

Public Document Pack



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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To:- All Committee Members

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 2024

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the 22 January meeting of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following report that was marked as 'to follow' on the Agenda sent out recently.

Agenda No Item

89. **Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-27 (Pages 3 - 44)**

To consider a final report on progress relating to the development of the MTFP 2024-27.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive

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TITLE	Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-27 Revenue & Capital Budget
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 th January 2024
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To deliver on the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan whilst maintaining a financially viable Council.

RECOMMENDATION

To recognise the imperative for responsible financial management in the current unprecedented financial circumstances.

To consider the report, challenge proposals and identify further ideas to address the financial shortfall.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report presents to CCOSC the summary of the latest revenue and capital position which incorporates the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement and revisions that have been made to bids following previous presentations in 2023.

Background

The Council annually undertakes its budget setting process for all its financial activities including General Fund Revenue Account (funded primarily by Council Tax), Housing Revenue Accounts (funded by tenants), Schools (funded by Government) and Capital (funded by various capital resources).

On the 02 October 2023, the committee were briefed on the strategic context, summary of the latest revenue and capital position, risks, and the timetable for future committee meetings for the budget setting period 2024/2025. During October, November and December, the committee were presented with all of revenue and capital bids for every service.

The committee are now presented with (Appendix A): -

1. Summary of the latest revenue position incorporating the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement including revisions to bids that have been made following the full presentation to CCOSC during October, November and December 2023.

2. Summary of the latest capital position including revisions to bids that have been made following the full presentation to CCOSC during October, November and December 2023.

Budget Consultation

In order to assist in understanding residents' views on the principles by which the council will make its financial decisions, an on-line budget survey was undertaken.

The online survey was available on the Council's engagement website from 2 October to 3 November 2023 and had 488 responses. For those needing help with the online survey, telephone assistance was available through the council's customer services team, and a paper copy was available upon request.

The survey was promoted through a media release, in the council's e-newsletters and social media platforms, emailed directly to town and parish councils, elected borough councillors, voluntary and community organisations, and the council's database of accessibility and disability organisations.

The results and a summary of feedback from the survey are attached in Appendix B.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	See other financial implications	Y	Both
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	See other financial implications	Y	Both
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	See other financial implications	Y	Both

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications associated with the scrutiny process, however, the full MTFP, when submitted to Council in February 2024, will have to represent a balanced budget, and the 2024/25 capital programme will be fully funded.

Cross-Council Implications

This is in respect of budgets across all Council services.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality Impact Assessments have not been undertaken at this stage, however initial consideration has been included in the capital bids where appropriate. A full equalities appraisal will be required before specific proposals are agreed and implemented.

List of Background Papers

MTFP 2023-26

Contact Graham Ebers	Service Resources & Assets
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MTFP 2024-27

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Revenue and Capital Budget

22 January 2024

Agenda

- Strategic Considerations
- Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25
- Capital Budget Update
- Revenue Budget Update
- Special Items
- Inflation
- Staffing
- Conclusion



Strategic Considerations

Strategic Considerations

- Local Government Finance Settlement – 1 Year only
- Fairer Funding Reform 2026/27 at the earliest
- DSG – Statutory Override ends in March 2026
- Household Support Fund – No decision yet
- General Fund Balance £8.2m as at March 2025
- Use of capital flexibilities extended until March 2030
- ⇒ National Living Wage increase having significant impact on Care Provider Market fees
- Gap of £4.7m to be funded from Reserves (£1.5m Collection Fund, £3.2m Fairer Funding Reserve)
- Opening gap for 2025/26 is £8.8m
- Level of Savings 2024/25 is £12.6m, of which £3.5m is staffing
- Capital Gaps Yr 1 – Funded, £8.5m across Yrs 2/3



Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25

Local Government Finance Settlement

Headlines

Sixth one-year settlement in a row, 2025/26 onwards unknown. Fairer funding review still expected but date unclear.

Core Spending Power increase

- £11.4m (£161.8m 2023/24 to £173.2m 2024/25) – 7.0% increase
 - of which £10.7m related Council Tax and Retained Business Rates
(note - government assuming 4.99% council tax increase)
 - £0.7m increase in grant funding

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New Homes Bonus extended for 1 year only

Flexibilities over the use of capital receipts will be extended to March 2030

Statutory override for the Dedicated Schools Grant will continue up to the 31 March 2026.



Capital Update

Capital Summary – Presented to O&S 02/10/2023

	Year 1 - 2024/25			Year 2 - 2025/26			Year 3 - 2026/27			Total Three Years
	Reprofile from 2023/24	MTFP / New Bid	Total	Reprofile from 2023/24	MTFP / New Bid	Total	Reprofile from 2023/24	MTFP / New Bid	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Adult Social Care	12	4	16	0	4	4	0	1	1	21
Children's Services	1	38	39	0	22	22	0	10	10	72
Chief Executive's Office	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	7
Place and Growth	69	22	91	14	16	30	0	15	15	137
Resources & Assets	145	17	162	13	35	48	0	27	27	237
Total Capital Expenditure	228	84	312	27	80	107	0	55	55	474
Funded by;										
Developer Contributions			(34)			(3)			(0)	(38)
Capital Grants			(53)			(26)			(18)	(96)
Capital Receipts			(17)			(5)			(0)	(22)
Supported Borrowing			(169)			(65)			(30)	(263)
General Fund Borrowing			(16)			(3)			(2)	(21)
SWDR Funding*										
Total Capital Funding			(289)			(102)			(49)	(440)
Funding (Surplus) / Gap			23			5			6	34
<i>Work ongoing to address funding gap, including reducing scheme costs, seeking additional income and reprofiling to later years</i>										

Changes from previous O&S

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
		£,000	£,000	£,000
Childrens Services	Care Leaver Supported Accommodation: Seaford Court <i>(Budget realigned between years to better reflect programme)</i>	(1,000)	1,000	0
	Systems Contract (Capita) <i>(Year 1 removed - funding available under special item)</i>	(192)	0	0
	Primary strategy - Spencer's Wood Primary School FFE <i>(Existing MTFP item - missed from last O&S)</i>	0	53	15
	SEND Sufficiency (2 new SEND schools) <i>(Budget revised to match latest estimates - grant funded)</i>	0	300	0
Chief Exec	Community Hubs <i>(Budget reprofiled across years (£500k Yr 4 aswell) - Net £Nil adjustment)</i>	(1,000)	0	500
Place Growth	Electric Vehicle Charge Points <i>(Budget removed, previous assumption of grant funding no longer available. Could be future bids if opportunities for external grant arise)</i>	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,600)
	Safety / Crash Barriers <i>(£650k Saving (tbc) - used to fund "red" status barrier repairs)</i>	(650)		
	Strategic Road Infrastructure <i>(Budget reviewed alongside £55m carry forward + SWDR spend timing, some spend in year 4)</i>			(3,727)
	Gypsy Lane footbridge <i>(Funded from ringfenced S106, previously in year 4 of MTFP)</i>	280		

Note – in addition to the changes above, other changes were already actioned between the first O&S (2nd Oct) and the individual directorate O&S meetings which presented the latest bids at the time.

Capital Summary – Revised Position

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	Year 1 2024-25 £m	Year 2 2025-26 £m	Year 3 2026-27 £m	Total £m
Adult Social Care & Health	3.8	2.0	1.0	6.8
Children's Services	28.3	26.6	7.7	62.5
Chief Executive's Office	1.6	2.7	2.2	6.4
Place & Growth	15.2	14.6	10.3	40.1
Resources & Assets	14.0	23.6	23.0	60.6
HRA	10.6	20.5	19.0	50.2
Total Capital Expenditure	73.5	89.9	63.2	226.6
Funded by;				
Supported Borrowing	(21.7)	(27.9)	(17.1)	(66.7)
Developer Contributions (S106)	(2.5)	(4.0)	(0.6)	(7.1)
Capital Grants	(29.0)	(29.1)	(15.0)	(73.1)
Other Contributions (Inc. MRR)	(6.1)	(7.6)	(6.0)	(19.7)
Capital Receipts	(6.2)	(11.8)	(18.2)	(36.2)
General Fund Borrowing	(8.0)	(5.2)	(2.1)	(15.4)
Total Capital Funding	(73.5)	(85.7)	(58.9)	(218.1)
Funding Gap	0.0	4.2	4.3	8.5

Note
 MTFP only, excludes carry forwards from 23/24 (still to be finalised). Current year fully funded.
 CIL funding included in supported borrowing figures.

Revenue Update

Summary

Previous MTFP 02/10/23

	Yr 1 - 24/25			Yr 2 - 25/26			Yr 3 - 26/27		
	Growth	Savings	Net	Growth	Savings	Net	Growth	Savings	Net
Adult Social Care	£3,200	(£2,920)	£280	£5,300	(£4,440)	£860	£7,400	(£5,540)	£1,860
Chief Executive	£490	(£448)	£42	£490	(£498)	(£8)	£490	(£498)	(£8)
Children's Services	£3,598	(£1,236)	£2,362	£7,052	(£2,302)	£4,750	£7,925	(£3,108)	£4,817
Place and Growth	£628	(£3,509)	(£2,881)	£1,328	(£3,892)	(£2,564)	£1,318	(£3,942)	(£2,624)
Resources & Assets	£1,492	(£2,489)	(£997)	£1,522	(£2,627)	(£1,105)	£1,522	(£3,007)	(£1,485)
Total	£9,408	(£10,602)	(£1,194)	£15,692	(£13,759)	£1,933	£18,655	(£16,095)	£2,560
Net growth / savings (from above)			(£1,194)			£1,933			£2,560
Inflation (pay award + contractual inflation)			£11,254			£21,200			£29,055
Council Tax - 1.99% Core			(£2,601)			(£5,477)			(£8,466)
Council Tax - 2.00% ASC Precept			(£2,613)			(£5,504)			(£8,508)
Council Tax - 1.00% DSG Deficit Recovery			(£1,306)			(£2,752)			(£4,254)
Contribution to DSG Deficit Recovery			£1,306			£2,752			£4,254
Additional Council Tax Base (1% / 1% / 1%)			(£1,258)			(£2,890)			(£4,466)
Adult Social Care Charging Reform			£0			£3,130			£6,130
Adult Social Care Charging Reform - Income			£0			(£3,130)			(£6,130)
Previous gap funded one off from PFI Reserve			£1,400			£1,400			£1,400
Budget Gap			£4,987			£10,662			£11,575

Service Budget Changes

Changes Summary	2024/2025 Growth £'000	2024/2025 Savings £'000	2024/2025 Net £'000
Adult Social Care	0	0	0
Chief Executive	0	35	35
Children's Services	3,542	(700)	2,842
Place & Growth	(45)	90	45
Resources & Assets	15	(1,400)	(1,385)
Totals	3,512	(1,975)	1,537

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Key Changes in Growth and Savings 2024/2025 £'000

Children's Services			
Changed	Growth	Home to School Transport	2,268
Changed	Growth	Managing and Meeting demand in numbers and complexity	(283)
Changed	Growth	New Models of Support for Children with Disabilities	(443)
	Growth	Removal of target number to reduce growth	2,000
Changed	Savings	Home to School Transport	(500)
Changed	Savings	Placements - Strategy & Sufficiency	(200)
Total			2,842

Resources and Assets			
New bid	Growth	Increased demand/support through Council Tax Relief Scheme	100
New bid	Savings	Council wide vacancy factor increase	(1,400)
Total			(1,300)

Other Changes including LGFS

- ASC Inflation increased by £0.4m
- Retained Business Rates income benefit (£1.53m)
- Local Government Finance Settlement Benefit (£0.67m)
- Use of Reserves to fund budget gap (£4.7m)

Revised MTFP (Inc service changes and LGFS)

	Yr 1 - 24/25			Yr 2 - 25/26			Yr 3 - 26/27		
	Growth	Savings	net	Growth	Savings	Net	Growth	Savings	Net
Adult Social Care	£3,200	(£2,920)	£280	£5,300	(£4,440)	£860	£7,400	(£5,540)	£1,860
Chief Executive	£490	(£413)	£77	£490	(£463)	£27	£490	(£463)	£27
Children's Services	£7,140	(£1,936)	£5,204	£9,407	(£3,102)	£6,305	£11,824	(£3,908)	£7,916
Place and Growth	£583	(£3,419)	(£2,836)	£1,283	(£3,787)	(£2,504)	£1,273	(£3,837)	(£2,564)
Resources & Assets	£1,507	(£3,889)	(£2,382)	£1,537	(£4,027)	(£2,490)	£1,537	(£4,407)	(£2,870)
Total	£12,920	(£12,577)	£343	£18,017	(£15,819)	£2,198	£22,524	(£18,155)	£4,369
2023/24 MTFP Budget Gap			£1,400			£1,400			£1,400
Net growth / savings (from above)			£343			£2,198			£4,369
Inflation (pay award + contractual inflation)			£11,654			£21,200			£29,055
Retained Business Rates			(£1,530)			(£1,530)			(£1,530)
Local Government Finance Settlement Benefit			(£670)			(£670)			(£670)
Council Tax - 1.99% Core			(£2,601)			(£5,477)			(£8,466)
Council Tax - 2.00% ASC Precept			(£2,613)			(£5,504)			(£8,508)
Council Tax - 1.00% DSG Deficit Recovery			(£1,306)			(£2,752)			(£4,254)
Contribution to DSG Deficit Recovery			£1,306			£2,752			£4,254
Additional Council Tax Base (1% / 1% / 1%)			(£1,258)			(£2,790)			(£4,367)
Adult Social Care Charging Reform			£0			£3,130			£6,130
Adult Social Care Charging Reform - Income			£0			(£3,130)			(£6,130)
On-going Budget Gap			£4,724			£8,826			£11,282
MTFP Gap Funded from Reserves			(£4,724)			£0			£0
Total			£0			£8,826			£11,282

Special Items

Special Items – Changes since Summary O&S 02/10/2023

Changes in Special items		2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care				
New bid	Minimum Income Guarantee - Changes to charging	150	0	0
Children's Services				
Changed	Meeting and managing demand - right help, right place, right time	0	200	0
Changed	Transformation Programme	600	105	(50)
Total Changes		750	305	(50)

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Revised Special Items

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Special Items	2024/2025 £'000	2025/2026 £'000	2026/2027 £'000
Adult Social Care	850	500	500
Chief Executive	254	52	0
Children's Services	2,225	1,305	800
Place and Growth	1,465	269	0
Resources and Assets	280	0	0
Total	5,074	2,126	1,300

Inflation

Inflation

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Inflation	2024/2025 £'000	2025/2026 £'000	2026/2027 £'000
Contracts	3,300	2,900	2,600
Adult Social Care	4,126	3,063	3,000
Pay and Pension (4% / 4% / 3% / 2%)	4,228	3,583	2,255
Total (Non cumulative)	11,654	9,546	7,855
Cumulative	11,654	21,200	29,055

Staffing

Workforce Savings 23/24

To ensure there was a safe budget position for 23/24, the Council and the Executive needed to make difficult decisions which impacted services and residents. In addition, Directors have implemented internal changes to reduce workforce costs during this financial year.

Managed Vacancy Factor

Every budget manager across the organisation had a c2% reduction of funding applied at the start of the financial year.

**This saved the organisation:
£1.3m**

This required teams to hold vacant posts for longer or not recruit into positions at all to ensure that c2% budget reduction was achieved

Corporate Savings Target

Each Director was required to contribute towards a corporate workforce saving in addition to their MTFP savings.

**This saved the organisation:
£1.43m**

This has meant a permanent reduction in headcount across the workforce to deliver.

MTFP Savings

During 23/24 budget setting, Directorates had identified posts for deletion to contribute towards the MTFP position.

**This will save the organisation:
£633k**

Total Workforce Related Savings

23/24 staffing savings: £3.36m pa

Workforce Savings 24/25 (cumulative effect)

To ensure there was a safe budget position for 24/25, the Council and the Executive needed to make difficult decisions which impacted services and residents. In addition, Directors have implemented internal changes to reduce workforce costs during this financial year.

Managed Vacancy Factor

Every budget manager across the organisation will have a further c2.5% reduction of funding applied at the start of the 24/25 financial year.

**This will save the organisation:
£3.05m**

This required teams to hold vacant posts for longer or not recruit into positions at all to ensure that c4.5% budget reduction was achieved

Corporate Savings Target

Each Director was required to contribute towards a corporate workforce saving in addition to their MTFP savings.

**This will be an on-going saving for the organisation:
£1.43m***

This has meant a permanent reduction in headcount across the workforce to deliver.

*Delivered in 23/24

MTFP Savings

Directorates continue to identify posts for deletion to contribute towards the MTFP position.

**This will save the organisation:
£2.37m**

Total Workforce Related Savings

**Total staffing savings: £6.85m pa - circa
9% of the workforce**

Conclusion

Conclusion

- Difficult and Challenging time ahead
- Revenue Budget 2023/24 includes the delivery of £11.8m
- Revenue savings to achieve in 2024/25 - £12.6m of which £3.5m is staffing
- Revenue Budget Gap – 2025/26 £8.8m
- Capital Gap - £8.5m over the MTFP – further work needed (delays / stopping / finding income)

Budget survey

488 responses

Are you responding as				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	A Wokingham borough resident		98.35%	477
2	An elected borough councillor		0.41%	2
3	A town or parish councillor		0.00%	0
4	Representing an organisation		0.41%	2
5	Completing the survey for someone else		0.00%	0
6	Other (please specify):		0.82%	4
			answered	485
			skipped	3

Priority one: Our primary objective will be to maintain sound finances so we avoid becoming insolvent, which would mean facing Government intervention to severely limit our spending options and potentially force a large Council Tax rise (services such as our libraries, leisure centres, climate emergency response and weekly waste/recycling collections would be under immediate threat).

To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		50.41%	244
2	Agree		33.88%	164
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9.50%	46
4	Disagree		4.13%	20
5	Strongly disagree		2.07%	10
			answered	484
			skipped	4

Do you have any comments on this priority?

132 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- Stop spending on projects that only benefit a few people and reduce spending on staff
- Keep services such as libraries, leisure centres and waste collections as they are important for residents' health and safety
- Cutting services such as libraries, leisure centres and climate emergency projects would save money
- Increase council tax rather than cut services
- Find efficiencies within the council or create new income sources
- Lobby government for more funding

Priority two: When making budget decisions we will prioritise those people who need us most.

To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	31.39%	151
2	Agree	36.80%	177
3	Neither agree nor disagree	16.42%	79
4	Disagree	12.47%	60
5	Strongly disagree	2.91%	14
		answered	481
		skipped	7

Do you have any comments on this priority?

172 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- Need more information to answer this; depends on definition and criteria of need
- Need balance – need most value for most people
- Everyone should have the same level of service; prioritise universal services
- The council doesn't use its money/resources wisely; could make savings in specific areas
- The council should no support trendy causes, things that only benefit a few people
- This risks WBC's approach becoming reactive/short term
- Generally supportive
- Have service users pay part of the cost

Priority three: We will generate income through increasing universal charges and through sensible long-term investments. We do this to minimise the need to reduce services and to prioritise support for those who need us most.

To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	20.08%	96
2	Agree	40.38%	193
3	Neither agree nor disagree	23.64%	113
4	Disagree	10.88%	52
5	Strongly disagree	5.02%	24
		answered	478
		skipped	10

Do you have any comments on this priority?

185 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- What does this mean? Who decides what is sensible? Need more information
- Sensible long-term investments can be risky; council should not make investments outside providing services
- Agree with increasing charges but need to understand impact first
- Generating income through increasing charges causes hardship
- Agree; sensible investment sounds good; income generation would be good
- Don't reduce services; stop wasting money on non essential things like cycle lanes
- Increase council tax

Priority four: We will only reduce services as a last resort, after considering alternative ways they could be provided and who could provide them.

To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	37.29%	179
2	Agree	41.04%	197
3	Neither agree nor disagree	10.21%	49
4	Disagree	8.54%	41
5	Strongly disagree	2.92%	14
		answered	480
		skipped	8

Do you have any comments on this priority?

136 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- Cut outsourcing, consultants; should better manage contractors to deliver quality services
- Agree to cut some services
- Depend on what services to be cut; need to consult residents beforehand
- Don't agree to cut vital or statutory services
- Don't agree waste collection changes would save money
- Run service more efficiently; reduce spending on projects that benefit a small group of people

Priority five: To safeguard our financial future, we will modernise the way we provide services by working with partners to maximise our joint resources.

To what extent do you agree with this priority?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	31.16%	148
2	Agree	39.58%	188
3	Neither agree nor disagree	21.05%	100
4	Disagree	5.47%	26
5	Strongly disagree	2.74%	13
		answered	475
		skipped	13

Do you have any comments on this priority?

170 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- Must not be accompanied by service or staffing cuts
- General disapproval
- Reduce council staffing or improve procedures instead or as well
- Doesn't believe / questions if this will save money
- General approval Council must retain control of any arrangement / be transparent
- Keep Shute End / other assets
- Don't know enough / don't understand question / question is too vague
- Depends on the specific details of the arrangement
- It's the only option
- Suspicious of outsourcing to private sector
- Partnering with other councils or agencies would be more efficient

Are there any other priorities we should use to guide our financial decision?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	207
		answered	207
		skipped	281

Do you have any comments on this priority?

207 respondents commented on this priority. The key themes are:

- Everybody should have same level of service, prioritise universal services
- Need balance - can't have the many losing out to needs of a few. Need most value for most people
- Unsure of, or depends on, definition and criteria of need and whether it's fairly/accurately assessed
- Council doesn't use its money/resources wisely, could make savings in specific areas
- Better to prevent people becoming vulnerable than intervene later
- Stop prioritising cyclists
- Council should not be supporting "trendy", "woke" etc causes
- Prioritise statutory services/most vulnerable residents
- Council needs to explain financial issues better
- Too much housing - wouldn't be so much need if there wasn't/get more from developers
- This approach risks WBC becoming reactive / short term, not proactive / long-term
- Prioritise young people and their services
- Other - generally supportive comments
- Yes but balance savings with income - keep WBC attractive
- Consult residents on definition of need / priority
- Make service users pay part of cost or learn to help selves where possible
- Support businesses and/or jobs
- Reorganise local government across the region
- Prioritise quality of life
- Prioritise the environment/green initiatives
- Lobby central government Be more flexible/work more quickly
- Reduce staffing costs - Cap pay/reduce headcount/stop consultants and temp staff/restructure
- Shared services with other councils
- Apply common sense
- Go to the office more often
- Don't know/None
- Run more services in house/reduce contractors
- Crime prevention including littering
- Cost of living has had massive impact/don't increase
- Prioritise the arts
- Be more efficient

Are there organisations or groups that you are aware of that WBC should contact about working in partnership for community benefit? If yes, please tell us the name and contact information for the organisations or groups.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	105
		answered	105
		skipped	383

About you (optional)

The following questions are to ensure we take the views and needs of differing people into consideration and to understand your responses to the previous questions a little better. It is a legal requirement for us to ask these questions, but you are not obliged to answer any you do not wish to. The data is used for this survey only and cannot be used to identify you.

What town or parish do you live in?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Arborfield and Newland		1.04%	4
2	Barkham		1.81%	7
3	Charvil		1.55%	6
4	Earley		13.99%	54
5	Finchampstead		8.81%	34
6	Hurst		0.78%	3
7	Remenham		0.26%	1
8	Ruscombe		0.00%	0
9	Shinfield		4.66%	18
10	Sonning		1.04%	4
11	Swallowfield		1.30%	5
12	Twyford		5.96%	23
13	Wargrave		2.85%	11
14	Winnersh		6.48%	25
15	Wokingham		31.87%	123
16	Wokingham Without		4.66%	18
17	Woodley		11.92%	46
18	Don't know		0.78%	3
19	Outside Wokingham borough		0.26%	1
			answered	386
			skipped	102

What sex/gender do you identify as?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Female	40.89%	157
2	Male	56.25%	216
3	Transgender	0.00%	0
4	Prefer not to say	0.78%	3
5	Other (please specify):	2.08%	8
		answered	384
		skipped	104

How old are you?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	17 or younger	0.00%	0
2	18-20	0.00%	0
3	21-29	1.04%	4
4	30-39	5.99%	23
5	40-49	15.10%	58
6	50-59	18.75%	72
7	60 or older	59.11%	227
		answered	384
		skipped	104

What race or ethnicity best describes you?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Arabic	0.00%	0
2	Asian/British Asian: Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
3	Asian/British Asian: Chinese	1.04%	4
4	Asian/British Asian: Indian	1.82%	7
5	Asian/British Asian: Pakistani	0.26%	1
6	Black/British Black: African	0.00%	0
7	Black/British Black: Caribbean	0.26%	1
8	White: British	86.72%	333
9	White: Other	4.17%	16
10	Mixed race	1.56%	6
11	Gypsy/Traveller	0.00%	0
12	Prefer not to say	2.34%	9
13	Other (please specify):	1.82%	7
		answered	384
		skipped	104

What do you consider your religion to be?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Buddhism	0.26%	1
2	Christianity	44.91%	172
3	Hinduism	1.57%	6
4	Islam	0.26%	1
5	Judaism	0.78%	3
6	Sikhism	0.26%	1
7	No religion	43.08%	165
8	Prefer not to say	6.79%	26
9	Other (please specify):	2.09%	8
		answered	383
		skipped	105

Which of the following terms best describes your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Asexual	0.80%	3
2	Bisexual	1.33%	5
3	Gay	0.80%	3
4	Lesbian	0.53%	2
5	Heterosexual/Straight	83.73%	314
6	Prefer not to say	9.60%	36
7	Other (please specify):	3.20%	12
		answered	375
		skipped	113

Have you undertaken any form of sex/gender reassignment?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	0.00%	0
2	No	92.51%	346
3	Prefer not to say	7.49%	28
		answered	374
		skipped	114

Are you currently pregnant or have you given birth within the last year?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	0.53%	2
2	No	69.05%	261
3	Not applicable	26.46%	100
4	Prefer not to say	3.97%	15
		answered	378
		skipped	110

Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
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Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?

1	Yes		21.11%	80
2	No		71.50%	271
3	Prefer not to say		7.39%	28
			answered	379
			skipped	109

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