each month by a Governor at a community based event.
- Produced four editions of Pulse (format under review) within 12 months.
- Seek feedback and engaging with Trust Members on RBH strategy.

Councillor: Richard Dolinski

Dated: 19 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Sonning and District Education and Welfare Trust	
Name of Member	Mike Haines	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Councillor Representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	2	
Number of Meetings attended	1 (The second hasn't been held yet)	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Sonning and District Education and Welfare Trust maintain a modest trust fund with a base of around £60,000. Residents in the area, which include parts of South Oxfordshire, are eligible to apply for an award from the fund if they find themselves in difficult circumstances. The awards are for tangible items, for example a Washing Machine or to fund an educational school trip</p>		
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>I sat with the Chair and the Treasurer on appointment and ran through the processes and aims of the group. This was sufficient.</p>		
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>The Trust has provided small awards for families in dire need, for example purchasing a Washing Machine for a single mother with children and some tools to allow a local resident to tend their garden.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p> <p>The fund has been a little more active this year with several applications – one was rejected because the statutes do not allow monies from the fund to be used for debt repayments, although the scale is limited, if any members know of deserving cases in the Sonning / Charvil / Sonning Common area please encourage them to apply.</p>		

Councillor: Mike Haines

Dated: 18 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	South East Employers
Name of Member	Alistair Auty & Stuart Munro Capacity
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	AA Member and, S M Member and Member of the Executive Board
Number of meetings called to attend	4
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash of Commitments
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>WBC's membership allows key offices in the council to ask for key employment data at any time; this could relate to pay or any other employment statistics. This allows comparison and benchmarking to be accurately researched.</p> <p>The South East Employer Group (SEE) has completely restructured its operation, now settled into its new Winchester HQ all in the interests of better value for money.</p> <p>It continues to do a lot of work around the current pay round and undertaken considerable benchmarking work on conditions of employment around the country. This data is available to us as part of the service and has been useful in the current staff re-structure, 21st Century and ongoing.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Full briefing information was given prior to AGM at the start of the Municipal year.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>Their contribution continues to be valuable.</p> <p>The work on the pay round is of particular value and some of the key member training has also been effective and well received.</p>	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p>	

N/A

Councillor: Stuart Munro

Dated: 3 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	South East Reserve Forces and Cadet's Association (SERFCA)
Name of Member	Councillor (Col) David Sleight
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Local Authority representative.
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Membership is actually of the Berkshire Committee of SERFCA where representation is invited from the 6 Berkshire unitary authorities. The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire is also a member.</p> <p>The role of the Reserve Forces and Cadet's Associations is evolving and, in addition to their traditional role in Reserve Forces recruitment, managing the Reserve Forces and Cadets' estate, they are now involved in a wider role including the promotion of the Armed Forces in the community, the promotion of the benefits of Reserve Forces service to employers and promoting the skills of servicemen leaving the Armed Forces to potential employers.</p> <p>Within Wokingham Borough, SERFCA has had to find alternative accommodation for the Arborfield ACF Detachment and the former SPAR store (and before that the NAAFI store) is being converted for their use. In Wokingham, the Carnival Pool MSCP needed the site of the ACF Detachment and ATC Squadron huts and they are being relocated in a new build in the Norreys Ward that opens shortly.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Having served in the Army for some years and having experience of both (then) Territorial Army units and the RFCAs I can modestly claim to have an adequate background for this role.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>All the Armed Forces cadets' organisations do an excellent job in promoting good citizenship, self-confidence, skills, leadership and team spirit in young people which all contributes to making Wokingham Borough "a great place to live".</p> <p>The contribution of our Armed Forces and the Reserve Forces to the defence of the nation must be supported and the evolving role in liaison with employers contributes to</p>	

the vision of “an even better place to do business”.	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative Membership of the Berkshire Committee is not an onerous task but helps in liaising and communication with SERFCA and the Armed Forces. Therefore representation should continue: not to do so would suggest that Wokingham Borough did not support our Armed Forces and cadets’ organisations.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful SERFCA also hosts the Lord Lieutenant’s Awards ceremony annually where, in addition to his awards, BEMs are awarded as well as various awards to Reserve personnel and cadets.	

Councillor: David Sleight

Dated: 4 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Standing Conference on Archives
Name of Member	Pauline Jorgensen
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member
Number of meetings called to attend	2
Number of Meetings attended	1 plus a private visit and an exhibition
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Chest infection
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The group covers the care and preservation of public and private archives in Berkshire. The largest new deposits (3.5 cubic metres) this year have come from the magistrates courts with the closure of Newbury Court, it included material from Hungerford and Lambourne courts. Archives were also received from Hemdean House School, Reading Cemeteries, Swallowfield Parish Council, Bearwood College and Wokingham Theatre. Some of these archives have been accompanied by grant funding.</p> <p>A major exhibition 'Inside' was staged at Reading Prison and the archives service provided significant display material including photographs. They have started a Welcome trust funded project to repair damaged objects in the archive. Earlier in the year another prison themed exhibition was staged at the Archives detailing the story of Irish Internees after the Easter Rising.</p> <p>The service has received a National Manuscripts Conservation Trust grant of £24k and has also entered into a contract with Ancestry to digitize the electoral registers collection for the period 1840-1965.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>I was shown round the archives by the County Archivist and had an excellent briefing on their objectives and activities together with a review of some of their collection related to Earley and Wokingham in particular.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>Good examples throughout the year of both protection and preservation of archives which were at risk of being lost. This is evidenced by significant grant funding from national bodies. The exhibitions have extended the reach of the archive service and enabled a wider range of people to see what they do.</p>	

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative It's a shared service between Berkshire Councils	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful N/A	

Councillor: Pauline Jorgensen

Dated: 14 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) of the Local Government Association
Name of Member	Cllr David Sleight
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Local authority representative
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>SASIG, as the title implies, is a group of local authorities who are adjacent to or in the proximity of civil airports. The Group fully recognises the economic benefits of having good connectivity and the attraction of comprehensive air links in driving investment, employment and economic growth. But SASIG also recognises and seeks to mitigate the effects on congestion, air quality and aircraft noise resulting from proximity to airports.</p> <p>Late last year Government confirmed its support for Heathrow Airport Ltd's NW runway scheme as recommended by the Airports Commission and followed this with the draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) in February this year. Concurrent with the consultation on the NPS, is a highly technical consultation on airspace change and we may rely on our membership of SASIG to respond on this on Wokingham borough's behalf.</p> <p>SASIG is also lobbies for improved surface access to airports and I have attended meetings of a surface access sub group at SASIG. As far as Wokingham Borough Council is concerned this means links to Gatwick and to Heathrow. GWR's plans to double the frequency of the Gatwick Airport service from Wokingham in December 2017 and the progress with Western Rail Link to Heathrow are positive outcomes in line with SASIG's aims.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Minutes of previous meetings and information on SASIG's vision and aims were available coupled with an interest in transport matters gave me adequate background knowledge.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>Proximity to our principal airports coupled with good transport links to them is fully consistent with the Council's vision. But that proximity means that the Borough is</p>	

overflowed by aircraft using Heathrow which a significant number of our residents find to be intrusive.

The Civil Aviation Authority is considering changes to flight patterns and aircraft routing That could, potentially, impact adversely on our Borough. SASIG, through its Secretariat, publishes regular bulletins to keep member local authorities informed as well as forming a powerful and influential lobby group to ensure that the local authority voice is heard.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative

The argument against continuing membership basically revolves round the subscription that Wokingham Borough Council pays to SASIG and the consequent value for money assessment.

The rationale in continuing membership is to support this Group which actively campaigns to ensure the local authority voice is heard with representations better informed and carrying more weight in consultation exercises than if Wokingham Borough were to respond (or not) on its own.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

The Secretariat of SASIG is now contracted to Northpoint Aviation which has given SASIG a sharper focus from a better informed base.

Councillor: David Sleight

Dated: 5 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and City Deal Joint Committee
Name of Member	Stuart Munro
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP Forum
Number of meetings called to attend	5
Number of Meetings attended	4
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Local Enterprise partnership (LEP) is a Government body set up to promote the Economy in the Thames Valley area and is a partnership between private sector and Local Government. As such each unitary Council in Berkshire has one representative on the board which is known as the Forum. Thames Valley Berkshire LEP was endorsed by the government on 28 October 2010 and incorporated on 16 December 2011 as a company limited by guarantee.</p> <p>Activity has been based on the decision by the Government to place all investment capital via the LEPS. Last year the 39 LEPs competitively bid for this investment capital. The TVB LEP successfully negotiated £160m which includes the full, pre-allocated transport funds as well as indicative transport funding from 2017/18 onwards.</p> <p>In the past year the Forum has approved funds to Local Councils in Berkshire in support of infrastructure projects, including in Wokingham Borough Council. In addition, funds have been approved to support business which offer real growth opportunities in the area mostly based around high tech business. In addition it has made loan offer</p> <p>The LEP has developed a Strategic Economic Plan that sets out the vision and business priorities for economic growth in Thames Valley Berkshire. This sets out a framework of delivery activity which is about to be implemented.</p> <p>Other bodies that are associated with the LEP include the City Deal Joint Committee, Chaired by WBC, which continues to oversees the £2.4 million City Deal fund</p> <p>The LEP is in the process of distribution £24m of EUSIF funding based on the frame work approved last year.</p>	

What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?

A full briefing was given by the LEP CEO, and was comprehensive.

Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?

It is essential that WBC plays a key role in the LEP Forum as much of central Government future investment will come through the LEP.

The priorities of the TV LEPs Strategic Economic Plan – Infrastructure, transport, communications and place shaping - Enterprise Innovation and business growth -Skills education and employment - and Inward investment, all have a strong synergy with the vision for Wokingham Borough “A great place to live, an even better place to do business”.

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?

Yes

If No, please state why

N/A

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

N/A

Councillor: Stuart Munro

Dated: 23 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	The Piggott Trust	
Name of Member	Dr John Halsall	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustees	
Number of meetings called to attend	Two	
Number of Meetings attended	Two	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A	
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Piggott Trust is an educational trust is Wargrave. WBC is the education authority		
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? All needed		
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? N/A		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful N/A		

Councillor: John Halsall

Dated: 1 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	WADE – Wokingham & District Association for the Elderly		
Name of Member	Dianne King		
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer		
Number of meetings called to attend	6		
Number of Meetings attended	4		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with other meetings but Oliver Whittle, my deputy attended in my place		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. WADE runs a day centre for the elderly in Reading Road, providing lunch and activities. It also runs a Charity Shop which raises money to fund the centre. Additionally it runs fund raising events and organises entertainment for its members			
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? Details of its work and organisation and current funding			
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? The organisation has met with Council officers to discuss its function There is a hardworking and committed management committee. It has its own catering staff and charges clients on a daily fee basis It also has a minibus and provides a service to and from the centre			
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?			Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative The organisation provides services on behalf of the Council for some clients Liaison between the organisation and the Council is important			
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful As well as items mentioned above the organisation events such as Christmas and Summer fares and other fund raising activities.			

Councillor: Dianne King

Dated: 9/03/17

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Borough Sports Council	
Name of Member	Michael Firmager	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member	
Number of meetings called to attend	8 (including the Annual General Meeting)	
Number of Meetings attended	4 (including the Annual General Meeting)	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashes with other meetings	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>To co-ordinate, promote and develop opportunities and facilities for sport in the Borough of Wokingham.</p>		
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>I was a member last year representing Wokingham Borough Council, in addition to representing Earley Town Council.</p>		
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>It provides a forum to co-ordinate, promote and develop sports across the borough. It also organises the annual sports awards.</p> <p>This is where different sports clubs and representatives can meet to share experiences, information and on occasions work together.</p> <p>The Annual Sports Awards were held on 25th November 2016 at Bulmershe School. The awards were presented by Ben Fletcher, who represented Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the Rio Olympics and was a member of Pinewood Judo club. Ben also took part in a question and answer session.</p> <p>The Sports Council is there for all ages.</p>		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes	
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>It is crucial for Wokingham Borough Council to have a representative on the Sports Council. This is to help support and encourage participation in sport across the borough, leading to healthier lifestyles and show the benefits of sport.</p>		

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Roland Mear, who has been involved with the Sports Council for about 25 years and the Chairman for about the last seven years, has decided to stand down. Roland led the Sports Council very well and will be a hard act to follow. After the approval of the AGM he was succeeded by Nigel King who was previously the Secretary. I wish Nigel well in his new role and I am sure he will be a success.

After much work and effort the website address has now gone back to the original one of:-

www.wokinghamboroughsportscouncil.org. The website provides links to local sports clubs.

Reading Rugby Club advised walking rugby has been launched where there are no rolling mauls or scrums. It sets out to attract players up to the age of 80 to the game. The idea was originally devised by staff at Warner Hotels, the hotel group which targets the over-50s market, after research among customers uncovered demand for more active team sports modified to include older players with a new set of rules. Also, wheelchair rugby was launched in January. Their aim is to make it a Berkshire Rugby club under the brand name of Berkshire Banshees.

The Playing Pitch Strategy is currently awaiting further data for inclusion in the final draft strategy.

England Golf Berks Bucks & Oxon Union of Golf Clubs (BB&O) are running courses for boys and girls aged between 11 and 18 with physical, visual or hearing impairments and learning difficulties with the emphasis on fun. On a wider note they intend to bring golf to the public. Their website is www.bbogolf.com.

WBC, through the Place & Community Partnership, is aligning themselves with Health & Wellbeing.

WBC's Sport & Leisure Team have volunteering opportunities in a wide range of sports and activities. A campaign is currently running.

In respect of tennis building work has started at Cantley and the courts should be ready for the Easter holidays.

Councillor: Michael Firmager

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee WJSC	
Name of Member	Stuart Munro	
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC Representative	
Number of meetings called to attend	1	
Number of Meetings attended	1	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Since Appointment of the new board of trustees, the review of the funding from WBC (ongoing) WJSC continues as before. I attend the Annual Meeting.		
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? I am given a full briefing by the Trustees Chairman, Martyn Lambert who I have known for many years and receive a copy of their quarterly report.		
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? The Organisation provides an essential and well respected service to the community		
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?		Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative As well as being a well-used service, this is a good vehicle for WBC to understand employment trends in the Economic Development Area.		
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful N/A		

Councillor: Stuart Munro

Dated: 14 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Volunteer Centre		
Name of Member	Dianne King		
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC Observer		
Number of meetings called to attend	6 per annum		
Number of Meetings attended	4 (plus events)		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with other meetings		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.			
N/A			
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?			
I have represented the Council for many years and the organisation is well known to me. I am kept informed of activities and liaisons with WBC.			
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding and Placing Volunteers • Running a volunteer transport service (eg to hospital/doctors etc) • Running a gardening scheme in the area for older residents • Running a town centre mobility scheme 			
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?			Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative			
N/A			
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful			
They work to raise the visibility of the organisation to help broker and place volunteers throughout the Borough (eg with weekly column in local newspaper) and work with businesses on joint ventures			

Councillor: Dianne King

Dated: 09/0317

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Waterside Centre		
Name of Member	Alison Swaddle		
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Director		
Number of meetings called to attend	6		
Number of Meetings attended	4		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with borough and town council meetings		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Oversight and scrutiny of the management and finances of the Centre. Since August 2016 the WWC is managed by Cloud9Pursuits Ltd who report to the Board which has led to considerable improvements in efficiency.			
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? First appointed in January 2015 and given sufficient introduction to structure and mission of the WWC.			
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? Courses are over-subscribed and both the University of Reading and the Wokingham Canoe Club have growing memberships which make best use of the facilities. Great work with local charities such as Reading Mencap and Young People with Dementia is being done and there is a strong emphasis on making water sports accessible and enjoyable for all. Many youth groups such as schools and scouts enjoy sessions on the Thames.			
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?			Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative The building and land is owned by WBC and leased to WWC and it is important to safeguard that these are being used to the very best effect to provide water sports facilities for our residents particularly the young and those with additional needs.			
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful			

Councillor: Alison Swaddle

Dated: 7 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Youth Counselling & Information Service (ARC)		
Name of Member	Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey		
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member of the Executive		
Number of meetings called to attend	5		
Number of Meetings attended	5 (if I was unable attend the meeting I had a meeting with the chair within three days to cover the Executive. I only missed the Annual dinner due to illness.		
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	N/A		
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year. Counselling for young people and their families, Counselling young people in schools and helping CAMHS provide quicker service for young people within Wokingham Borough			
What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role? Discussions with the coordinator and my own experience as a psychotherapist			
Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply? I believe ARC has helped maintain the health and well-being of Young people and their families so they can become functioning and contributing members of British society.			
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?			Yes
Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative Since Wokingham Borough helps fund this organisation I can help ensure that the funds are spent wisely and reasonably to achieve the vision of WBC.			
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful This organisation is helping young people succeed in a very challenging and anxiety provoking world. It is helping them become productive and contributing members of society.			

Signed: Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Dated: 28 February 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (TCMI)
Name of Member	Kate Haines
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Committee Member
Number of meetings called to attend	4
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashed with hospital appointments
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The TCMI manages the town centre for Woodley. This includes running various markets (Saturday, Farmers, continental); Car Boot Sales; specific events such as Winter Extravaganza, Carnival, the look of the centre covering things like flower displays and Xmas lights; and manage the pagoda and clock. It also involves extensive liaison with retailers and the freeholders of their shops. They also operate, with the police, the shop watch system and manage temporary stands in the town centre.</p> <p>The TCMI is fully inclusive including local retailers, the police, local resident groups, councillors, WBC Economic Development Officer and interested residents. The financial strength of the TCMI is solid thus making it eminently sustainable. With the regeneration of the northern end of the precinct and the new public loo, the TCMI is going from strength to strength. This is the web address for the TCMI for further information: http://www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk/</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <p>Having been involved with the TCMI for 8 year, I have all information required to carry out my role.</p>	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>This provides a major impetus in regenerating Woodley Town Centre, one of the key priorities. It also helps, as a by-product, the Sustainable Communities priority. Whilst Wokingham Town is the focus of regeneration this initiative contributes to the regeneration of Woodley Town Centre in advance of the next phase of WBC regeneration strategy.</p>	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative is hugely successful and having WBC</p>	

representatives contributes to its success.

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful N/A

Councillor: Kate Haines

Dated: 9 March 2017

ANNUAL FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2016-2017

Name of Organisation	Woodley Volunteer Centre
Name of Member	Councillor Abdul Loyes
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Wokingham Borough Council Representative
Number of meetings called to attend	1
Number of Meetings attended	0
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Conflict with other meeting
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Once again, I am very pleased to write this report for the Woodley Volunteers, who have continued to work hard in looking after our residents. The duties they perform include taking them to doctor's appointments, the hospital and much more. They kindly go beyond what was expected of them – travelling for appointments as far as Basingstoke and Oxford, which is considerably time consuming for the drivers. The Woodley Winter Extravaganza held on 4th December raised £358.10. Additionally, generous donations from their clients raised £220.00. The volunteers were especially grateful to have received £500.00 from Boyes Turner Solicitors.</p> <p>Wokingham Borough Council has requested that all drivers need to have a DBS check, which those who were willing to take part in the scheme have done so. There are approximately 40 people left on the waiting list. Once new drivers have been recruited, this number should be reduced. With regards to the Alarm Aid report, there are now a total of 6 alarms supplied to clients. This leaves 4 alarms available, which can be fitted on request. A replacement for the venue for the AGM is in discussion; however it is likely to be Alexander Place.</p>	
<p>What background /briefing information did you receive from the organisation on its constitution, aims, objectives etc and was it sufficient to enable you to carry out your appointed role?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met one on one with the Chairman - This was sufficient to help me understand the organisation and its objectives 	
<p>Please indicate how effective you think the organisation is, e.g. has it met or contributed to the Council's Vision and Priorities and give examples to illustrate your reply?</p> <p>I believe the organisation is working very well.</p>	
Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
<p>Please state the rationale FOR OR AGAINST having a representative</p> <p>FOR: They have regular clients who are depending on their transportation and support.</p>	

<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful Date of next meeting: 5th April 2017 at Karen's.</p>

Councillor: Abdul Loyes

Dated: 5 February 2017