



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held at the Civic Offices,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2015 AT 7.00 PM

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

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 11 March 2015

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

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.

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.
74.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
75.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2015.	11 - 28
76.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
77.		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	
77.1	South Lake	Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question: Question What is being done to improve South Lake, specifically the dam?	
77.2	Winnersh	Shaun Hanna has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question: Question In order to build their part of the Winnersh Relief Road, Wokingham Borough Council will have to use some land by the motorway bridge on Reading Road which is owned by the Highways Agency. What is the current status of the negotiations to buy the land?	

- 78. PETITIONS**
To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.
- 79. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements by the Mayor.
- 80. None Specific PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, ANDY FRY**
To receive a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer, Andy Fry.
- This is expected to be approximately 20 minutes in duration after which there will be an opportunity for Member questions of no more than 15 minutes in duration.
- 81. Coronation APPROVAL OF A PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS BY COUNCILLOR KATE HAINES** **29 - 30**
To consider a report asking Council to approve Councillor Kate Haines non-attendance at meetings on the grounds of her ill-health up to 25 September 2015.
- RECOMMENDATION** Council is recommended to:
- 1) note that Councillor Kate Haines has not been able to attend meetings of the Council due to ill-health since her attendance at a meeting of the Adoption Panel on 25 September 2014;
 - 2) extend its sympathy to Councillor Haines and send her its best wishes for a speedy recovery;
 - 3) approve Councillor Kate Haines' non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health until her current term of office ends on 10 May 2015 and up to 18 September 2015 if she is subsequently re-elected at the forthcoming election pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 82. None Specific ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES** **31 - 72**
To receive a report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the work undertaken by the 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.

83. None Specific **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15** 73 - 78
 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work undertaken over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.
84. None Specific **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15** 79 - 82
 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.
85. None Specific **STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15** 83 - 88
 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.
86. None Specific **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES** 89 - 164
 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.
87. 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 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes
88. None Specific **STATEMENTS FROM COMPANY DIRECTORS**
 To receive any statements from the Directors of Council Owned Companies.
89. **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.

89.1 None Specific

Philip Houldsworth asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

A “pilot” programme was established at Dinton Pastures working with Job Centre Plus and Pinnacle People to give long term unemployed people a chance to improve their skills and self-esteem through a volunteering programme.

Can the Executive Member for Environment please give me an update as to how this has progressed?

89.2 Twyford

Dee Tomlin has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

Where in the capital plan is the money for the Twyford Community Hub?

89.3 South Lake

Kay Gilder has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

For several years residents of South Lake have had to live with the stink coming from the lake itself and we have raised this repeatedly. In the current year’s budget there is £10,000 allocated for clearing vegetation but it hasn’t been spent and is being carried forward to next year.

With warmer days coming, when is this council going to take action and sort out the South Lake stink?

89.4 Bulmershe and Whitegates

Beth Rowland has asked the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing the following question:

Question

In the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan the funding for either a rebuild or refurbishment of Bulmershe Leisure Centre has been deferred for 2 years until 2017/18 – Why?

89.5 None Specific

Tim Holton has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Park and ride is a way of reducing traffic. At the moment our park and ride sites are looking to be a single destination. Is the Council looking at the possibility of adding multi destination buses which could serve other locations such as the new town centres and stations to elevate car parking problems?

89.6 Bulmershe and
Whitegates;
Coronation;
Loddon; South
Lake

Tom McCann has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Information on the WBC website about S106 developer contributions has not been kept up to date and one of the reports is missing, this is not very open and transparent of the Council.

However going by what has now appeared on the website, the February 2015 report of developer contributions by parish shows £5.3M of S106 contributions received or owed to WBC for Woodley, how much of this has been identified in the capital program for the next 3years?

89.7 Twyford

Bob Pitts has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

I am frequently asked what is happening about the Community Hub/Library in Twyford. I know that this is not my Ward but it does affect my residents. Could you please provide me with an update on progress so far and an estimated date when something might happen?

89.8 None Specific

Chris Bowring has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

I have found the introduction of modern.gov into the Council's website a great help especially when searching previous council agendas and minutes for relevant information. Would the Executive Member for Resident Services please indicate what future enhancements we can expect using this new software?

90.

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

91.

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.

91.1 None Specific

Motion 365 submitted by Norman Jorgensen

This Council supports the campaign from our members of Parliament, spearheaded by John Redwood, to urge the Highways Agency to provide noise mitigation measures when the M4 becomes a managed motorway between junctions 3 and 12. This especially affects our residents in North Wokingham, Emmbrook, Hurst, Winnersh, Earley and Shinfield.

91.2 Emmbrook;
Ewendons;
Norreys; Wescott

Motion 366 submitted by Philip Mirfin

This Council fully supports the regeneration of Wokingham town centre on the basis that it continues to satisfy the 5 key principles:

- . To provide a thriving town centre
- . To provide an eighteen hour economy
- . To treat streets as places for pedestrian and cyclists
- . To provide active and accessible public spaces
- . To enhance the quality and heritage of the town centre.

This will be achieved by:

- . Continuing to put the local resident right at the heart of the regeneration process with an open and honest exchange that involves them in shaping how their town grows in the coming years
- . Continuing to ensure that residents are kept up to date on what is happening and how it effects them
- . Continuing to ensure that the regeneration remains viable and that it becomes something which benefits the community both financially and, more importantly, by delivering the facilities an ever growing and changing population needs
- . Creating a destination which offers something different from neighbouring towns and focusses on delivering a local market town experience for local people
- . Delivering a better mix and variety of retail offer within the town so it becomes a destination people want to come to rather than having to go elsewhere or compromise
- . Ensuring that the surplus income from this development is used to benefit the whole Borough and can be reinvested in delivering the things local

- people need on an ongoing basis
- . Ensuring the development responds to and integrates into the existing fabric of the town and remains flexible enough to continue to adapt to the ever changing needs of a local high street
- . Continuing to ensure that whatever is built is done so to the highest standards and to the highest quality and that it will stand the tests of time

91.3 None Specific

Motion 367 submitted by Lindsay Ferris

This Council commits to include both the public and Overview and Scrutiny in the budget setting process for 2016/17 and in all future years, and will consult in a timely manner on budget choices, such as the priorities for spending and the potential impact and consequences of these choices.

CONTACT OFFICER

Anne Hunter
Tel
Email
Postal Address

Service Manager, Democratic Services
0118 974 6053
anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

This page is intentionally left blank

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2015 FROM 8.00 PM TO 10.15 PM**

Present:- Parry Batth, (Deputy Mayor), Mark Ashwell, Keith Baker, Chris Bowring, Prue Bray, David Chopping, Gary Cowan, Michael Firmager, Lindsay Ferris, Kay Gilder, Guy Grandison, Mike Haines, Charlotte Haitham Taylor, John Halsall, Pauline Helliar-Symons, Tim Holton, Philip Houldsworth, Nicky Jerrome, Norman Jorgensen, Pauline Jorgensen, John Kaiser, Dianne King, Abdul Loyes, Tom McCann, Julian McGhee-Sumner, Ken Miall, Philip Mirfin, Stuart Munro, Barrie Patman, Ian Pittock, Anthony Pollock, Malcolm Richards, Angus Ross, Beth Rowland, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey, Chris Singleton, David Sleight, Chris Smith, Wayne Smith, Bill Soane, Paul Swaddle, Simon Weeks and Bob Wyatt.

74. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 November 2014 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 16 January 2015 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

75. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Alistair Auty, UllaKarin Clark, Mike Gore, Kate Haines, David Lee, Bob Pitts, Nick Ray, Rob Stanton, Alison Swaddle, Dee Tomlin and Shahid Younis.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tom McCann declared a Personal Interest on the grounds that his daughter was employed by a company involved with the Wokingham town centre regeneration project.

77. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

77.01 Question

Clive Jones asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Given the increasing level of risk associated with the council finances, will you guarantee that all the savings in the budget are achievable?

Answer

It would be extremely foolish of me to say that I guarantee that every saving will be achieved and at the level stated. I do not think anyone could possibly do that, as many are by definition future events with unknown outcomes at this stage.

What I can say however, is that year on year we continue to come up with substantial savings, totalling £31.3m over the last 5 years and including £8.3m for 2015/2016. We do this by continually finding more efficient ways of delivering services and continually seeking more cost effective solutions in what we do, whilst protecting our services valued by our residents.

We have an extremely strong track record in delivering our savings year on year which is borne out through our impressive financial management record and year on year financial year end results. This shows we not only achieve our financial targets but often exceed

them. It is this strong track record that enables the Council to have a robust all round financial position in times of austerity and cuts to our funding, whilst also achieving for this year a zero percent increase in Council Tax next year.

I believe we will rise to the financial challenges, including the efficiencies, presented in the 2015/2016 budget in the same way we have risen to the challenges presented in previous years; with sound, diligent financial management and effective financial controls.

Supplementary Question

If the savings are not achieved will you resign as Leader of the Council or would you expect your Executive Member for Finance to resign in your place?

Supplementary Answer

No.

77.02 Question

Shaun Hanna asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

I have looked in the Medium Term Financial Plan for information about funding for the Winnersh relief road, half of which is to be funded by the Council. I have not found any reference to the Winnersh relief road at all, even in the section which refers to the vision for the next 10 years. Where in the Medium Term Financial Plan is the Winnersh relief road and its funding shown?

Answer

This no doubt leads on from your question about the Winnersh relief road that you asked at the last Council meeting. I do welcome the opportunity to update the Council. As you kindly point out in the question, delivery of the Winnersh relief road is split into two sections.

The section between Lower Earley Way and King Street Lane (Phase 1) will be delivered by the developer of the Hatch Farm Dairies site.

The section between King Street Lane and the Reading Road (Phase 2) will be delivered by the Council.

The Council's 3 year capital programme and capital vision are only intended to represent what the Council funds directly. This being the case the Phase 1 of the Winnersh relief road was not included as it is being delivered by the developer, but I think if you look at the vision you will find that Phase 2 is in there.

We are currently in the process of commissioning the design work on Phase 2 of the road and we would hope to have a planning application ready for some time in 2016. Delivery of Phase 2 of the road is expected to be in conjunction with Phase 1. However this does not predicate the option of Phase 2 being delivered earlier subject to funding being available.

Supplementary Question

I think you have answered my supplementary which was when is work going to start on the planning and design because presumably funding needs to be set aside for that in this year?

Supplementary Answer

That is correct.

78. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

79. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor referred Members to the list of engagements attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor that had been circulated at the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted that the Mayor had invited all Members to attend a charity auction at the Martin and Pole auction house on 21 March at 19:00.

Members' attention was also drawn to the Mayor's award for January 2015 which had been awarded to Barbara Teague for services to school governance. The meeting was informed that Barbara had started as a Foundation Governor at Arborfield and Newland Junior School in 1989 and since that time had been heavily involved in the governance of the school including the amalgamation of Arborfield and Newland Junior School and Coombes Infant School to become the Coombes CE Primary School. She retired as a Governor at Christmas 2014 and the Deputy Mayor passed on the thanks of the Council for Barbara's many years of dedicated service.

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, Angus Ross addressed the meeting and passed on the best wishes of the meeting to the Mayor who was absent from the meeting.

Councillor Ross then informed Members that he had attended the annual awards ceremony of the British Association of Landscape Industries, (BALI) where the designer and architect of the Dinton Pastures Children's Play, Adam White, the constructors Davis White and the Council as the client had been recognised by the Association. The citation from the Association had referred to the very high levels of professionalism, workmanship and client satisfaction associated with the project. A plaque awarded at the ceremony was presented by Councillor Ross to the Council and he congratulated the Council's Officers who had worked on the project. Councillor Ross closed by commenting that it was great to see so many residents enjoying the play area even in February.

80. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REPORTS

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

- the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/2018 as set out on Agenda pages 27 to 37;
- the Capital Programme and Strategy 2014/2017 as set out on Agenda pages 38 to 49;
- the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 as set out on Agenda pages 50 to 85;
- the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/2018 - Revenue Budget Submission 2015/2016 Agenda pages 86 to 89, subject to the tabled statutory resolution, Updated Parish Precepts 2015/2016 and Updated Council Tax by Band and Parish 2015/2016.

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

Keith Baker, Leader of the Council, made a statement on the 2015/2016 budget, together with his budget proposals. (Attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

Prue Bray, the Leader of the Opposition, then made her Budget statement on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, (Attached at Appendix 2 to these Minutes).

Following these speeches, debate on the four reports comprised within the item began.

During the course of this debate it was proposed and tabled by the Lindsay Ferris that the recommendation under 67.02 Capital Programme and Strategy be amended as follows:

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That Council approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2015/16
- 2) ***Overview and Scrutiny will review the Capital Programme 2016/2018 and report back to the July Council meeting.***

The proposed amendment was seconded by Tom McCann.

After debate the proposed amendment to Item 67.02 was put to the vote and was declared by the Deputy Mayor to have been lost.

Following the loss of the amendment, the debate on the substantive items continued.

80.01 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2015/2016

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Anthony Pollock that the recommendations as set out on Agenda page 27 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Housing Revenue Account Budget be approved;
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be increased by an average 3.34% effective from 1 April 2015;
- 3) garage rents be increased by 2.4% effective from 1 April 2015;
- 4) it be noted that a review of the Shared Equity Rents in 2011 had determined that rents had been kept artificially low in previous years and not increased in line with the terms of the leases. Therefore rents for shared equity properties will gradually increase above inflation for four years to bring the rents in line by 1 April 2016. The increase for 2015/16 will be between 6% and 13% (£3 and £11 per month) depending on the property;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges are set in line with estimated costs;
- 6) the Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix C be approved.

80.02 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2015/2018

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Anthony Pollock that the Capital Programme and Strategy 2015/2018 be approved as set out on Agenda page 38.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme and Strategy 2015/2018 be approved.

80.03 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/2016

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Anthony Pollock that the recommendations as set out on Agenda page 50 be approved

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the following elements be approved:

- 1) The Capital Prudential indicators, 2015/16-2017/18;
- 2) The borrowing strategy 2015/16;
- 3) The Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16; and
- 4) The Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity 2015/16.

80.04 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/2018-REVENUE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2015/2016

It was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Anthony Pollock that the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/2018, including the Revenue Budget Submission 2015/2016 and the Statutory Resolution setting out the 2016/2016 Council Tax levels be approved subject to the following tabled amendments:

- 2015/2018-Revenue Budget Submission 2015/2016 – Updated Statutory Resolution, Appendix A, (replacement Agenda pages 88 to 89);
- Updated Parish Precepts 2015/2016, (replacement MTFP page 95);
- Updated Council Tax by Band and Parish, (replacement MTFP page 96).

After further debate, the Deputy Mayor reminded Council that under ‘The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014’ councils were required to hold recorded votes in relation to council tax decisions, including any amendments.

Consequently a recorded vote was taken on the proposed amended recommendations for Item 67.04 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/2018 – Revenue Budget Submission 2015/2016.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mark Ashwell	Prue Bray	Parry Batth
Keith Baker	Lindsay Ferris	
Chris Bowring	Kay Gilder	
David Chopping	Nicky Jerrome	
Gary Cowan	Tom McCann	
Michael Firmager	Beth Rowland	
Guy Grandison	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	
Mike Haines		
Charlotte Haitham Taylor		
John Halsall		
Pauline Helliard-Symons		
Tim Holton		

Philip Houldsworth		
Norman Jorgensen		
Pauline Jorgensen		
John Kaiser		
Dianne King		
Abdul Loyes		
Julian McGhee-Sumner		
Ken Miall		
Philip Mirfin		
Stuart Munro		
Barrie Patman		
Ian Pittock		
Anthony Pollock		
Malcolm Richards		
Angus Ross		
Chris Singleton		
David Sleight		
Chris Smith		
Wayne Smith		
Bill Soane		
Paul Swaddle		
Simon Weeks		
Bob Wyatt		

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2015/2018, including the revenue budget submission for 2015/2016 be approved;
- 2) the Statutory Resolution that sets out the 2015/2016 Council Tax levels, (Appendix A) as tabled at the meeting, be approved and that it be noted that at its meeting on 29th January 2015 the Special Council Executive Committee calculated the following amounts for the year 2015/16 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) 65,157.2 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	1,259.5
Barkham	1,440.1
Charvil	1,392.4
Earley	11,671.1
Finchampstead	5,653.7
Remenham	317.5
Ruscombe	495.6
St. Nicholas Hurst	1,039.6
Shinfield	4,621.2
Sonning	805.9

Swallowfield	957.0
Twyford	2,944.0
Wargrave	2,078.7
Winnersh	3,800.7
Wokingham Town	14,042.0
Wokingham Without	3,073.3
Woodley	9,564.9
	65,157.2

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.

- 3) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/2016 (excluding Parish precepts) is £81,199,554.
- 4) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
 - (a) £302,945,499 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) (£218,186,542) 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) £84,758,957 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above, exceeds the aggregate at 4(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) £1,300.84 being the amount at 4(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) £3,559,403 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the table below).

	2015/16			2014/15			Council
	TAX	PARISH	PARISH	TAX	PARISH	PARISH	Tax
	BASE	PRECEPT	BAND D	BASE	PRECEPT	BAND D	Change
		£	£		£	£	%
Arborfield and Newland	1,259.5	86,280	68.50	1,259.5	86,289	68.51	(0.01)
Barkham	1,440.1	38,342	26.62	1,427.8	38,342	26.85	(0.85)
Charvil	1,392.4	39,451	28.33	1,382.2	38,572	27.91	1.53
Earley	11,671.1	747,387	64.04	11,664.5	735,213	63.03	1.60
Finchampstead	5,653.7	122,410	21.65	5,653.7	122,408	21.65	0.00
Remenham	317.5	21,420	67.46	309.3	21,420	69.25	(2.58)
Ruscombe	495.6	9,766	19.71	487.9	9,766	20.02	(1.55)
St. Nicholas Hurst	1,039.6	22,500	21.64	1,022.8	22,500	22.00	(1.62)
Shinfield	4,621.2	277,919	60.14	4,591.3	264,470	57.60	4.41
Sonning	805.9	34,400	42.69	787.5	31,459	39.95	6.85

Swallowfield	957.0	18,540	19.37	956.3	18,303	19.14	1.22
Twyford	2,944.0	58,598	19.90	2,944.0	58,599	19.90	(0.00)
Wargrave	2,078.7	154,937	74.54	2,077.7	152,841	73.56	1.32
Winnersh	3,800.7	107,801	28.36	3,800.7	107,801	28.36	0.00
Wokingham	14,042.0	665,195	47.37	13,600.5	625,492	45.99	3.00
Wokingham Without	3,073.3	143,925	46.83	3,073.3	143,925	46.83	0.00
Woodley	9,564.9	1,010,532	105.65	9,459.9	1,030,349	108.92	(3.00)
Total / Average	65,157.2	3,559,403	54.63	64,498.9	3,507,749	54.38	0.45

- (f) £1,246.21 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 2(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.
- 5) That it be noted that for the year 2015/2016 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 23rd February 2015, and the provisional precept supplied has been used in the calculation of the council tax figures shown below.
- 6) 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 2015/2016 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL TAX 2015/2016

Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Wokingham Borough Council	830.810	969.270	1,107.740	1,246.210	1,523.150	1,800.080	2,077.020	2,492.420
Thames Valley Police Authority	109.130	127.320	145.510	163.700	200.080	236.460	272.830	327.400
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	40.440	47.180	53.920	60.660	74.140	87.620	101.100	121.320

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Arborfield & Newland	876.48	1,022.55	1,168.63	1,314.71	1,606.87	1,899.02	2,191.19	2,629.42
Barkham	848.56	989.97	1,131.40	1,272.83	1,555.69	1,838.53	2,121.39	2,545.66

Charvil	849.70	991.30	1,132.92	1,274.54	1,557.78	1,841.00	2,124.24	2,549.08
Earley	873.50	1,019.08	1,164.66	1,310.25	1,601.42	1,892.58	2,183.75	2,620.50
Finchampstead	845.24	986.11	1,126.98	1,267.86	1,549.61	1,831.35	2,113.10	2,535.72
Remenham	875.78	1,021.74	1,167.70	1,313.67	1,605.60	1,897.52	2,189.45	2,627.34
Ruscombe	843.95	984.60	1,125.26	1,265.92	1,547.24	1,828.55	2,109.87	2,531.84
St. Nicholas Hurst	845.24	986.10	1,126.98	1,267.85	1,549.60	1,831.34	2,113.09	2,535.70
Shinfield	870.90	1,016.05	1,161.20	1,306.35	1,596.65	1,886.95	2,177.25	2,612.70
Sonning	859.27	1,002.47	1,145.69	1,288.90	1,575.33	1,861.74	2,148.17	2,577.80
Swallowfield	843.72	984.34	1,124.96	1,265.58	1,546.82	1,828.06	2,109.30	2,531.16
Twyford	844.08	984.75	1,125.43	1,266.11	1,547.47	1,828.82	2,110.19	2,532.22
Wargrave	880.50	1,027.25	1,174.00	1,320.75	1,614.25	1,907.75	2,201.25	2,641.50
Winnersh	849.72	991.33	1,132.95	1,274.57	1,557.81	1,841.04	2,124.29	2,549.14
Wokingham Town	862.39	1,006.11	1,149.85	1,293.58	1,581.05	1,868.50	2,155.97	2,587.16
Wokingham Without	862.03	1,005.69	1,149.37	1,293.04	1,580.39	1,867.72	2,155.07	2,586.08
Woodley	901.24	1,051.44	1,201.65	1,351.86	1,652.28	1,952.69	2,253.10	2,703.72

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Arborfield & Newland	1,026.05	1,197.05	1,368.06	1,539.07	1,881.09	2,223.10	2,565.12	3,078.14
Barkham	998.13	1,164.47	1,330.83	1,497.19	1,829.91	2,162.61	2,495.32	2,994.38
Charvil	999.27	1,165.80	1,332.35	1,498.90	1,832.00	2,165.08	2,498.17	2,997.80
Earley	1,023.07	1,193.58	1,364.09	1,534.61	1,875.64	2,216.66	2,557.68	3,069.22
Finchampstead	994.81	1,160.61	1,326.41	1,492.22	1,823.83	2,155.43	2,487.03	2,984.44
Remenham	1,025.35	1,196.24	1,367.13	1,538.03	1,879.82	2,221.60	2,563.38	3,076.06
Ruscombe	993.52	1,159.10	1,324.69	1,490.28	1,821.46	2,152.63	2,483.80	2,980.56
St. Nicholas Hurst	994.81	1,160.60	1,326.41	1,492.21	1,823.82	2,155.42	2,487.02	2,984.42
Shinfield	1,020.47	1,190.55	1,360.63	1,530.71	1,870.87	2,211.03	2,551.18	3,061.42
Sonning	1,008.84	1,176.97	1,345.12	1,513.26	1,849.55	2,185.82	2,522.10	3,026.52
Swallowfield	993.29	1,158.84	1,324.39	1,489.94	1,821.04	2,152.14	2,483.23	2,979.88
Twyford	993.65	1,159.25	1,324.86	1,490.47	1,821.69	2,152.90	2,484.12	2,980.94
Wargrave	1,030.07	1,201.75	1,373.43	1,545.11	1,888.47	2,231.83	2,575.18	3,090.22

Winnersh	999.29	1,165.83	1,332.38	1,498.93	1,832.03	2,165.12	2,498.22	2,997.86
Wokingham Town	1,011.96	1,180.61	1,349.28	1,517.94	1,855.27	2,192.58	2,529.90	3,035.88
Wokingham Without	1,011.60	1,180.19	1,348.80	1,517.40	1,854.61	2,191.80	2,529.00	3,034.80
Woodley	1,050.81	1,225.94	1,401.08	1,576.22	1,926.50	2,276.77	2,627.03	3,152.44

- 7) 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 23 February 2015, the Director of Finance and Resources be delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the MTFP, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

81.00 HOUSING STRATEGY 2015-18

The Council considered a Housing Strategy as set out on Agenda pages 90 to 125 of the Agenda. The Strategy had been considered by the Executive earlier that evening and recommended for adoption by the Council.

It was proposed by John Kaiser that the Housing Strategy 2015-18 be adopted and this was seconded by Bob Wyatt.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Housing Strategy 2015-2018 be approved.

82.00 ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) CHARGING SCHEME

The Council considered a Community Infrastructure Levy, (CIL) Charging Scheme as set out on Agenda pages 126 to 152. The proposed scheme had been considered by the Executive earlier that evening and recommended for adoption by the Executive.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Examiner's recommendations be accepted by the Council;
- 2) the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule at Appendix A (incorporating the Examiner's recommended modifications) is adopted to come into effect for all planning applications approved on or after 6th April 2015;
- 3) the 'Regulation 123' List of Infrastructure Projects for which CIL may be used at Appendix B is approved for publication;
- 4) the Instalment Policy at Appendix C is approved for publication;
- 5) the use of agreements (or other mechanism) to secure CIL in relation to mitigation measures required in order to make the development acceptable and to ensure that the Council complies with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (in relation to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive) be agreed;

- 6) the Strategic Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Highways, be authorised to agree minor amendments to the Charging Schedule and supporting documents prior to publication to assist the clarity of the documents.

83.00 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2014/2015

The Council considered the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2014/2015 as set out on Agenda pages 153 to 177. The report had been considered by the Executive earlier and recommended to the Council for approval.

Anthony Pollock proposed that the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2014/2015 be approved by the Council and this was seconded by Keith Baker.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2014/2015 be approved.

84.00 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered proposed changes to the Constitution as set out on Agenda pages 178 to 211. The proposed changes had been recommended to the Council for agreement by the Constitution Review Working Group.

It was proposed by Paul Swaddle and seconded by Prue Bray that the proposed changes to the Constitution be agreed.

Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the following amendments to the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution, as put forward by the Constitution Review Working Group, be agreed:

a) Section 4.2.2.1 – Timing and Order of Business

The following to be added to the Council's order of business:

“o) to receive statements from the Council Owned Companies.”

b) Chapter 4.4 – Committees of the Council – Audit Committee

A number of minor amendments as set out in the report.

c) Chapter 5.4 – Executive Procedure Rules

Rule 5.4.37 to be amended as follows:

“Rule 5.4.37 Scope of Questions

*The Chief Executive and/or **Leader** may reject a question if it: ...”*

d) Chapter 8.4.2 Meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

First sentence to be amended as follows:

*“The Licensing and Appeals Committee shall meet **at least four** times per municipal year, as scheduled in the Timetable of Meetings, as agreed by Council.”*

e) Section 9 – Ethics and Corporate Governance

Revised versions of the following documents as attached at Appendix A to the report:

Chapter 9.4 – Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy

Chapter 9.5 – Whistleblowing Policy and Guidance

Chapter 9.6 – Anti-Bribery Policy

Chapter 9.7 – Anti-Money Laundering Policy

Chapter 9.8 – Prosecution and Sanction Policy

85.00 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2015/2016

The Council considered the proposed Timetable of Meetings for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year as set out on Agenda page 212.

It was proposed by Pauline Jorgensen and seconded by Julian McGhee-Sumner that the 2015/216 timetable of meetings be approved.

It was then proposed by Prue Bray and seconded by Lindsay Ferris that the Timetable of Meetings be amended to include an additional Council meeting on 21 January 2016.

Paul Swaddle raised a point of order under Rule 4.2.12 (s) of the Council's Rule of Procedure that the proposed amendment should not be accepted on the basis that the Council had considered the issue of an additional Council meeting within the last six months and therefore the amendment was in breach of Rule of Procedure 4.2.11.4 which prohibited the consideration of Motions if they were substantially the same as a Motion considered at a meeting of the Council within the last six months.

86.00 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

At this point, 9.55 pm the meeting was adjourned for a short period whilst advice on the constitutionality of the amendment was sought.

87.00 RECOMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

At 10.00 pm the meeting recommenced.

88.00 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2015/2016 CONTINUED

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that the proposed amendment to the Timetable of Meetings 2015/2016 was considered to be an allowable amendment on the grounds that the proposed amendment was more specific than had been considered at the Extraordinary Council meeting of 29 January 2015.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared by the Deputy Mayor to be lost. Following the loss of the amendment, the substantive Motion to approve the Timetable of Meetings 2015/2016 as set out in the Agenda was put to the vote.

RESOLVED: That the timetable of meetings for 2015/2016 Municipal Year be agreed.

89.00 OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

The Council considered the result of a Code of Code complaint as determined by a Hearing Panel on 18 December 2014 which had determined that Councillor Chris Singleton had failed to follow the Wokingham Borough Council Code of Conduct.

It was noted that the Constitution required that the matter be reported to the next meeting of the Council following the date of the hearing.

It was proposed by Pauline Helliard-Symons and seconded by Paul Swaddle that it be noted that Councillor Chris Singleton had been found to be in breach of the Members Code of Conduct.

Prue Bray commented that whilst the decision notice in relation to the Hearings Panel had been published on the Council's website it was not easy to find without knowledge of the Council's processes. She made the general point that it in the interests of openness and transparency such decisions should be placed in an area of the website that could be easily searched for.

Upon being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council notes that Councillor Chris Singleton had been found to be in breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Council

If you need help in understanding this document or if you would like a copy of it in large print please contact one of our Team Support Officers.

Speech by Councillor Keith Baker, Leader of the Council

This is my first budget following the transfer of the leadership role from Councillor Lee to myself. Nothing prepares you for the complexities in setting a budget in such a difficult financial scenario. In keeping with a long standing tradition I am sure you will be familiar with the fact that Wokingham is the lowest funded authority in the country.

The Officers and my fellow Executive Members have managed to work their magic for yet another year which has resulted in a council tax freeze for next year. I would like to personally thank them all for their supreme efforts. As recent statistics have shown, wages are growing at a faster rate than inflation and this freeze will mean a little less pressure on their disposable income.

This budget is a great platform for increasing prosperity for residents which will in turn contribute to the future of this Borough. For some time this Council has had a clear vision and that is to make our Borough “a great place to live and an even better place to do business”. Core to that vision are a number of threads as follows:

1. To facilitate the regeneration of our towns and villages; as witnessed by the first planning application for Peach Street
2. Create an environment that allows business to thrive; this is occurring by the continuous development of key industrial areas like the Thames Valley Park or the part of Green Park that has the windmill. Incidentally these areas are actually in our Borough and not in Reading!
3. Continue to work with our partners to maintain our outstanding educational achievements; evidenced by improving grades and major building investments like Bulmershe School
4. Deliver well designed developments and strong communities; this is happening through a huge commitment to engagement with residents and their associated organisations. The Strategic Development Location, (SDL) Forums are extremely well established and it is fantastic how local residents are keen to participate in them. It is amazing to see 100 to 200 sometimes even more people regularly attend the Arborfield one for example;
5. Ensure financial viability despite annual funding cuts; no services have been cut whilst freezing council tax and freezing the precept support grant passed onto Parish and Town Councils.
6. Invest in prevention services that maintain our residents’ independence; as witnessed through our extensive involvement in the Health and Wellbeing Agenda.

Tonight you will hear from my fellow Executives Members the details of what we have achieved and what we continue to do to ensure that we make our Borough one of the best places to live in the country. All this has been done after making £8m savings and efficiencies this year which over the last 5 years makes a total of £31m. All achieved without any cuts to services for next year. I believe this is a testament to the ongoing efficiency and careful financial management of the Council by a committed Conservative administration and committed Officers.

But this only relates to the revenue budget. Let me turn to the Capital budget and see what capital investments are planned. Over the next three years the plan is to invest £335m. This clearly shows an ambition and determination to invest in the Borough and to improve the lives of all in our community. This means an investment of £96m for next year

which includes £27m for Children Services and £21m for Health and Wellbeing. Both of these are well ahead of the investment for the Town Centre regeneration. We are investing in affordable housing, schools, extra care housing and other specialist housing for the needs of our community. We are investing in sustainable new communities with the infrastructure and amenities that they need to thrive and we have stopped the majority of inappropriate backland developments.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to our Enforcement Officers who have been outstanding over the last year. They have been consistently winning planning appeals and taking developers to both civil and criminal courts and gaining convictions. They have put a strong marker down to anyone who wishes to flout our policies and the law to say we are not going to let you get away with such actions. My thanks also to all the ward Members who have been fully involved in these actions. They have had a strong part to play as well.

You will hear more about some of the specific projects from the relevant Executive Members later.

Our Economic Development Officer has been very busy over this last year continuing the program started last year where unemployed residents receive training to understand how to set up their own businesses. The aim is for them to become more independent and to realise their potential by taking control of their lives rather than remaining dependent on unemployment benefits. These individuals will be the small businesses of tomorrow and a few of them will become big business within the next decade. Their initiatives will not only help themselves but ultimately become a gateway for others to get onto the employment ladder.

We will continue to help our residents retain their independence through support to stay in their own homes instead of moving into residential care. The provision of excellent specialist housing for those with learning disabilities will give them homes for life in the community which are near to their family and friends.

Our companies continue to stabilise and develop with process changes already in place including the additional constitutional reporting to council which we will debate under agenda item 71. A prime example is Wokingham Housing Limited which will have investments of £12m in each of the next two years primarily for the development of the replacement for Eustace Crescent and Fosters in Woodley.

This is indeed an ambitious, bold and achievable budget, but we owe it to our residents to invest in our community to help them steer out of financial difficulties to a more prosperous and brighter future. Each year it is getting harder and harder to keep the council tax low, but we will continue to do this to the best of our ability. However, we are now moving into a political environment that has never been experienced before with political uncertainty to the fore. Who knows what the landscape will be after May and the financial changes that may bring.

I would like to close by saying that we have the lowest known staff to resident's ratio which means we have good productivity from our staff. We are also have one of the highest tax collecting councils. All this on the back of being the lowest funded authority in the country.

Speech by Prue Bray, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

I want to thank Officers from all over the Council who have worked hard to supply the answers to the large number of detailed questions we have been asking over the past 13 days.

The reason why all those detailed questions had to be asked in the last 13 days is that is how short a period we have had access to the budget papers. I think we heard from Councillor Keith Baker how difficult and complex it is to prepare a budget, think how difficult and complex it is to assess what the administration has done in 13 days. We knew what the level of government grant was, because that is a figure published in December. We were briefed in January on where the pressures are, and also had an idea of some of the major building projects that were in the pipeline. But until 13 days ago we had no access to any information whatsoever about how the administration is planning to spend the council's money from next April.

Most other councils do not operate in this manner. As an example, in Reading, the council openly published possible budget options and their implications in detail as long ago as September. It is not just opposition councillors who are shut out of the process. So are the public. But, Hallelujah this may be the final year that this is the case, because in answer to a question from Councillor Lindsay Ferris at the Executive earlier today we were told that there is going to be some kind of consultation and open discussion on the budget next year. So let us hope

Point of clarification from Councillor Keith Baker: I did not actually say it would be next year. Hopefully it will be next year, but there are a lot of things to discuss.

Continuation of Speech from Prue Bray, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Oh dear Councillor Baker you have just spoilt my entire evening. I thought that finally we were going to get somewhere. Let us hope that it will be next year, otherwise you will be listening to me say this again. Let us hope that whatever engagement there is sensible and at the right level.

A couple of days ago on twitter a Conservative councillor suggested I was patronising for saying that some information about cost should be included in the Carnival Pool area consultation that is going on at the moment. On the contrary, it is patronising to believe that the public are not capable of understanding figures, and well beyond patronising to consult the public as if they can have whatever they want, even when it may turn out to be un-fundable pie in the sky.

When you have only had the budget papers for a few days, it is extremely difficult to get fully to grips with what the administration has put in them. And that is probably the point. The Conservatives look on this budget meeting as some sort of political game: how to disadvantage the opposition. The irony is that as revenue funding gets tighter and tighter it is less and less in the Conservatives' own interests to keep the budget secret. Doing so means that everything in the budget is down to them, not just the good things, supposing there are some, but all the bad things too.

So let us have a look at what is in the budget. One of the things is a long list of savings for next year— a list of over £8m. Some are savings of hundreds of thousands of pounds on big ticket items such as adult social care, and residential placements for children, but

there is a very long tail that goes all the way down to things like £15,000 extra from car park charges at the country parks, and £1,000 from library printing costs. Some of this long list of savings – both the big ones and the small ones - are going to be very hard to deliver. It is very unclear to us that they are all achievable. In the case of social care it is not just we that have doubts. At last week's Health and Wellbeing Board in the Agenda was included a response to a Local Government Association survey on the Care Act. In response to a question which says '*How confident is your council that there is sufficient money within its budget for implementation in 2015/2016?*' the answer was '*Not at all confident*'.

Because we do not believe that all these savings are necessarily achievable, although we do think that Officers will do their best to achieve them as they always do and would like to salute the Officer core who are as was said are in the lowest funded unitary authority in the country with the lowest ratio of staff to residents in the country and extremely under pressure and we do wish them to know how much we appreciate the hard work that they do for this Council. But nevertheless this is going to be a tough budget to deliver. We do not think it is achievable and we cannot support the revenue budget submission.

The really disappointing thing for us is that this still looks like a budget based on shaving costs. Indeed, I think that Councillor Baker referred to efficiencies already this evening. We thought that the Conservatives were beginning to understand that salami-slicing services is unsustainable, because if you are salami slicing eventually you run out of sausage. The Council needs to think more radically: more sharing with other councils to save costs and provide resilience; delivering services in different ways through partnership working and use of technology. Wokingham Housing Limited has already been briefly referred to, it may be beginning to find its feet, although we still have some concerns. But otherwise we can see few signs in this revenue budget of progress in the direction of the radical change that is needed. Councillor Baker referred to the political uncertainty. Nobody knows what is going to happen in May or what colour of government we are going to have or in fact, what coalition government we are going to have. It is going to be very tough, but we need to respond to that with radical change not with more salami slicing.

And there is the Capital Programme – and specifically the Wokingham town centre regeneration. This time last year we were discussing a total cost of regeneration of £95m – of which approximately £15m had already been spent, leaving £81,901,000 to be spent. That is an exact figure by the way that I totted up from elements published in last year's Medium Term Financial Plan. From looking at this year's figures, including carry forwards and what has been spent in the meantime, that £81,901,000, which was far too much already, has grown to a quite staggering £124,029,000. That's an increase of £42,128,000 or over 50%. I will say that again. Over 50%. The Wokingham town centre regeneration has become Frankenstein's monster, growing out of control. So much scrimping and saving in the service budgets and yet caution has been thrown to the wind with regard to capital spend.

Earlier on I referred to being attacked on Twitter for suggesting that the public should be informed of costs when being consulted on the possibilities for the Carnival Pool area. All becomes clear now, does it not? The Conservatives are way past caring about the cost of regeneration. They have started believing in the magic money tree.

The latest idea is a boutique cinema on Elms Field. Lovely idea, but is it commercially viable? Who knows? The next thing you know it will be a branch of Harrods with a gold plated statue of the burgers of Wokingham in front of it. Is there no-one in the

Conservative group who thinks it is time to get this back under control? Is there no-one in the Conservative group who can engage sensibly with residents on what they actually want from their town? Is there no-one in the Conservative group who cares about the way all the resources of the Council are being sucked into this sprawling monster of a scheme, leaving the rest of the Borough with nothing for the foreseeable future? No regeneration for any of the other towns or villages.

Never mind what else is in the capital programme, there is no way on earth we are going to vote for a 50% increase in the cost of the regeneration of Wokingham town. This capital programme needs a serious rethink.

TITLE	Approval of a Period of Absence from Meetings by Councillor Kate Haines
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 19 March 2015
WARD	Coronation
HEAD OF SERVICE	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That Councillor Kate Haines remain in office as the Member for Coronation Ward until her current term of office ends on 10 May 2015 and continues until 18 September 2015 if she is subsequently re-elected at the local election being held on 7 May 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended to:

- 1) note that Councillor Kate Haines has not been able to attend meetings of the Council due to ill-health since her attendance at a meeting of the Adoption Panel on 25 September 2014;
- 2) extend its sympathy to Councillor Haines and send her its best wishes for a speedy recovery;
- 3) approve Councillor Kate Haines' non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health until her current term of office ends on 10 May 2015 and up to 18 September 2015 if she is subsequently re-elected at the forthcoming election pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Regulations state that where a Council Member fails to attend any meeting of the relevant Authority, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, subject to certain exceptions, he/she ceases to be a Member of the Authority. However the Authority can approve the Member's non-attendance for specified reasons.

The report is asking Council to approve Councillor Kate Haines' non-attendance on the grounds of her ill-health.

Background

1. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Council or as a representative of the Council on an Outside Body he/she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.
2. Due to ill-health Councillor Kate Haines has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since her attendance at a meeting of the Adoption Panel, to which she is appointed to by Council, on 25 September 2014 and therefore a request is put forward to Council to approve an extension to the usual six month rule to enable Councillor Haines to remain in office. If this request is not approved Councillor Haines will cease to be a member of the Council on 24 March 2015.
3. It should be noted that Councillor Haines' current term of office ceases on 10 May 2015. If she stands at the forthcoming local election, being held on 7 May 2015, and is subsequently re-elected the period of non-attendance would continue until the date agreed by Council.
4. Council is therefore asked to give approval to Councillor Haines non-attendance by reason of ill-health. This will be reviewed in six months' time, if Councillor Haines remains absent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	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

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972

Contact Anne Hunter	Service Governance and Improvement Services
Telephone No 0118 9746051	Email anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 10 March 2015	Version No. 2



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Annual Reports 2014-2015

Produced: March 2015
Received by Council: 19 March 2015

Contents

Section 1 – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	
Foreword by the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	2
The Role of Overview and Scrutiny – What we do	3
What we do not do	4
The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Team	5
Overview and Scrutiny at Wokingham	6
Our Work – the work of the Committee in 2014/2015	8
How Overview and Scrutiny has helped hold the Council’s Executive to Account and achieve the Council’s Vision, Values and Priorities	12
Overview and Scrutiny Support	12
Dates for Overview and Scrutiny Meetings in 2015/2016	13
Looking Ahead – Work Programme for 2015/2016	14
Community Involvement in Overview and Scrutiny	14
Section 2 - Report of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	16
Section 3 - Report of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20
Section 4 - Report of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27
Section 5 - Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	32
Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Topic Suggestion Form	39



**Foreword by Tim Holton
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee**

The members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have looked at a variety of issues during the year as detailed in the following report. All agenda items have been thoroughly discussed and when appropriate Task and Finish Groups have reviewed topics in great depth often taking several months. At every meeting the objective has been to advance the Council's priorities by challenging decisions, reviewing performance and contributing to policy setting.

This municipal year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, (OSMC) has continued taking a more strategic role delegating the undertaking of detailed investigations to the most relevant overview and scrutiny committee. The focus of the OSMC has been on ensuring that the Overview and Scrutiny activities are supporting the Council's priorities and shaping the types of reviews being undertaken.

OSMC has looked at a number of key issues during the year which were particularly important to residents, in particular that of grassing cutting. During the course of three meetings a series of recommendations were put forward for the Executive Member to consider. We have embraced social media and regularly put out information to the residents of Wokingham highlighting forthcoming agenda items.

As the lead member for Scrutiny the support I have had from all 3 parties has been exemplary. Members have looked at the issues and not the politics. For the coming year I hope the new committee will be able to build on this ethos. Scrutiny is not a Committee that can claim ever to have completed its job, even when recommendations are submitted.

Tim Holton – Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)

THE ROLE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

What we do

Overview and Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 as part of a series of measures that saw the replacement of the Committee system. In Wokingham, the Leader and Cabinet model was chosen, whereby executive decision making powers are invested in a Leader and Cabinet, (referred to as the Executive) of up to ten members having power to take decisions either collectively or individually. To counterbalance these powers, local authorities were given Overview and Scrutiny functions which can only be exercised by councillors who are not members of the Executive.

The Local Government Act 2000, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and other legislation sets out the role of Overview and Scrutiny for Councils, the objectives of which are to:

- Hold the Executive to Account – which can involve scrutinising decisions of the Executive before they are made, before they are implemented or after they are implemented.
- Policy Development and Review – by using the unique insight of Members as representatives of their communities to look at issues facing local residents and/or to use that insight to challenge the effectiveness of existing policies.
- Performance Monitoring – by considering information on a regular basis setting out how the Council is performing and if necessary investigating where improvement is required.
- External Scrutiny by considering issues that are of importance to local people but are the responsibility of other agencies.

All councils operating Executive governance arrangements must have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Wokingham Borough Council operates with one Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, but either the Management Committee or Committees may create time limited task and finish groups if considered expedient.

The four principles of good scrutiny as identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny are:

- To provide a ‘critical friend’ challenge to decision making in the Council as well as external authorities and agencies
- To reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- To take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public
- To make an impact on the delivery of public services

What we do not do

Overview and Scrutiny is not a mechanism for the investigation or settling of individual complaints for which the Council has separate processes. Nor is it able to look at individual planning or licensing decisions. However, suggestions from residents as to wider issues that could be looked at by overview and scrutiny are welcome.

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TEAM

Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – 2014-2015

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee during 2014-2015 comprised 12 backbench Councillors appointed by the Council according to political balance.

Each political group is entitled to a maximum of two Councillors who can, subject to an agreed process, substitute up to two members of the Committee and continue with a particular issue as it proceeds.

Councillors



Tim Holton
Chairman



Michael Firmager
Vice-Chairman



Parry Batth



Prue Bray



Mike Gore



Pauline Helliars-Symons



Norman Jorgensen



Nicky Jerrome



Ken Miall



Malcolm Richards



David Sleight



Shahid Younis

Substitute Councillors



Mike Haines



Abdul Loyes



Rachelle
Shepherd-
DuBey



Dee Tomlin

Overview and Scrutiny at Wokingham

Overview and Scrutiny at Wokingham Borough Council aims to provide constructive challenge by being a 'critical friend' to the Council and its partners. In practice this means using the unique insight that backbench Councillors have as representatives of their community to highlight possible areas of improvement, highlight and congratulate achievement and contribute to the development of future ideas.

Councillors sitting on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or the Overview and Scrutiny Committees see themselves not as the adversary of the ruling Executive or the Officer core, but as being supportive of what is good and a robust and a fair critic of anything that is not. This is important because whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees do not have any decision making powers, they do have the ability to use the position of critical friend to influence decisions taken by the Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has developed a work programme for itself and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the past year which is considered, and if required, updated at each meeting. The aim is to address issues it considers to be of interest to the Council and the community.

The work programme has to remain flexible in order that any urgent pieces of work that have come to light, but which had not been planned for, or which must be undertaken because of legislation or because they are of sufficient importance, can be considered.

The current Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees are set out in Chapter 6 of the Wokingham Borough Council Constitution.

OUR WORK

The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in 2014/2015

Meetings

The Committee has met on six occasions and has considered/dealt with the following business:

Consideration of 'Call-Ins'

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the ability to look at decisions made by the Executive as a collective and those made by individual Executive Members. Under the Council's Constitution five councillors who are not members of the Executive can request that decisions made, but not yet implemented, be reviewed. This enables the Committee to consider whether the decision was taken appropriately. However, no 'Call-Ins' had been received during 2014/2015 as of the date of this report.

Performance Management

- **Balanced Scorecard Updates.** Throughout the municipal year the Committee has continued to regularly receive a performance management report setting out the Council's performance against a number of financial, staffing and operational/project indicators. The report includes a section setting out by exception those indicators not reaching their targets including a narrative giving an explanation of the reasons and management actions being taken to address performance and a full report setting out the performance of all the adopted indicators. The Committee receives the same information that is supplied to the Council's Executive.
- The Committee has asked questions and sought further information in respect of indicators that have not met their performance targets. Where it has been felt that further information was required or that an issue needed to be investigated in more detail it has requested that these be looked at by one of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees or has requested further information itself.
- The Committee has noted with interest the work undertaken during 2014/2015 to improve the format, design and methodology of the report so that the Council can move to a performance management framework that is closer in practice to the best practice model of the 'Balanced Scorecard' approach and thus contain a high level financial and non-financial 'dashboard' view of the Council with more detailed information being available at the operational level. The Committee has commented on the type of measures it felt should be included within the revised Balanced Scorecard and will be considering a draft of the revised Balanced Scorecard at its meeting in March 2015.

Summary of Briefings/Topics

- **Updates on Business Continuity/Information Technology** – In February 2013 the Council suffered a significant failure of its Storage Area Network, (SAN) which lasted several days. Since then the Committee has received a number of regular updates to assure themselves of the robustness of the Council's Business Continuity Systems and Information Technology systems. The Committee received updates at its meetings in

October 2014 and January 2015 and was pleased to note that Business Continuity Plans were in place for all of the Council's service areas. It was commented upon that the robustness of Business Continuity Plans was something that needed to be tested on a regular basis. The Committee has also explored the contingency arrangements in place for the delivery of the Council's information technology systems and the how volunteers' networks might be used to assist in the event of a business continuity incident arising in the Borough.

- **Grass Cutting and the Maintenance of Public Open Spaces** – following concerns expressed to a number of members of the Committee from local residents regarding the length of grass in a number of Council owned parks, sport pitches and open spaces the Committee discussed the issue at its meeting in July 2014. A number of witnesses were invited including a local resident who had organised a public petition on the issue, the Executive Member for Environment, the Director of Environment, a representative of Earley Town Council and other appropriate Officers. The Committee explored the circumstances behind the increase in residents' concerns and complaints and learnt that a public review of how grass cutting was managed was due to take place during the autumn of 2014.
- In addition to requesting that additional information on grass cutting be placed on the council's website regarding past grass cutting dates, the Committee asked the Executive Member for Environment to continue to ensure that the grass cutting contract was monitored as effectively as possible, that discussions with parishes over possible partnership arrangements on grass cutting continue and that the committee be informed of the results of the review of the service and the public consultation undertaken as part of the review/
- To date the Committee has received two further update reports on the review of the service and the public consultation in November 2014 and January 2015. It is due to receive a further update in March 2015. The Committee considered the results of the public consultation and review of the service and suggested that in the future the Council considers a move to a more outcomes rather than outputs contract framework. This would move away from stipulating a set number of cuts to other measures, e.g. a maximum length of grass allowable or similar measure.
- **Internal Audit Review -Scrutiny Arrangements** - During the 2013/2014 municipal year an Internal Audit Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements had been undertaken. At its meeting in March 2014 the Committee considered the management action plan in response to the audit report. The plan included actions to further promote the work and role of Overview and Scrutiny, and strengthen the relationship between the Committee and the Corporate Leadership Team, reduce the opportunity for duplication with other Member/Officer groups and other measures aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Committee.
- In November 2014 the Committee considered the implementation of the management action plan arising from the review and noted the progress made.
- **Broadmoor Hospital Alert Sirens** - In July 2014 the Committee was informed by Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Commission of proposals by the West London Mental Health Trust, (WLMHT) to decommission a number of the existing escape alert

sirens which would be activated in the event of an escape of a patient from Broadmoor Hospital. Whilst the hospital is located within the Bracknell Forest Borough Council area, a number of the sirens proposed to be decommissioned were within Wokingham Borough. After considering the information available and the deliberations of the Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Commission, the Committee felt that notwithstanding the high level of security measures in place leading to the extremely unlikely probability of an escape from the hospital and the duty of the hospital to spend its budget prudently, that the escape alert sirens did provide an important level of assurance to local residents and should be retained. The Committee decided to agree with the concerns expressed by the Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Commission and support the Commission in its request that the WLMHT reconsider its proposals and in expressing concern over the lack of consultation by the WLMHT of the two Councils as the principal authorities in the area.

- In October 2014 a number of members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee attended and participated in a meeting of the Bracknell Overview and Scrutiny Commission at which the Chief Executive, Chairman and Director of Security were present to answer questions regarding the Trust's proposals for the sirens. Feedback from this meeting was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in November 2014. It was noted that at the Bracknell meeting the WLMHT had agreed to re-examine their proposals for the sirens and had also extended an offer for Members from both authorities to visit the hospital to see the security arrangements in person.
- At the joint meeting, the Members in attendance had noted that some concerns had been expressed regarding the effectiveness of a schools cascade system which would be triggered in the event of an escape from the hospital. It was decided that this was an area that Members wished to investigate further with regard to schools in Wokingham. The Committee was also updated that the issue had been considered by the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Board.
- In January 2015 the Committee received an update on the visits undertaken by a number of the members of the Committee in late November 2014, the results of its high level investigation of the effectiveness of the schools cascade system and the consideration of the Trust's proposals by the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership. The Members that had undertaken the visits commented on how useful they had found it and that they had been reassured by the level of the security measures in place. With regard to the effectiveness of the school's cascade system, it was noted that whilst the majority of the schools which had responded had indicated they did receive test calls through the cascade system, a small number indicated that they had not and it was decided to look into this further.
- With regard to the future of the sirens it was suggested that one way forward might be for the WLMHT to retain the present sirens as long as they remained operable until other more modern alert systems were put in place.
- In considering the issue, the Committee has acknowledged the case put forward by the WLMHT and other professionals that in many ways the sirens represented a historical anachronism, were not present at other secure hospitals and could be considered to perpetuate stigma towards people with mental health issues. However, Members have

also commented on the role of Councillors to act as leaders and a bridge between the professional view and the genuinely felt concerns of their residents.

- The Committee will be considering a further update at its meeting in March 2015.
- **Council Efficiency Brainstorming Session** – In October 2014 the Committee considered a report setting out an overview of the financial challenges facing the Council in the future and a number of possible ‘blue sky’ ideas for ways that the Council could consider saving money in the future and also generate additional income. The consideration of the item followed the submission by the Chief Executive of a scrutiny review suggestion on the subject earlier in the year.
- Arising from the discussion at the meeting, the Committee decided to investigate a number of issues in more detail including asking for a report on actions taken by the Council and other local authorities to minimise the number of improper single person council tax single person discounts granted, to receive a briefing from the Chief Fire Officer of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service on opportunities for joint working, to receive a paper on the Strategic Assets Project Group and to take forward a number of other issues delegated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- **Council Tax Single Person Discount Reviews** – At its meeting in November 2014, the Committee considered a report setting out information on council tax single person reviews as requested at the October 2014 meeting. The report included information on how the Council had over several years reviewed the number of single person discounts applied which had led to a decrease in the number of erroneous discounts applied. As a result the Council’s revenue had increased. The report also provided comparison data where it was available from the other Berkshire unitary councils. The Committee felt that a good service was being provided by the Council in seeking to reduce erroneous discounts which was to the benefit of the Borough’s council tax payers as a whole.
- **Possible Implications For Overview and Scrutiny of the Francis Review Working Group** – In October 2014 the Committee considered the report of the Francis Review Working Group. The working group had been established by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to focus upon whether there were any implications for the practice of health overview and scrutiny arising locally from the recommendations of the Francis Report into failings at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, (the Francis Report). Whilst the majority of the review’s conclusions and recommendations related to the health overview and scrutiny area, it was noted that there were common aspects that related to overview and scrutiny generally. The Committee considered these recommendations as set out in the working group’s report which included recommendations around preparedness for meetings, use of pre-meetings, selection of work programme items, monitoring of local and national news items and training. It was decided that all of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should take the recommendations of the working group into consideration in the operation of their respective committees.
- **Briefing From Andy Fry, Chief Fire Officer, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue** – At its meeting in January 2015 the Committee received a presentation from Andy Fry, Chief Fire Officer of the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and David Phillips, Area Manager of the Fire and Rescue Service. The presentation covered the financial challenges facing the fire and rescue service and how it was responding to those challenges to meet the

needs of residents in the future and the opportunities that existed for the fire and rescue service to work more closely with the Council and other local authorities to reduce costs and improve the service offered to residents.

- The Committee felt that the presentation and opportunity to have a discussion with Chief Fire Officer to be very useful and particularly acknowledged and valued the role that fire and rescue service is playing in supporting the wider agenda of improving the health and wellbeing of residents. As a result of the Committee's discussions it has asked that consideration be given to the inclusion of a representative of the fire and rescue service on the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Board and Officers from a number of the Council's service areas be asked to explore the potential opportunities for further joint working in the areas of planning and work with young people and children.

Standard Work Programme Items

In addition to individual items of business the Committee has as part of its Work Programme discussed a number of regular business items:

- **Consideration of the Work Programme** – at each meeting the work programmes of the Management Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are examined and requests for additions to the work programme, such as a review request, are considered. In addition, the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have an opportunity to feedback to the Management Committee on the operation of their committees.
- **Update Reports From Chairman or Nominated Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees** – at each meeting the Chairman of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to present a short written or verbal report. The objective of this item is to help facilitate the management of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees by providing a mechanism for Chairman to highlight the keys pieces of work that their committees are undertaking and if they feel it appropriate to seek the Committee's view on future potential pieces of work they are considering undertaking. Members of the Committee who are not members of the various committees also have an opportunity to ask questions for knowledge to be shared.
- **Consideration of the Current Executive Forward Programme** – at each meeting the current Executive Forward Programme is considered. If felt necessary, the Committee can ask for further information or request the attendance of witnesses in order to seek further information on a particular forthcoming Executive decision. A continuing issue of concern for the Committee has been the accuracy of the Council's Executive Forward Programme in setting out a list of expected decisions requiring Executive approval within a four month period and that the four month cycle was not sufficient to provide enough notice for the Committee to identify areas of interest and investigate them before a decision was taken by the Executive.

Task and Finish Groups

Under the Terms of the Constitution there is provision for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to establish Task and Finish Groups in order to undertake reviews into specific subjects.

During the 2014/2015 municipal year the Committee has not decided itself to establish any Task and Finish Group. This is consistent with the change in focus of the Committee from May 2013 which was intended to strengthen the Committee's strategic oversight role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees work programmes.

How Overview and Scrutiny has helped hold the Council's Executive to Account and achieve the Council's Vision, Values and Priorities

During 2014/2015 Overview and Scrutiny contributed to the Council holding the Executive to account in the following areas:

- Examination of performance management information including challenge to areas of underperformance including through examination of the Balanced Scorecard both within the Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Consideration by the Committee and within the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of reports and briefings from Officer on particular issues of interest and/or concern;
- Consideration by the Committee of the grass cutting service and maintenance of the Borough's open public spaces following the expression of concerns by residents;
- The undertaking of scrutiny reviews has contributed towards policy development and the improvement of services.

Overview and Scrutiny Support

Policy and practical support to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees is provided by Officers within the Democratic Services Team as part of its wider role in supporting the democratic core of the Council. The objective of this support is to provide an efficient, independent, evidence based function that enhances the democratic accountability of the Council to its residents.

The function involves working closely with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Executive, Senior Officers and other members of the Council.



Further information or answers to any queries relating to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions or this report can be obtained from Kevin Jacob, Principal Democratic Services Officer and Statutory Scrutiny Officer. Contact details are set out below:

Democratic Services
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1BN
Tel: 0118 974 6058
Fax: 0118 919 7757 Email: democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

Dates for Meetings in 2015/2016

The following dates have been agreed, but could be subject to change. *Please see the Council's website or contact the Democratic Services Team to check a particular meeting is taking place as it can be subject to change.*

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

1 June 2015
27 July 2015
7 September 2015
2 November 2015
11 January 2016
7 March 2016

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 July 2015
22 September 2015
27 October 2015
2 December 2015
23 February 2016

Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 June 2015
9 September 2015
9 November 2015
18 January 2016
14 March 2016

Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 June 2015
23 September 2015
23 November 2015
20 January 2016
22 March 2016

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 June 2015
28 July 2015
29 September 2015
30 November 2015
26 January 2016
23 March 2016

Work Programme for 2015-2016

It is important that the Management Committee takes continued ownership and control of its work programme and that of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees by deciding what topics are important and what should and should not be included.

The Committee has previously agreed six review topic selection criteria to assist in this process:

- the issue should be local, and preferably of current concern.
- the issue has a bearing and is linked to the Council corporate objectives
- the issue is not being reviewed elsewhere
- the issue is capable of being influenced by Overview and Scrutiny
- the issue is of manageable scope and is not too wide ranging and yet of sufficient size to warrant a scrutiny review
- there are sufficient resources to support the scrutiny review.

It is expected that in May 2015 the Committee will seek suggestions from Members, the Corporate Leadership Team and the public for possible review items for inclusion into the work programme for 2015-2016. It is anticipated that topics will be allocated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in June 2015 so the Overview and Scrutiny Committees can continue their work as soon as possible in the new municipal year.

The Management Committee will also consider other topics for inclusion and the following section sets out how local residents can become involved in Overview and Scrutiny.

In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have themselves developed on-going work programmes which are referred to in individual Committee Annual Reports.

Community Involvement and Engagement in Overview and Scrutiny

Wokingham Borough Council wants Overview and Scrutiny to be open and accessible to as many residents as possible. A central aim of the process is to seek to improve outcomes for residents through the scrutiny process. Residents can become involved by:

- Attending Overview and Scrutiny meetings – All meetings are open to the public to attend and are held in the evening to seek to encourage wider participation.
- Copies of Agendas and Minutes relating to Overview and Scrutiny can be accessed via the Council Offices and online at <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/> Residents can opt to receive automatic notification when new Agendas and minutes are added to the Council's website.

- Members of the public have the right to ask questions on general matters relating to Overview and Scrutiny and on specific agenda items and in 2014/2015 this facility has been taken up on a number of occasions;
- Members of local organisations or individual local residents may be asked to contribute to a review by supplying information, advice or views and/or attend meetings as a witness.
- Request that an issue be considered by overview and scrutiny as a review item. It is now possible for local residents to use the Council's website to complete an on-line scrutiny review suggestion form. This is available at www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/decisions/ask-for-a-scrutiny-review/
- It had been recognised in the Committee's 2013/2014 Annual Report that levels of public participation and engagement could be improved significantly and that consideration was being given to the proactive use of press releases regarding scrutiny activity and the appropriate use of social media. This has been put in practice and social media used to promote the publication of the agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Agenda and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, it is recognised that public engagement in the Overview and Scrutiny process remains an area for development.

**CORPORATE SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

**BY
COUNCILLOR NORMAN JORGENSEN
CHAIRMAN**

**FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR NORMAN JORGENSEN
CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee has during the last year looked at a number of issues which are important to residents in the Borough and to how the Council delivers services. These have ranged from parking to planning enforcement. We are pleased that following work by Officers, consultants and this Committee the Executive adopted the new Planning Enforcement Plan at a recent meeting.

We already have a number of 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 sifted.

I thank the Members of the Committee, officers and those others who contributed to our meetings for their valuable contributions

Introduction

1. The role of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise, review and assist with:
 - a) the Council's budget and policy framework;
 - b) services that support the Council's vision and corporate priorities, excluding matters relating to Children and services which are covered by other scrutiny bodies.
2. The work of the Committee is overseen by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, of which the Committee Chairman is a Member. At each Management Committee meeting the Committee Chairmen report back on the work of their particular Committee.
3. The Committee can create time limited; subject specific, Task and Finish Groups to review particular issues should they wish to.
4. The Committee is made up of eight Members, seven Conservatives and one Liberal Democrat. Each party also appointed two substitutes. The Committee will have held five scheduled meetings this year.
- 5.



Norman
Jorgensen
Chairman



Michael
Firmager
Vice-Chairman



Parry Batth



Chris Bowring



Kate Haines



Rachelle
Shepherd-
DuBey



Ken Miall



Shahid Younis

Substitute Councillors



Prue Bray



Dee Tomlin



David Sleight



Bill Soane

2014/15 Work Programme

6. During 2014/15, the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised and received an update on a number of issues, including:
- Planning Enforcement Service Action Plan;
 - Advanced Signing During Road Flooding;
 - Wokingham Borough Council – How it Learns as an Organisation;
 - May 2015 Election Counts;
 - Wokingham Town Car Parks and Council Car Parks Strategy; and
 - Review of Commuter Parking.

2015/16 Work Programme

6. The Committee's work programme for 2015/16 will be populated further over the next couple of months and will be an evolving document. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the key areas which come under its remit such as:
- a) Planning Enforcement Service Action Plan; and
 - b) Burials Review.
7. The Committee will also be considering items referred to it by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as follows:
- a) Upkeep and Maintenance of Sports Pitches;
 - b) Decent Homes Standard; and
 - c) Review of Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.

Norman Jorgensen

Chairman of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

BY

**COUNCILLOR PAULINE HELLIAR-SYMONS
CHAIRMAN**

FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR PAULINE HELLIAR-SYMONS CHAIRMAN CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee's work is split about equally between children's social work and educational attainment. This has been a very busy year, not least because the Committee monitors annually what has happened to all the recommendations it put in place in earlier years, on top of new work that has come its way and which is outlined below. This is as well as the normal performance monitoring that we do each meeting, and which keeps the committee in touch with how both the Service's social care, and schools who have had Ofsted inspections, are doing: a few schools have dropped a grade this year, largely as a result of the harder Ofsted expectations, and we monitor what the Service is doing to help schools requiring improvement to improve. Our earlier work on the role of Governors (the work we did at a task and finish group) has been paying off, however (as well, of course, as the work being done by the Department), since Ofsted now makes a specific comments on how well Governors are challenging their Head teachers about the performance of the schools, and there are far fewer negative comments than there used to be.

We have noted that the Service has done a good deal of work on narrowing the gap, reducing the numbers of young people not in education, training or employment (NEETS), and listening to the voice of young people, which we have been monitoring. Also we are currently monitoring the new social workers recruitment and retention package which, although it appears expensive on the surface, is within the Service's budget and will soon start to save money over the cost of using agency staff; it is also already showing a better rate of retention, as the Service seeks to develop a better career path for our social workers.

Some of the important work we have looked at has included the contents of the Children and Families Act of 2014, which constrains partners to work more closely in serving the needs of Special Educational Needs children, recognising that many of their educational difficulties stem from health or social problems, which everyone involved with the child need to know about. This is perhaps an example of the much closer partnership working that has developed in recent years, between schools, social care workers, the Police and the Health Service.

It is important that Councillors who are involved with children's work are fully aware of how quickly the ground changes in this world, and for this reason we have training each year to keep all members of the Committee up to date with the many changes that take place, both relating to schools and to child protection and wellbeing.

Introduction

1. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by Council in May 2010.
2. The role of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise, review and assist with the policy development of:
 - a) those matters relating to the Children's Act 2004, "Every Child Matters" and any subsequent legislation relating to the delivery of Children's Services by the Council;
 - b) those matters set out in Section 499 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Section 9 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) and all other legislation such as the Children Act 1989;
 - c) services that support the Council's vision and corporate priorities for children and young people including, amongst others, the following areas:
 - i) Schools;
 - ii) Early Years Settings and Children's Centres;
 - iii) Safeguarding and Child Protection;
 - iv) Looked After Children and Young People;
 - v) Family Support Services for Children and Young People;
 - vi) Services for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities;
 - vii) Inclusion and Attendance;
 - viii) School Transport; and
 - ix) Youth Services.
 - d) those matters that relate to the implementation of designated programmes within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that relate to children and young people.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee oversees the work of the Committee, as well as that of the other two Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Chairman of the Committee is a Member of the Management Committee and reports back on the work programme of the Committee at each meeting. The Committee may create time limited task and finish groups if expedient.
4. The Committee has eight Members, initially six Conservative and one Liberal Democrat, and one for the Group of Three, two Parent Governor Representatives; and a representative from the Church of England Diocese, and the Roman Catholic Diocese. Two substitutes each for the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups are appointed. During the year there has been no representation from either of the Dioceses, and part way through the year, the Parent Governor Representatives' term of office came to an end, and a recruitment process has not yet found any replacements.
5. The Committee Members in 2014/15 were:
Councillors Pauline Helliard-Symons (Chairman), Parry Bath (Vice Chairman), Mark Ashwell, Lindsay Ferris, Ken Miall, Bill Soane, Shahid Younis. Nicky Jerome (Group of Three) was appointed to the Committee initially, but was replaced by Alison Swaddle

(Conservative) in November 2014. Chris Bowring, Bob Wyatt, Kay Gilder, and Dee Tomlin were appointed as substitutes. Karen Knight, was Parent Governor Representative until September 2014.



Pauline Helliarsymons -
Chairman



Parry Bath
Vice-Chairman



Mark Ashwell



Lindsay Ferris



Nicky Jerrome



Ken Miall



Bill Soane



Shahid Younis

Substitute Councillors



Kay Gilder



Chris Bowring



Dee Tomlin



Bob Wyatt

2014/2015 Work Programme

6. At every meeting, the Committee monitors the Performance Indicators for Children's Services in the Balanced Scorecard those scrutinised relate to: 'Keeping Children Safe'; 'Narrowing the Gap'; and 'Opportunity for All'. The new indicators include those on Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 attainment, and the gap between the performance of those children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers.
7. The Committee also receives regular information on School Performance data, with an annual report on the overall results for Wokingham schools across the whole age range of assessments, tests and examinations from Early Years to Key Stage 5 (A levels). Summaries of recently published School OFSTED reports are reviewed at each meeting, and since March 2014 the Committee has monitored 23 schools. This is in the context of our work on scrutiny of School Improvement.
8. The Committee has scrutinised and advised on a range of issues during 2014/15 at the five meetings since the last report, including:
 - Update on the new arrangements for the provision for Special Education Needs and Disability
 - Wokingham Schools Performance Data in 2013 – a detailed analysis and implications of the test results across all phases.
 - Annual report of the Corporate Parenting Board including an update on the delivery of the Children in Care Pledge
 - Looked After Children Review – update on implementation of the review recommendations from the Corporate Parenting Board, as included in the Board's Annual Report.
 - Children and Families Act 2014 - Update on the latest situation in relation to the Act and its implications requiring substantive changes to the way in which services for vulnerable children/young people with special educational and disabilities will be provided from September 2014.
 - Assessment Arrangements for Primary Schools – information on the implications of the changes to the way that primary pupils will be assessed, from September 2014.
 - Annual report of the work of the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board
 - Mid-Year Review of the Effectiveness of Services to Safeguard Children - giving details of the three independent reviews that have taken place since April 2014 to ensure that the Council's systems are effective in keeping children safe in Wokingham
 - Schools Performance data at the end of 2013/14 – analysis of the preliminary test data across all phases.
 - Narrowing the Gap – reports to two meetings giving detailed information and specific analysis of the 2014 pupil and schools performance data and outcomes relating to the issue of improving the achievement of pupils on Free School Meals in relation to their peers which was identified in the report of Ofsted' inspection of the arrangements for the protection of children;
 - Future Role of Wokingham Borough as a provider of statutory school improvement services – consideration of a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – setting up a Task & Finish Group and receiving update reports.
 - Effectiveness of Governing Bodies and Local Authority Support Review –

monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the Review - a further update

- Delivering Effective Safeguarding Services for Children – regular updates and details of the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy for social workers.
- Delivering Effective Safeguarding Services for Children – Information on the Early Help and Innovations Strategy

Task and Finish Groups

9. Following a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to look into the future provision of school improvement services, the Committee agreed to set up a Task & Finish Group comprising all Committee members, to receive a briefing by the Director of Children's Services setting out the current situation and plans for the future of the service with a view to giving advice on the different options. The briefing led the Task & Finish Group to ask for more detailed information on different models adopted by other authorities and two presentations were made. Representatives of primary and secondary Head teachers organisations, and the both the Executive and Deputy Executive Members for Children's Services have been involved in the discussions at the Group's meetings. A final report will be agreed by Group members, and then run past Head teachers to ensure they can identify with the recommendations, since they are so key to the good cooperation that exists in Wokingham between its schools, and between schools and the Department.

Training

10. Training took place for all members of the Committee, before the September meeting to give them up to date information on legislative changes that relate to children and to education, and to the work of the Service

2015/2016 Work Programme

11. The Committee will continue to monitor the 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 the high and low attainers and the delivering of effective safeguarding services for children.
12. The Committee's work programme for 2015/16 will include regular monitoring of the following:
 - update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Effective Governing Bodies Review;
 - Annual report of the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board;
 - Annual report from Corporate Parenting Board monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Services for Looked After Children.

13. The Chairman would like to thank the Committee Members and their substitutes for their very useful work throughout the year.

Pauline Helliard-Symons

Chairman

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

BY

COUNCILLOR DAVID SLEIGHT

CHAIRMAN

Foreword by David Sleight
Chairman of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Welcome to the Committee's annual report. It has had a varied programme ranging from the Armed Forces Community Covenant to examining Member's participation on Outside Bodies, a term covering a range of external bodies including numerous charitable bodies. The one contentious issue was the examination of the amenity vehicle service, which Wokingham Borough Council provided to various parishes.

I am grateful to the Members of the Committee for their contributions during the year and to Susan Coulter from Democratic Services for providing the Committee with administrative support.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

1. The role of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to:
 - a) scrutinise and review the relevant work of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Partnership Groups;
 - b) exercise the Council's crime and disorder responsibilities as set out in Section 19 of the Police Justice Act 2006;
 - c) exercise the Council's flood risk management responsibilities under Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
2. The work of the Committee is overseen by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, which also monitors the work of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a member of the Management Committee and reports back at each meeting on the work programme of the Committee.
3. The Committee may create time limited task and finish groups if required.
4. The Committee is made up of eight Members, seven Conservatives and one Liberal Democrat. Each party also appointed two substitutes. The Committee will have held four scheduled meetings this year.



David Sleight
Chairman



Shahid Younis
Vice-Chairman



Barry Batth



Michael Firmager



Lindsay Ferris



Mike Gore



Abdul Loyes



Bill Soane

Substitute Members



Dianne King



Tom McCann



Dee Tomlin



Malcom Richards

2014/2015 Work Programme

5. During 2014/15 the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised and received an update on a number of issues including:
 - a) Advanced Signing During recent Flooding;
 - b) Wokingham's Older Housing Person's Strategy;
 - c) An update on Adult Social Care Task and Finish Group;
 - d) The Armed Forces Community Covenant;
 - e) Review of Amenity Vehicle provision; and
 - f) Review of Outside Bodies Appointments.

2015/2016 Work Programme

6. The Committee's work programme for 2015/16 will be populated further over the next couple of months and will be an evolving document. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the key areas which come under its remit, such as:
 - a) Update on the Police Crime Commissioner and the work of the Police Crime Panel;
 - b) Update on the work of the Community Forums; and
 - c) Flooding and Sustainable Planning Bi-Annual Report;

7. The Committee will also be considering the possible income generation opportunities from the Crossrail project, which was referred to it by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

David Sleight
Chairman of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

**HEALTH
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

BY COUNCILLOR KEN MIALL

CHAIRMAN

Foreword by Ken Miall Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This year has been very busy ensuring that the relevant scrutiny took place to envisage forthcoming problems or shortfalls and addressing problems that have arisen. This helps ensure matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the Borough were scrutinised fully.

This municipal year we have held a total of eleven meetings which Members have participated in, six of which were meetings of Task and Finish Groups.

We have also engaged with the public, allowing questions from the floor on the presentations given at Committee meetings. Social media has been used to further the participation of the residents of the Borough. In addition the Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a meeting of the West Berkshire Overview and Scrutiny Commission as public guests and were able to observe their examination of maternity services provided by the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, which also affects Wokingham Borough residents. This will allow the Committee to ask further questions when representatives from the Trust attend a future meeting of the Wokingham Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This year we will continue to build on relationships with the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group, Healthwatch and Care Quality Commission in addition to other key organisations providing or regulating health and social care in the Borough. Whilst building on these relationships, Members will not forget that it is the committee's role to work with or hold these bodies to account for the benefit of residents.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Membership of the Committee

1.3 2014/2015

2.1 Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

2.2 Female Genital Mutilation

2.3 Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group

2.4 NHS England

2.5 Public Health

2.6 Health and Wellbeing Board

2.7 Care Quality Commission (CQC)

2.8 Safeguarding

2.9 Healthwatch

3.1 Consultations

3.2 Potential Implications for Scrutiny of the Francis Report Working Group

3.3 Implementation of the Care Act Task and Finish Group

4.1 2015/2016 Work Programme

1.1 Introduction

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) can review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the Borough. It 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 has ten members and will have held five scheduled meetings this municipal year.

The work of the Committee is overseen by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, of which the HOSC Chairman is a member. At each Management Committee meeting the Chairman reports back on HOSC's work.

Much of the Committee's scrutiny activity this year was linked to the following of the Council's Underpinning Principles:

- 'Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life;'
- 'Look after the vulnerable.'

HOSC tweets prior to each of its committee meetings to let the public know what it will be considering. At meetings, all attendees, including members of the public can, after each main presentation, ask questions regarding the presentation, through the Chairman.

1.2 Membership of the Committee



Ken Miall
Chairman



Tim Holton
Vice-Chairman



Mark Ashwell



Kay Gilder



Kate Haines



Philip Houldsworth



Malcolm Richards



Nick Ray



David Sleight



Wayne Smith

Substitute Members



Abdul Loyes



Bill Soane



Rachelle Shepherd-
DuBey



Lindsay Ferris

1.3 2014/2015

During 2014/15 HOSC has maintained a continual interest in the local and national health scene. Throughout the year it has scrutinised and received updates on various issues including:

2.1 Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

HOSC received a presentation from the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on cancer services provided by the Trust, cancer pathways and diagnostics. Members sought an explanation of the pathway process following referral (via GP or screening) and how these were applied, what measures were taken to ensure that the cancer wait time standards were achieved and how waiting lists were managed, the main causes of breaches of waiting time standards when they occurred and the issues which had an impact on the pathway's effectiveness.

2.2 In response to a request from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel the Committee sought information from the Trust regarding measures taken to identify cases of Female Genital Mutilation.

2.3 Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group

At each meeting the Committee considered and asked questions on, the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Outcomes Reports.

HOSC sought an update on the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust from the CCG as commissioners. Members asked the CCG's views on whether there were any areas of performance where the CCG had or had had concerns and action that the Trust was taking to make improvements, the Trust's progress against the action plan developed following the Care Quality Commission inspection in March 2014, quality of patient care and how the CCG was working with the Trust's new Chief Executive.

HOSC was also updated on A&E attendance of Wokingham residents aged 40 to 60 years by a representative from the CCG.

2.4 NHS England

The creation of four Sustainable Development Locations within the Borough would see a large number of new homes and associated infrastructure being built. Alongside this there were plans for further residential developments as well as the town centre regeneration programmes. HOSC received a presentation on and discussed with representatives from NHS England and Public Health, the implications for the provision of healthcare services that the anticipated growth in population would have. The Committee also considered future primary care facilities and capacity.

2.5 Public Health

From April 2013 the Council, through its Public Health function, was responsible for commissioning and coordinating the NHS Health Check programme. HOSC requested an update on the NHS Health Check programme and the offer and uptake levels.

A member of the public submitted a scrutiny suggestion regarding the effect of particulate air pollution on public health within the Borough in light of data from a report from Public Health

England published April 2014 which was reported to have attributed a local mortality rate of 5.7% to long term exposure to this form of pollution. In response the Committee requested a briefing from officers in order to determine whether the effect of air pollution was a particular issue to residents' health. The Committee agreed that it wished to monitor this topic by means of a further update.

2.6 Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board was the key forum where leaders from the health and care system worked together to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities. Throughout the year Members were informed of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, such as the delivery of its statutory responsibilities, including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Wokingham Needs Assessment.

2.7 Care Quality Commission (CQC)

HOSC considered the Care Quality Commission survey of adult inpatients 2013 for Royal Berkshire Hospital in order to gain information on patients' views of adult inpatient services provided by the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

2.8 Safeguarding

The Committee received the Wokingham 2013/14 Annual Safeguarding Report and considered progress made against priorities.

2.9 Healthwatch

The Committee was regularly updated on the work of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough, how it was engaging with residents, and projects that they were undertaking.

3.1 Consultations

At each meeting the Committee was informed of current consultations and identified those which it wished to respond to. HOSC responded to the Council's consultation on changes to charging for Adult Social Care Services.

The Committee may create time limited Task and Finish Groups as necessary. During 2014/15 the following Task and Finish Groups were operational:

3.2 Potential Implications for Scrutiny of the Francis Report Working Group

The purpose of the scrutiny review undertaken by the Working Group was:-

- to identify the key potential implications for overview and scrutiny from the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry (the Francis Report) and to identify any areas of further development for health scrutiny in Wokingham and;
- to recommend any improvements to the health scrutiny practices in Wokingham, to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

HOSC agreed all of the Working Group's recommendations regarding the health scrutiny process.

3.3 Implementation of the Care Act Task and Finish Group

The Care Act 2014 will bring about a number of life changing reforms for Wokingham residents.

At its July 2014 meeting HOOSC agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of the implementation of elements of the Care Act 2014. The Task and Finish Group sought to gain an understanding of the changes outlined in the Care Act, and the likely impact on the Council. Members focused in particular on the implementation of the Council's duties in relation to:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Wellbeing;
- Information, advice and guidance

The Task and Finish Group also considered how the Council was engaging with residents with regards to the changes coming out of the Care Act 2014 and the impact these may have on the public.

4.1 2015/2016 Work Programme

The Committee's work programme for 2015/16 will be an evolving document.



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMME SUGGESTION FORM

I would like to suggest a Scrutiny or Policy Review item for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee’s next work programme.

Name:	
Daytime Contact Number	Email Address
Evening Contact Number	
Address:	

I would like to suggest that the following matter is reviewed:

.

(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Reasons for suggestion:	Please consider:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should there be a review on this? • Any linkages with the Council’s Vision, Priorities and Underpinning Principles – you can find these at http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/council/decision/s/vision/ • What benefits would there be to residents?
(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)	

Are there any specific aspects of the issue you would like scrutiny to focus upon or supporting evidence?

Please consider:

- What evidence is there to support the above reasons?
- What are the facts?
- Are there specific organisations or documents you would like a review to refer?
- Do you have any suggestions for potential witnesses?

(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

What would you like to see coming out of the review in terms of desired outcomes?

Please consider:

- What would you wish to see happen as a result of any review?
- Why do you think the desired outcome is achievable?

(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Would you like to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to make a short statement in support of your request?

Yes

No

I am (Please tick appropriate box)

- A Member or Officer of Wokingham Borough Council
- A group with an interest in the Wokingham Borough Council area
- A local business situated in the Wokingham Borough Council area
- A resident of the Wokingham Borough Council area

Please return this form to:

Kevin Jacob
Democratic Services
Shute End
Wokingham RG40 1BN

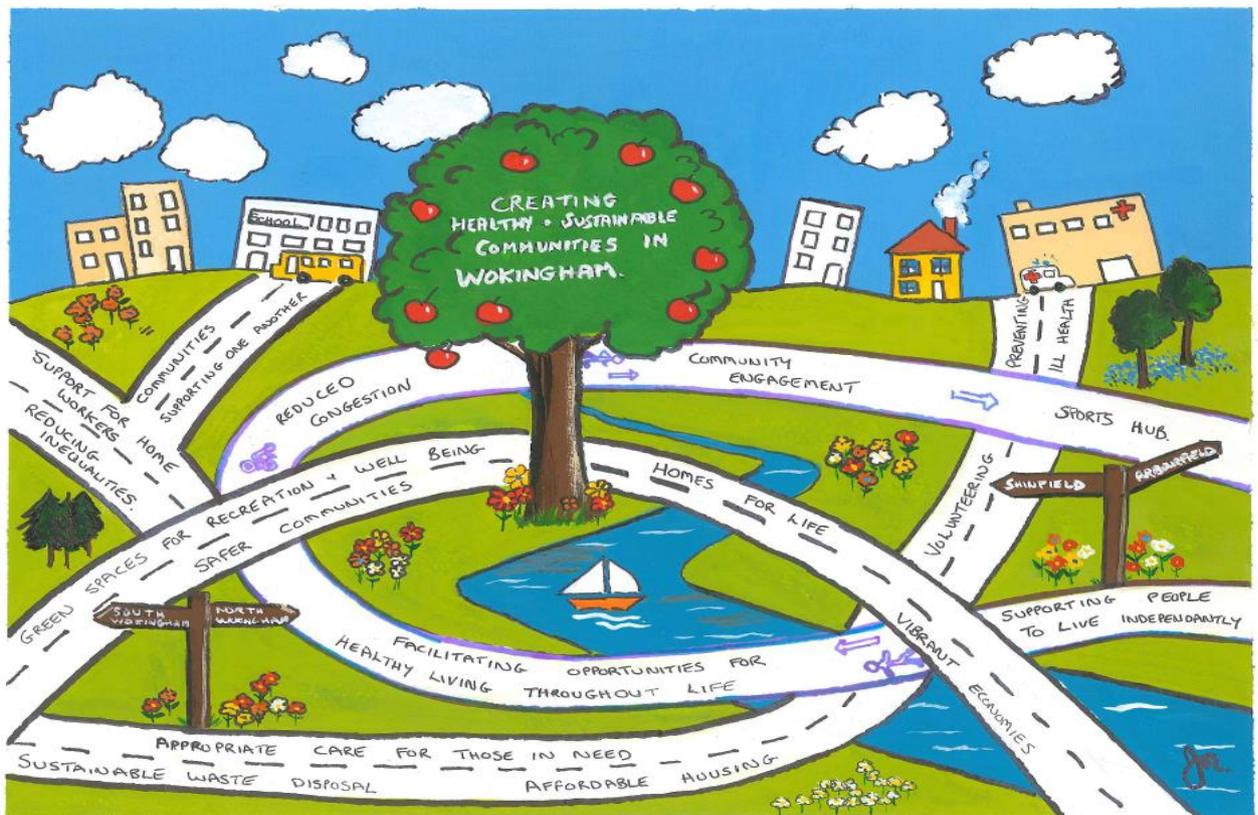
Tel 0118 974 6058

Email

democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

**HEALTH
AND WELLBEING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15**



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 all upper tier local authorities were required to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board from April 2013.

The current membership of the Board is as follows:

- Councillor Julian McGhee-Sumner (Chairman) (Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing)
- Councillor Charlotte Haitham Taylor (Executive Member Children's Services)
- Councillor Keith Baker (Leader)
- Councillor Prue Bray
- Dr Johan Zylstra (Vice Chairman) (NHS Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Dr Cathy Winfield (NHS Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Katie Summers (NHS Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Dr Lise Llewellyn (Director Public Health)
- Stuart Rowbotham (Director Health and Wellbeing)
- Judith Ramsden (Director Children's Services)
- Nick Campbell-White (Healthwatch Wokingham Borough)
- Nikki Luffingham (NHS England, (Thames Valley Area Team)
- Chief Inspector Rob France (Community Safety Partnership)
- Beverley Graves (Business, Skills and Enterprise Partnership)
- Clare Rebbeck (Place and Community Partnership)

Dr Stephen Madgwick retired as Vice Chairman and from the Health and Wellbeing Board, in January 2015. The Board thanks him for his valuable contribution.

Key responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board include:

- Encouraging partnership working between social care, the NHS, Public Health and the voluntary sector regarding making improvements in health and wellbeing and promoting the integration of Health and Council services where this will lead to improved care for residents;
- Examining ways to share resources effectively between partners and to pool budgets where appropriate;
- Developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which sets out the Borough's current and future health and wellbeing needs;
- Developing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which details how the health and social care needs identified in the Needs Assessment will be addressed and sets targets for health improvement and the promotion of health and wellbeing;
- Creating and publishing a local pharmaceutical needs assessment, an overview of local pharmaceutical needs, services and gaps in provision by April 2015.

This municipal year the Health and Wellbeing Board met every month either informally or formally.

2014-2015 Work Programme

During 2014-15, the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board has covered a number of areas, including the following:

Better Care Fund Plan:

The Health and Wellbeing Board discussed changes to the national guidance with regards to the Better Care Fund Plan at its August meeting. Health and Wellbeing Boards had been invited to agree a target reduction in emergency admissions from the level that would otherwise have been anticipated in 2015 and agree the savings that would accrue from such a reduction. At the Health and Wellbeing Board's September meeting Board members delegated responsibility for the authorisation of the final version of the Better Care Fund Plan to the Chairman in order to meet the revised submission deadline.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will monitor the performance of the Better Care Fund submission targets and received detailed Better Care Fund metrics at its February meeting.

Care Act 2014:

The Health and Wellbeing Board has monitored progress made in the implementation of the Care Act and been updated on the various associated risks.

Funding Transfer from NHS England:

For 2014-15 an additional £0.068m was provided to the Council by the NHS, increasing the total NHS funding level to £1.506m in 2014/15. In addition the Council will also receive £0.335m to prepare for the implementation of pooled budgets with Health in April 2015 and to make early progress against the national conditions and performance measures set out in the Better Care Fund Plan. In order to secure the release of these funds agreement had to be reached between the Council and NHS England (via the Thames Valley Area Team and the Berkshire West CCGs) on how they were being used within social care and the outcomes expected from this investment.

In September the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the use of the 2014-15 transferred monies.

Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-17:

The Health and Wellbeing Board refreshed the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy which detailed the key health and wellbeing priorities and recommended it to Full Council for approval.

The Health and Wellbeing Board identified the following key priorities within the Strategy:

- Carers
- Prevention
- Community and Voluntary work
- Workplace health
- Healthy communities
- Domestic Abuse
- Children and Families Act
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs)

- Better Care Fund

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

A key responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board is preparing and publishing a local pharmaceutical needs assessment by April 2015.

Board members considered various updates on the Wokingham Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and the consultation process throughout the municipal year. The Board approved the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment at its February meeting.

Public Health:

The Health and Wellbeing Board received updates on Public Health matters within the Borough including;

- the Winter Influenza Vaccine Plan 2014;
- the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

The Director of Public Health was required to produce an annual report on the health of the local population. The annual report of the Director of Public Health focused in particular on one aspect of illness that had an effect on Berkshire residents, mental illness.

Partnerships:

The work of the Health and Wellbeing Board is supported by five partnerships:

- Children and Young People Strategic Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Place and Community Partnership
- Wokingham Integration Strategic Partnership
- Business, Skills and Enterprise Partnership

The Health and Wellbeing Board received updates on the work of the partnerships, particularly the Community Safety Partnership, the Business, Skills and Enterprise Partnership and the Place and Community Partnership.

In October the Place and Community Partnership provided a presentation regarding the role and responsibilities of the Co-Production Network.

Board members were updated on the Community Safety Partnership restructure at their February meeting.

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough:

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough updated other Board members on its programme of engagement and projects throughout the municipal year.

The Health and Wellbeing Board received Healthwatch Wokingham Borough's report 'Are you hearing us?' which looked at the experience of deaf patients in Wokingham Borough accessing GP services and a presentation from Mark Hooper from Deaf Positives Action and a Healthwatch Volunteer at its December meeting.

NHS Five Year Forward View:

At its December meeting the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the Forward View which set out a vision for the future of the NHS. The purpose of the Five Year Forward

View was to articulate why change was needed, what that change might look like and how this could be achieved.

Berkshire West CCG Federation 5 Year Strategic Plan:

At its August meeting the Health and Wellbeing Board received the refreshed Berkshire West CCG Federation 5 Year Strategic Plan. It was noted that the three areas of strategic focus were Hospital Care, the Urgent Care System and Out of hospital sector: Integrated primary, community and social care at scale.

Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group Operational Resilience and Capacity Plan 2014-15

In October the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group Operational Resilience and Capacity Plan 2014-15. This Plan covered the Berkshire West area and had been developed in response to the Operational Resilience and Capacity Planning guidance for 2014-15.

Protocol Agreement between the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Board and the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed a Protocol Agreement between it and the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board at its December meeting.

Update on Strategic Development Locations and Primary Care Facilities

With the major population growth deriving from the building of the Borough's Strategic Development Locations (SDL's) and other housing growth, ensuring that all residents have access to high-quality and responsive primary healthcare services was an important outcome for the Council.

Planned population growth required planned capacity growth within primary healthcare to ensure that no resident received poorer services, and that services were readily and equally accessible across the Borough.

At its October meeting the Health and Wellbeing Board was briefed on the Strategic Development Locations and the provision of primary care facilities.

Shaping our New Communities Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Board was informed of the Shaping our New Communities Strategy at its August meeting.

The Strategy sought to formalise the Council's position on how it:

- continues to engage with the community in the planning stages of the four Strategic Development Location (SDL) communities;
- supports community development within SDLs and their integration with neighbouring communities;
- provides the right community facilities for the new SDL neighbourhoods, with a particular emphasis on proposed multi-use Community Centres;
- develops options for future management of these facilities.

Update regarding Winterbourne View:

At its August meeting the Health and Wellbeing Board received the Joint Commissioning Plan for Services for People with Learning Disabilities & Challenging Behaviour which had been produced by Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham Councils and NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGS) in response to Winterbourne View.

2015-2016 Work Programme

The Health and Wellbeing Board's work programme for 2015-16 will be an evolving document and will be populated over the next few months.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit Committee Annual Report 2014/15

1. KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The Audit Committee provides independent assurance over risk management, the system of internal control in operation at the Council and governance.
- 1.2 The Committee has fulfilled this task this year by undertaking the following key activities:

(a) Internal and External Audit

To assist it in its role of monitoring the Council's internal control, risk management and governance arrangements the Audit Committee oversees the activity of the Council's Internal and External Auditors (Ernst & Young). The Committee has reviewed both the internal and external audit plan and received regular progress updates.

In October 2014 the Internal Audit service transferred to a Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council. The Investigations team transferred into the shared service from December 2014.

The Audit Committee is satisfied that both Internal and External Audit is effective and adds value.

(b) Prevention and Detection of Fraud and Corruption

The primary objective of the Investigations Team within the Shared Internal Service is to meet the Chief Finance Officer's statutory obligation to prevent and detect fraud and corruption against the Council. The team carries out a wide range of investigations including breaches of the Council's staff code of conduct and whistleblowing allegations.

Members have also been kept updated on other aspects of the Investigations Team's work including its Counter Fraud work.

On 1 November 2014 Benefit Fraud Work investigations transferred to the Department of Work and Pension's Single Fraud Investigation Service. In December 2014 the Audit Committee received assurance that the data transfer process had followed the Council's strict information security protocol.

(c) Risk Management

The Audit Committee continued to monitor the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements. The Committee received updates on the Corporate Risk Register at each meeting and was satisfied that corporate risks were being adequately managed.

The Committee recommended the adoption of the Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Guidance in February 2014 and again in December 2014.

(d) Approval of Accounts

Part of the Audit Committee's role is to agree the annual statement of accounts and specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

The Council's annual statement of accounts was approved by the Audit Committee in September 2014. As part of this process, Members considered the external auditor's, Ernst & Young's annual report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the external audit of the accounts. Having reviewed this and the annual statement of accounts, the Committee was satisfied that the most appropriate accounting policies had been actioned.

(e) Corporate Governance

The Audit Committee oversaw the production of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14 and approved it prior to its inclusion in the statement of accounts. As part of this process the Committee noted the required action to ensure compliance with best practice in corporate governance.

(f) Treasury Management

The Audit Committee is responsible for agreeing the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies prior to recommendations being made to the Executive and Council.

The Treasury Management Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Plan are agreed every February by Council. The Audit Committee also reviewed a Treasury Management annual report in July and a mid-year review Treasury Management report in December.

(g) Retrospective Purchase Orders

The 2012/13 Creditors Internal audit report had highlighted a large number of retrospective Purchase Orders raised during sample testing. During the 2014/15 municipal year the Committee has been regularly updated on action being taken to greatly reduce this number and to ensure compliance with best practice.

2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE'S EFFECTIVENESS

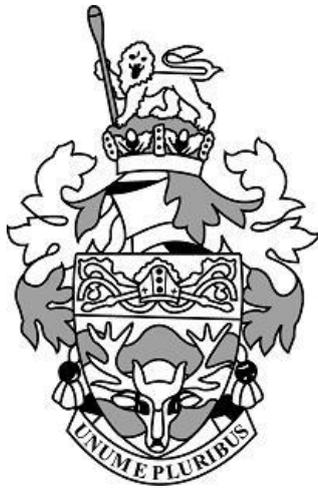
2.1 The Audit Committee has continued to hold training sessions and briefings prior to the start of the meetings, on a number of topics relevant to the Committee's roles and responsibilities.

2.2 In line with the Audit Committee Handbook, the Chairman of the Audit Committee has met twice with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to discuss the progress of both the Committee's Work Programmes and to raise issues of mutual concern.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 To conclude, the Audit Committee is of the view that the Council's systems of internal control, governance and its risk management arrangements are sufficient to manage the achievements of its objectives.
- 3.2 I would like to thank all Members and Officers who have been involved in the work of the Audit Committee throughout this municipal year.

Guy Grandison
Chairman, Audit Committee
March 2015



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Standards Committee Report
June 2014 to March 2015**

Introduction by the Chairman of the Committee – Rob Stanton

The Standards Committee has continued to meet at regular times during the Municipal Year.

At each meeting the Committee is updated with progress of any ongoing business including complaints.

Its main work is to ensure that the Councils policies as expressed in the Members Code of Conduct are up to date and relevant to current best practice. This has resulted in the Committee currently undertaking a review of Members/Officers Protocol which will come before the Committee this spring for later approval of Full Council if agreed. We are also considering if the process of handling complaints against Members can be improved to remove some of the concern that members experience if a complaint is made against them.

There has been one Hearing Panel this year the results of which were reported to Council on 19 February 2015.

The majority of areas of concern by both Members and increasingly members of the public has been around Declarations of Interest. This area of complaint has been against both Borough Members and Town/Parish members.

There are two areas where further improvements can be made around declarations of interest: business declarations and planning declarations. Often all that is needed is a declaration at the start of a meeting, but on a small number of occasions this has not happened.

I have asked that training for new members is improved in this area, and it is planned to bring a training session to all members later in the year to help fully understand this area.

Rob Stanton
Chairman Standards Committee

1.0 What does the Standards Committee Do?

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

In July 2012 the Localism Act introduced a locally focussed and designed system for the adoption of a Councillor Code of Conduct, and processes for the receipt, and consideration of complaints against Councillors. Although not obligated by the Localism Act, Wokingham Borough Council decided to maintain a dedicated Standards Committee.

As well as the receipt and consideration of Code of Conduct complaints against Wokingham Borough Council Councillors, the Committee is also responsible for the receipt and consideration of complaints against Town and Parish Councillors.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee as set out within Chapter 9 of the Constitution are set out below:

Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles 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 Committee?

The Committee is comprised of six Wokingham Borough Council Councillors. These Councillors are voting members of the Committee and are appointed on the basis of political proportionality. A councillor from Wokingham Borough Council chairs the Committee.

The Committee is also comprised of three non –voting Town/Parish Councillor representatives.

The 2014/2015 membership of the Committee was as follows:

Rob Stanton, (Chairman)
Pauline Helliard-Symons (Vice-Chairman)
Chris Bowring
Ken Miall
Malcolm Richards
Beth Rowland

Ray Duncan (Woodley Town Council)
Roger Loader (Barkham Parish Council)
Roy Mantel (Twyford Parish Council)

3.0 Independent Persons

Under the Localism Act, Wokingham Borough Council is required to appoint an independent person, (a member of the public, not a Council Officer or Councillor) whose views must be sought before the Committee takes a decision on an allegation it has decided to investigate and whose views may be sought on an allegation prior to that. In addition, a Councillor who is subject of an allegation may seek the views of the independent person.

Two people have been appointed as independent persons:

David Comben
John Bingham

An independent person cannot sit as a Member of the Standards Committee, but may attend with the same rights as a member of the public.

4.0 Who supports the Committee

The Committee is supported by Andrew Moulton, Monitoring Officer of Wokingham Borough Council and Head of Governance and Improvement Services, Mary Severin, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Borough Solicitor. Administrative support is provided by Kevin Jacob, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

5.0 Complaint Statistics June 2014 to March 2014

Between June 2014 and the publication of this report 18 Code of Code complaints had been received, (of the 18 complaints 8 involved the same complaint against 8 individual councillors).

16 complaints were made against members of Wokingham Borough Council and two against town/parish councillors. In 13 cases no further action was taken by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the powers delegated to him.

In one case a Standards Committee Hearings Sub-Committee was held in December 2014 following an investigation. The outcome of the hearing was reported to the Council as required by the Council's Constitution in February 2015.

Two complaints could not be considered further as the subject of the complaint ceased to be a Councillor.

One complaint has been referred for investigation by the Monitoring Officer and one complaint is awaiting consideration by the Monitoring Officer.

The Committee would stress that the number of complaints should be seen in the context of there being 54 members of the Borough Council and over 200 members of town/parish councils across 17 parishes. . As such the number of complaints received represents a very low percentage of the number of members. However, the Committee recognises the utmost importance of treating any allegation seriously.

6.0 Committee Activity

Since the last report of the Committee to Council in July 2014 the Committee has met twice in October 2014 and January 2015. In light of the experience gained from the consideration of complaints the Committee has reviewed the current Member/Officer Protocol as well as the process for the receipt and consideration of complaints against councillors including the process to follow at Code of Conduct hearings. The Code of Conduct is also being reviewed to see if any improvements can be made to make it easier to understand and interpret. It is expected that the revisions to these documents will be considered at the Committee's meeting in March 2015.

Training for Members has been considered, particularly with regard to the provision of practical advice to Councillors around the declaration of interests and as a result supplementary guidance has been issued by the Council's Monitoring Officer. It is also intended that refresher training will take place in new municipal year and more emphasis be placed on this area of Code of Conduct as part of the induction process for new Councillors in May 2015.

7.0 The Future

The Committee continues to look for ways to further improve the processes around the consideration of complaints and to expand its activity around the promotion of high standards of ethical behaviour.

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/2015

OUTSIDE BODY	AUTHOR	PAGE
Age UK Berkshire	Nicky Jerrome	1
Age UK Twyford	Mike Haines	4
Atomic Weapons Research Establishment – Local Liaison Committee	Barrie Patman	6
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Bob Pitts	8
Berkshire Maestros	Dee Tomlin	10
Berkshire Museum of Aviation	Bill Soane	12
Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel	Rob Stanton	14
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership Management Committee	Simon Weeks	16
Bracknell and Wokingham College	Rob Stanton	19
Finchampstead Baptist Church Advisory Board	Simon Weeks	21
Keep Mobile	Chris Bowring	24
Mid and West Berks Local Countryside Access Forum	Angus Ross	26
Readibus Management Committee	Guy Grandison	28
Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Board of Governors	Bob Pitts	30
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Alistair Auty Pauline Helliard-Symons Tom McCann Ian Pittock Angus Ross	32
Sonning and District Welfare and Education Trust	Mike Haines	35
South East Employers Association	Rob Stanton Stuart Munro	37
South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (SERFCA)	David Sleight	42

Standing Conference on Archives	Bob Wyatt	44
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)	David Sleight	46
Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Thames Valley Berkshire City Deal Joint Committee	Stuart Munro	48
The Piggott Trust	John Halsall	50
WADE – Wokingham & District Association for the Elderly	Dianne King	51
Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau	Parry Batth	53
Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee	Angus Ross	56
Wokingham Borough Sports Council	Michael Firmager	58
Wokingham Borough Sports Sponsorship Fund	Ken Miall	60
Wokingham Volunteer Centre	Dianne King	63
Wokingham Waterside Centre	David Chopping/Alison Swaddle	65
Wokingham Youth Counselling and Information Service (ARC)	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	67
Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (TCMI)	Keith Baker Bill Soane	69
Woodley Volunteer Centre	Abdul Loyes	71

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Age UK (Berkshire)
Name of Member	Nicky Jerrome
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Observer
Number of meetings called to attend	1
Number of Meetings attended	1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<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) offer a variety of free and charged services to older people directly and via Local Authorities. They campaign on issues effecting older people.</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 met with the Chief Executive shortly after being appointed where I was given plenty of information, printed and verbal. We have had a few informal meetings over the year and exchanged emails and I attended the AGM.</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?

I think the organisation is very effective in reaching out to older people who need assistance. This clearly benefits the council as Age UK benefits our older population socially and in matters of health. A growing proportion of our local population is older and Age UK (Berkshire) will only increase in significance. Their ability to deliver Local Authority contracts as well as charitable work makes them an important local organisation for WBC to maintain links with.

There is clear overlap in objectives in a number of areas and opportunities for collaboration on this and other issues. One example of where the organisation's work meets with the Council's Vision and Priorities is the recent Age UK Winter Warmth campaign which ties in with WBC's own Winter Friends campaign. As part of the campaign we issued a joint press release and I knitted a "Warm Home" – part of a national Age UK campaign – to help raise awareness.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor... Nicky Jerrome

Signed Nicky Jerrome

Dated:...9/3/15

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services

Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Age UK Twyford
Name of Member	Mike Haines
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Councillor Representative
Number of meetings called to attend	12 (I meet regularly with the Chair to keep updated)
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	I m not able to attend because the meetings are always during the day and I am working, - On this basis I have asked if this role can be re-assigned,
Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.	
<p>Twyford Age UK run a small day centre in Twyford, I am pleased to report that they are doing well and have kept themselves out of issues in Woodley and Slough which have beset Age Concern / Age UK. The center runs a number of lunch time sessions for the elderly, a dementia club, they are looking into organizing a Silver Surfer section, and a carers group,.</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>I sat with the Chair and the Treasurer on appointment and ran through the processes and aim's of the group. This was sufficient.</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?

I think the center performs admirably providing a high standard of care for local residents who benefit greatly from the support and companionship that the center staff provides, a number of residents spend part of their care budget allowance, others self fund to provide themselves with a level of care. I am reluctant to give names or identifiable cases.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

I am looking for someone else to take over the role being unable to give justice to it because my employment circumstances changed last year. It is actually a very rewarding role which I am sad to have to hand over.

Councillor...

Signed Mike Haines

Dated:... 23/02/2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	AWE 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	
<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 Local authorities who are adjacent to Aldermaston and Burghfield sites it includes Parish, District and Borough Councils.</p> <p>The main role is to discuss safety aspects of the sites and how this impacts on the local community. AWE has had some issues regarding safety with some minor breaches which have as yet not got beyond the bounds of the sites.</p> <p>There are still active protest groups causing some concern for site security at both Burfield and Aldermaston.</p> <p>There has been a new Managing Director appointed for AWE, Kevin Bilger.</p> <p>The AWE website has been updated is now mobile friendly and contains a wealth of information on the role of AWE and its links with the community it is www.awe.co.uk.</p> <p>AWE has carried out a survey on relationships with the local community with the aim of trying to improve communication.</p> <p>The Aldermaston site has been shortlisted as one of three sites to provide a location for storing radio active parts from the dismantling of nuclear submarines. This will become a hotly disputed issue. WBC has been consulted on this issue and a response was sent by the Exec member concerned.</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?

AWE provides a comprehensive range of materials including documentation, videos and briefings. Meeting include regular reports from the Senior Management Team. They also provide periodic mailings on issues of importance.

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?

This body does not contribute directly to the Council’s Vision but it could be considered under improving health and well being as its main aim is to keep the community safe and keeping the Borough informed of its activities is an important part of its role.

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

Yes /

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

We are only included in this committee because of the proximity of Shinfield to the Burfield site. West Berkshire have a more prominent role in liaising with AWE over planning issues etc. There could be some matters that could have a bearing on what could be developed within the area considered part of the safety zone around Burfield.

Councillor...Barrie Patman.....

Signed...BarriePatman.....
.....

Dated:.....6th march
2015.....

Return completed forms to: Democratic Services Manager
Business Assurance and Democratic Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Name of Member	Bob Pitts
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	
Number of Meetings attended	
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Provider of Community Health services and Mental Health services</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>Induction training and yes</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?

It is the Community Health and Mental Health provider in the area providing a high standard of care

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a well run organisation. I have no concerns about it save that it struggles in the financial climate that the NHS is forced to operate in. Currently it is not in any financial difficulty, in my opinion, due to the outstanding financial director and the quality of the Board. I continue to play an active role on the Council of Governors.

Councillor...

Signed: Bob Pitts

Dated: ...6/3/2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Maestros
Name of Member	Dee Tomlin
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee
Number of meetings called to attend	4
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	One of them I was unwell and could not attend. The other was held during party conference in Glasgow, which I attended. Apologies sent for both meetings
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for schools • Work in the Early Years sector • Excellent concerts and performances providing excellent experiences for our young people • Held Big Play days and a bring buddy days • Introduced a new staff appraisal scheme • Gifted and talented schemes <p>Berkshire Maestros are entering the third year of a three year contract to run the Berkshire Music Hub.</p> <p>A professional organisation providing excellent value for money with a quality of expertise that cannot be matched.</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>Thorough briefing, which has enabled me to understand and carry out the role.</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?

A superb organisation, they provide exceptionally high quality music provision to young people in the borough and support for schools. They are cost effective and very professional striving for excellence at all times. There have been some excellent performances throughout the year.

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

Yes / No Yes most definitely

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor... Dee Tomlin

Signed Dee Tomlin

Dated: 08/03/2015...

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Museum of Aviation
Name of Member	Bill Soane
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	
Number of meetings called to attend	1
Number of Meetings attended	0
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Was not notified of meeting
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>22nd October 2014 meeting - balance £26,809 – (taken from minutes)</p> <p>Date of next meeting 6th May 2015 (AGM)</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>None</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>Will update following AGM in May.</p>	

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
If No, please state why	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor...Bill Soane

Signed Bill Soane

Dated:...03.03.2015

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel
Name of Member	Robert Stanton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member of Board
Number of meetings called to attend	6
Number of Meetings attended	6
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>To monitor on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council the ongoing management of the Berkshire Pension Fund.</p> <p>A major piece of work this year has been the proposals from central government to amalgamate the administration of different local pension funds with the aim of cost cutting.</p> <p>Considerable time was spent investigating such proposals with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils, both who indicated at an early stage they were interested in combining administration with the six Berkshire authorities. All six Berkshire authorities agreed with these proposals at a very senior level as did the Berkshire Trust Board.</p> <p>To our great concern it emerged at the last board meeting that Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire had changed their mind and done a deal with Northamptonshire instead. As a result of this the current management situation will remain in Berkshire. We expect further government legislation after the general election on a way forward for cost saving and pension funds.</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?

The training is fair but will need significant ongoing briefing in light of the constantly changing pension rules coming from central government. Details of this enhanced training will be available shortly.

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?

As a pension fund I think it is well managed. It has a very effective investment committee which in these turbulent financial times have served the pension fund well enough. Major investment proposals come to the main trust board for approval on an individual basis. It would be fair to add that these proposals are not always accepted, the panel being particularly careful and mindful of the funds for which they are responsible.

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

Yes - essential

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor...Robert Stanton

Signed

Dated:...6th March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
Name of Member	Simon Weeks
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Vice-Chairman
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.	<p>Management of recreational and conservation land throughout the length of the Blackwater Valley, from Farnham to the Loddon. This includes the BlackwaterValley Path - a 22 mile long National Trail, 31 wildlife sites, nature reserves and sites of special scientific interest. The partnership is funded by all the adjoining local authorities including county councils, unitary authorities, district and borough councils and parish and town councils.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as a result of budget pressures, WBC withdrew formal funding in 2013.</p> <p>Fortunately, most other relevant authorities continue to contribute to fund the work of the BVCP.</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 have been the WBC representative for 11 years, so am familiar with the aims and objectives of BVCP. I was previously involved with BVCP before I was elected as a borough councillor in 2004</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>BVCP's work enhancing countryside and riverside access, promoting Public Rights of Way and sustaining nature reserves helps to reinforce Wokingham Borough's position as a great place to live. BVCP is increasingly involved in the management of SANGs for some of the supporting authorities.</p>
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>	<p>Yes - but WBC has discontinued formula funding. Despite this, I was elected as Vice-Chairman in 2014.</p>

If No, please state why	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	WBC's decision to no longer contribute financially to the Partnership, will make it much more difficult to achieve the agreed WBC objective of having a riverside path along the Blackwater and Loddon throughout the borough. Although WBC is still able to attend meetings, our lack of contributions could result in a reduction in our influence in the long term and hence our ability to deliver the desired riverside path throughout the borough.

Councillor Simon Weeks...

Signed - SW

Dated:...6 March 2015

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ
 or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Bracknell and Wokingham College
Name of Member	Robert Stanton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	College Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	10
Number of Meetings attended	9
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>As a full member of the governing body, I have a key role in all executive decisions on behalf of the college. As a governor representing the council, I am mindful of any decision taken on the board and of my accountabilities to both the college and the council. The college itself has performed well academically with recognition from OFSTED of a good rating. Funding for colleges is an area of concern which is likely to remain at a low level well beyond the general election.</p> <p>2015/16 currently forecast to show a deficit and heavy pressure remains on costs. Non funded income has also hardened but is an essential cash inflow in a very competitive market.</p> <p>Historically the college has very high staff costs, percentage to income and has an ongoing programme to reduce to a more acceptable level. Staff are not automatically replaced but it is important to retain high quality teaching staff.</p> <p>There has been no salary increases at this college for four years.</p> <p>An earlier decision recognised the lack of demand for the 14/16 provision which had traditionally been housed in the Wick Hill provision. With the decision to discontinue those courses due to lack of demand has made the Wick Hill provision surplus to requirements and will close in July 2015. That property may well be sold in the fullness of time.</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?

There is significant training and this is of a high quality. I have been on two courses myself as supported by Bracknell and Wokingham College.

I currently serve on the Audit Committee as Vice Chairman.

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 think we have an excellent college in our domain which is extremely well managed by both the governing body and the principle of the college.

It is a prize asset.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor...Robert Stanton

Signed

Dated:...6th March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Finchampstead Baptist Church Advisory Board
Name of Member	Simon Weeks
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representative
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
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.	<p>Opened in 2010, Finchampstead Baptist Church funded and built this £5m community centre on land owned by WBC. As well as a large sports hall, meeting rooms, café, parish office and police point, there are two WBC facilities within the building - a Childrens Centre and a library. Youth work and social/sports activities are also delivered at FBC. All of the facilities are heavily used and there is now little spare capacity. Funding for the development of a MUGA is being finalised.</p> <p>The Advisory Board's principal aim is to ensure that the use of the Centre by the church, the community and WBC are appropriately balanced, whilst maximising the occupancy levels of the building and associated facilities.</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 this project as a concept for several years before actual delivery in 2010, I was very aware of the significant shortfall in accessible community facilities throughout Finchampstead. Therefore both WBC's and FBC's objectives were well aligned and understood.</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 extensive range of community and social activities, (clubs, associations, teams and groups), covering a wide age range, help social cohesion and community development across Finchampstead. The community previously lacked a hub and over the past 5 years FBC has enhanced many residents lives.</p> <p>The Arborfield SDL is likely to result in even greater use of the FBC facilities. The church is already considering providing similar facilities in Arborfield.</p>
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor Simon Weeks

Signed SW

Dated: 6 March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ
or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Keep Mobile
Name of Member	Christopher Bowring
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	WBC representative
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	1
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash with other WBC meetings
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Having attended only one management meeting during my brief period as WBC representative (I resigned in October 2014), it is difficult for me to give an overview of the activities during the municipal year.</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>Due to my brief tenure I was unable to understand the direction the organisation was taking.</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?

Insufficient knowledge to determine.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor Christopher Bowring

Signed

Dated:...5th March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	MID & WEST BERKS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
Name of Member	Cllr Angus Ross
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The LAF continues to bring together reps from the three council areas – Reading, Wokingham and West Berks.</p> <p>The first formal meeting that I attended gave an opportunity to show Members Dinton pastures Country park including the then newly opened Children’s Play Area and the Dinton Activity Centre. Also to update members on the progress being made by WBC on the Greenways project and the plans for a River Loddon Path. The Forum was pleased to find this progress and it had not previously been reported.</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>Paperwork on role etc provided and an initial meeting held to brief me before the first formal 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>It does give an opportunity to ensure cross border collaboration, find best practice and share administration support.</p> <p>It will act as a very useful initial consultative group as new Footpaths, Bridleways and Greenways come forward in our SDL’s.</p>	

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
If No, please state why	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor Angus Ross

Signed

Dated: 8 March 2015...

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	ReadiBus
Name of Member	Guy Grandison
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Director
Number of meetings called to attend	6 (Including Day out on Buses & AGM)
Number of Meetings attended	4
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	(Clash with Council Meeting & Illness)
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>ReadiBus aims to provide mobility and independence to people with restricted mobility who would otherwise have great difficulty in getting out and about.</p> <p>ReadiBus' principal service is a Dial-a-Ride door-to-door, fully accessible, assisted bus service for people who cannot use, or have great difficulty in using, ordinary public transport. It is available in Central and West Berkshire and in parts of the fringe of South Oxfordshire. Some services are timetabled and run at the same time each week.</p> <p>ReadiBus also offers Shopping Assistance, Excursions and Bus Hire and Training Courses in Disability Awareness, Passenger Safety and Minibus Driving.</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>Our Board meetings are held several times a year and papers are sent out several days in advance.</p> <p>Speaking with Users upon my trip out on the buses over the Christmas period it remains clear at how well loved and used the service is and people were also pleased to see me as the Wokingham Borough Council Representative and voiced their full support for the service.</p> <p>Prior to each board meeting we also receive the quarterly reports</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 provides a vital service in the greater Reading Area for those who would normally not be able to be as independent without the service provided by Readibus. The bus trips themselves are semi regular with users knowing each other and happily speaking with everyone on buses.</p> <p>This Service is Investing in providing the environment that increases our resident's independence as per our Vision.</p>	
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>If No, please state why</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p> <p>The Financial Climate continues to affect Readibus but steps continues to be taken which is good to see. Usage and reliability continues to be high with new users being brought on continually.</p> <p>A New Website came online in the last year improving the methods that Readibus is serving the community.</p> <p>It has been a good year for Readibus and I feel next year it will go from strength to strength.</p>	

Councillor... Guy Grandison

Signed *Guy Grandison*

Dated:... 8/3/15

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Name of Member	Bob Pitts
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Governor
Number of meetings called to attend	
Number of Meetings attended	
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.	
Provider of Healthcare	
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?	
Induction training and yes	

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 the main hospital in the area providing a high standard of care

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

The Royal Berks continues to be under the spotlight from the regulatory bodies due to financial concerns and the A & E targets. The new CEO is leading the way forward and I have every confidence in her. She has already made changes to the Board and the search is underway for a new chairman. I continue to play an active role on the Council of Governors.

Councillor...

Signed: Bob Pitts

Dated:...6/3/2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Name of Member	Alistair Auty, Ian Pittock, Pauline Helliar-Symons, Tom McCann, Angus Ross
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Members of Fire Authority
Number of meetings called to attend	varied
Number of Meetings attended	Information available
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>1.General: The year has been marked by the initiatives set in motion by the new Chief Officer, Andy Fry together with the Authority Chairman. A lot has been set in motion – see reports below.</p> <p>2. Cllr Helliar-Symons – Vice-Chairman of RBFA & Member Management Committee This year has seen a real sea change in the culture of the Fire Service, bringing an already good Fire Brigade into the modern age. This has been on three main fronts - a new policy direction which has been put together through a series of meetings between members and senior and middle leaders of the Brigade - a first for the RBFRS; the greater empowerment of middle leaders; and a richer working with partners, including Local Authorities. This change started with the appointment of the new Chief Fire Officer, Andy Fry 18 months ago, in whose appointment Pauline and Angus were involved along with the Chairman, Colin Dudley from Bracknell Forest and the two leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democratic groups, and who was appointed because we believed he had the capacity to effect this culture change, and he has not disappointed us. Since then, the same group of people have appointed a new Deputy Chief Fire Officer Trevor Ferguson (who incidentally was a member of the LGA peer review team and liked Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service so much that he wanted to join it) - he has done some superb work, along with the CFO and Chairman, to give ownership of the new policy direction to all staff. Finally Pauline, who is the Champion for Organisational Development, has with the CFO just appointed a new Director of People and Organisational Development, Anne Marie Scott, who will be doing a great deal of training with the middle leaders who are anxious for development and more ownership of their work, and many of whom are new promotions; she is also aiming to achieve the Investors in People award for the Fire Service which has a new framework centred around staff engagement and which therefore fits our new era. Pauline has also arranged for the CFO to speak to our own Overview & Scrutiny</p>	

Committee, the Chairman of Planning, and the Executive Members for Planning and Highways, Environment and Town Centre Regeneration, since in the past the Fire Service has only been able to be involved in planning discussions when it is too late and all the decisions have already been taken - and prevention of fire (such as sprinklers in new school buildings) has not been able to be built in; he is also due to speak to the whole Council about how the two organisations can help each other. One of the big areas is about robust data sharing by the Council to the FRS of where vulnerable people live, and the FRS being enabled to develop further its prevention work, especially with young people.

On the down side, we have had to cope with the aftermath of the floods of last year and planning for future flooding; and we have had the national strikes - these have cost the FRS about £885,000 so far in providing and training back up crews so as to keep the county safe. On the budget we have had the usual government cuts but due to the superb work by the Treasurer Andrew Vallance, the budget is in as strong a state as it can be and we have no serious worries about how to fund future years, with a nil increase in Council tax this year. We have also moved into new headquarters, Newsham Court at Calcot since the old HQ at Dee Road Reading was well past its sell by date, but will be a valuable site to realise as an asset for sale.

I hope that WBC will continue to develop this closer working relationship with RBFERS to the benefit of both.

Pauline Helliard-Symons, Vice Chairman RBFERS.

3. Cllr Angus Ross – Chairman, Strategic Asset Management Committee (SAMC) & Member Management Committee & Member Thames Valley Fire Control 'Programme Sponsoring Group' (TVFCS PSG)(Each County has two members)

During the year four meetings of SAMC were held at various locations. Its main activity has been the successful refurbishment and opening of the new Brigade HQ in Calcot, named Newsham Court after the famous inventor of the Fire Pump in 1725 used first in Berkshire. In addition it has overseen the opening of the new Fire Station in Windsor, provided by RBWM and the sale, subject to Planning, of the old St Marks Road site. Further it has been involved, amongst other matters, with the works required to secure Wokingham Fire Station, the search for a replacement station for Tilehurst and reviewing and renewing policy on Vehicles and IT, a busy year.

The TVFCS PSG met on five occasions and will, after the Go-Live of the new Fire Control Centre for Berks Buck & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire in late March, become the Joint Committee to oversee this operation on behalf of the three counties, of which I am Chairman elect for the first year. This Joint Control will introduce modern systems and techniques and save over £15m over ten years across the three counties – a 'win win' after years of lack of investment during the abortive years trying to introduce Regional Fire Control Centres. There has been exemplary cooperation amongst the partners.

4. Cllr Auty – Member Discipline, Appeals & Grievance (DAG) Committee

The DAG Committee met once in November with both Cllrs Auty and McCann present where the Committee ultimately upheld a disciplinary decision originally made by RBFERS.

5. Cllr McCann – Member SAMC, Appeals & Grievance Committee

See above.

6. Cllr Pittock – Member SAMC

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?

See Cllr Helliar-Symons 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?

Increased working with WBC and plans for further collaboration

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

Yes /

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Compiled by Councillor Angus Ross, with input from the other representatives

Signed

Dated: ...09.03.2015.

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

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 £40,000. 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 aim's of the group. This was sufficient.</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?

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.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

The fund is underused with only 2 or 3 claims made this year, although the scale is limited, if any members know of deserving cases in the Sonning / Charvil / Sonning Common area please encourage them to apply.

Councillor...

Signed Mike Haines

Dated:... 23/02/2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	South East Employers
Name of Member	Robert Stanton
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member
Number of meetings called to attend	5
Number of Meetings attended	4
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>This is an employment organisation which manages terms, conditions of local government employees and advises councils on appropriate approaches to staff pay and conditions.</p> <p>Some of the projects in support of councils that has been undertaken this year include seminars on employment relations, updating on HR legislation, wide ranging consultancy to councils and some advisory work around pay levels for senior directors.</p> <p>Examples included in recent seminars:- Impact of devolution The rise of fringe political parties e.g. UKIP, Greens etc. English votes for English issues General disconnection of politics by the general public Low levels of voting in local elections and localism Pressure of public expenditure e.g. NHS/LA The likely impact of leaving EU Big transport issues e.g. railways Future of district councils How does central government work with local government Local government transformation with current costing environment</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 of its general operation is undertaken annually at the AGM in July each year. This includes appointments to the executive (of which I am a member) as well as chairman etc. It is a politically balanced organisation which is reviewed each year following local elections which dictates membership of the executive and relevant working parties. This briefing is of a good quality.

Additionally it is acknowledged to provide our HR department with high quality advice on HR and legal issues on an ongoing basis.

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 think it is a really important group to contribute towards as it is well connected to the Local Government Association, it is a powerful lobby group towards government and opposition members of Parliament as well as leading trade unions.

Government use it to consult to local councils which puts it in a powerful position.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

I think it is a good investment to belong SEE for their advice, support and ability to lobby on our behalf to the government of the day.

Councillor... Robert Stanton

Signed

Dated:...6th March 2015

**WOKINGHAM BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK

FORM MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014-2015

Name of Organisation	South East Employers Association
Name of Member	Stuart Munro and Rob Stanton (Rob Stanton has also provided a report)
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer	R S Member and Member of the Executive Board , S M Member and Member of the
Number of meetings called to attend	S M AGM plus 3 separate Executive meetings RS AGM plus 3 separate Executive meetings
Number of Meetings attended	SM AGM plus 3 separate Executive Meetings RS AGM plus 3 separate Executive meetings.
Reasons for not attending, if	All meetings this year attended.

Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.

WBC rejoined for the Municipal year 2013-14

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.

The South East Employer Group (SEE) has completely restructured its operation, settled into its HQ all in the interests of better value for money.

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 and ongoing.

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?

Full briefing information was given prior to AGM at the start of the Municipal year.

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?

Their contribution continues to be valuable.

The work on the pay round is of particular value and some of the key member training has also been effective and well received.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

--

Councillor



Signed

Dated 20th February 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	South East Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association (SERFCA)
Name of Member	Cllr (Col) DW Sleight – as SERFCA addresses me.
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Berkshire Committee Member representing Wokingham Borough Council.
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>SERFCA is responsible for recruiting support for all Armed Services Reserves and support to employers, particularly those employing Reservists. It also administers the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and manages the property for the Sea Cadet Corps and Air Training Corps. It is also responsible for the upkeep of the Reserve Estate of buildings.</p> <p>With the greater reliance on the Reserve Forces, it is fair to say that recruiting Reservists has assumed a higher profile and results are by no means as gloomy as some recent reports have suggested. Reservists were regularly called up for deployment on operations in Afghanistan, with the withdrawal of British Forces from that theatre it will be interesting to see that effect that will have, if any, on recruitment.</p> <p>SERFCA has to live within budget restrictions but is also wishing to expand the CCF into secondary schools which may be appropriate for our new Arborfield School. The closure of the Arborfield Garrison and our re-development of Carnival Field in Wokingham will require SERFCA to find alternative accommodation for the cadet detachments in these locations.</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>Various publications but I was familiar with the Reserve Forces during my 35 years of Army service.</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>Reserve Forces and the Cadets contribute to vibrant communities, general wellbeing and quality of life by developing young people giving them a sense of purpose, self-confidence and achievement.</p>	
<p>Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If No, please state why</p>	
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p>	
<p> </p>	

Councillor David Sleight

Signed *David Sleight*

Dated: 19th February 2015.

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Standing Conference on Archives
Name of Member	Bob Wyatt
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	
Number of meetings called to attend	two
Number of Meetings attended	two
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>All Unitary Authorities in Berkshire are invited to attend two annual meetings of the Conference at Coley Avenue, Reading. The Councils take on the Chairmanship in turn; this year it was held by 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>Monthly publication on the Archives issued from Berkshire County Archives to members of the Conference. It also receives the Archivist's Annual Report</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?

The Councils have a statutory duty to fund the maintenance of the Archives and making them available to the public. This meeting involves elected members.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Dr Peter Durrant MBE has retired from the post of County Archivist and it has been filled by his Deputy Mark Stevens, an expert on the records of Broadmoor Hospital.

Several exhibitions have been held to show the extent of the material held.

Councillor...R J W Wyatt

Signed

Dated:1 March 2015...

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) of the LGA
Name of Member	David Sleight
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Council Representative
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The last year has been dominated by the ongoing work of the Airports Commission which published its assessment of an Inner Thames Estuary airport as proposed by the Mayor of London in the middle of 2014. This assessment discounted the proposal mainly on the grounds of the cost of both construction and providing surface access links. Consequently it was not added to the short list for additional runway capacity in the South East.</p> <p>The Commission also published its assessments of the 3 short listed options (2 sites at Heathrow and at Gatwick) for public consultation in September 2014 to which both SASIG and Wokingham Borough Council have submitted responses.</p> <p>SASIG wishes to see surface access links to our main airports improved. This is particularly relevant at the moment with developing plans for Western and Southern Access to Heathrow and improved services to Gatwick Airport.</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>Various publications but I have taken a general interest in transport for some years.</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>Wokingham Borough aspires to be "an even better place to do business". Excellent connectivity to our main airports is essential. While further expansion in aviation is required for the United Kingdom to enhance its position as a trading nation, this expansion</p>	

must go hand in hand with measures to mitigate the effects of aircraft noise, air quality and traffic congestion around airports. SASIG, as a LGA Group, is well placed to co-ordinate lobbying activity to achieve this.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

SASIG prepares and published a weekly bulletin on matters relating to airports and local authorities interests in the field. This is on a member only website to which Members and Officers may have access. Should they wish the details on logging in please contact me.

Councillor David Sleight

Signed *David Sleight*

Dated: 19th February 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2013 - 2014

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	5
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<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 £97m which includes the full, pre-allocated transport funds as well as indicative transport funding from 2016/17 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 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

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor...Stuart Munro

Dated: 23 February 2015



Signed

Return completed forms to:

Democratic Services

Governance and Improvement Services,

Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

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	One
Number of Meetings attended	One late
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Council
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Piggott Trust is an educational trust in Wargrave. WBC is the education authority</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>All needed</p>	

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	WADE – Wokingham & District Association for the Elderly
Name of Member	DIANNE KING
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee
Number of meetings called to attend	6
Number of Meetings attended	5 plus events
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Change of date of mtg which then clashed with meeting at WBC
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>WADE runs a day centre for the elderly in Reading Road providing lunch and activities. There is also a Charity shop in Wokingham Town Centre which raised funds for the organisation.</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>Details of work of the organisation and current financing. As this was my first year on the committee I also talked to the previous member rep and officers at WBC for some guidance</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?

There is a hardworking and committed management committee.

The centre has its own catering staff and charges clients on a daily fee basis.

It also has a minibus to provide a travel service to the centre.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

As well as running the centre and the shop the organisation holds regular fund raising event such as Christmas and Summer fares and some evening activities to raise extra funds

Councillor... Dianne King

Signed

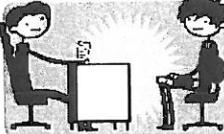
Dated:...6th March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	WOKINGHAM CAB
Name of Member	CLLR PARRY BATTH
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR
Number of meetings called to attend	TWO
Number of Meetings attended	TWO
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Advice and information on-line <u>Local Information</u> service provides advice and information for the Wokingham and Reading areas. <u>Fact Sheets</u> for summary advice from links to national and government sites. <u>On-line Advice</u> provides links to national advice and government sites offering self-help information on a wide variety of topics including <u>Benefits</u>, <u>Consumer issues</u>, <u>Employment</u>, <u>Housing</u>, <u>Finance</u>, <u>Debt</u>, <u>Disability</u> and the <u>Law</u>.</p> <p align="center">Assessments and advice</p>  <p>We offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● face-to-face assessments and advice at a no. of locations; ● 10 minute telephone assessments; ● email assessments <p>Click on <u>contact us</u> to find out where we are and how to get in touch. Click <u>services</u> to see the range of issues we can advise on.</p> <p>Financial Advice We offer professional independent financial advice to our clients. This is called the Moneyplan service. Click <u>here</u> for more details.</p>	

Citizens Advice



We are the local, self-governing outlet of the network of bureaux administered nationally by Citizens Advice..

Social Policy



To supplement our problem solving work we campaign to bring about policy change.

Citizens Advice Social Policy work has a significant influence nationally.

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 fully briefed by the Chief Executive – as such I am able to carry out my roles

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 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

Quality



We pride ourselves on the quality of the advice we give.

Our work is audited by the Community Legal Service and we have been awarded Quality Marks by them for our general advice and for our Debt Case Work.

Funding



Like most Citizens Advice bureaux we receive the bulk of our funding from the Local Authority. For us this is Wokingham Borough Council. We also receive grants from Wokingham, Woodley and Earley Town Councils and other local parish councils. In addition, other individuals and organisations provide support in a number of ways.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor... Parry Bath

Signed *PS Bath*

Date: 24th February 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee
Name of Member	Angus Ross
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Committee Member
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	3
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>This organisation continues to provide a vital service to residents of the borough who find themselves out of work. It is available to the whole borough though some residents nearer to Reading may use their service – equally a few from Bracknell and Crowthorne use ours.</p> <p>It provides services useful to the Borough Council and so has enjoyed continued financial support from WBC which I trust can continue.</p> <p>The Centre booked in 279 new clients in the last 12 months, about a half being in 25 to 49 years range and 40% over 50 years. They continue with 8 volunteer Advisors, the only paid staff being the part-time administrators.</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 used to be a WJSC Officer so well aware of their organisation. I receive regular stats updates and invites to management Committee meetings.</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>See above</p>	

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	<u>Yes</u> / No
If No, please state why	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful	

Councillor Angus Ross

Signed

Dated:... 8 March 2015

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
 democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

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
Number of Meetings attended	6
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>None. I had previously been a member 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>Wokingham Borough Sports Council does contribute to improving health, wellbeing and the quality of life.</p> <p>This is where different sports clubs and representatives can meet to share experiences, information and on occasions work together.</p> <p>Also, it arranges the annual Wokingham Borough Sports Awards with a well know local sports personality as guest of honour. For the last awards in 2014 the guest was Megan Fletcher, the England Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist. This is always an inspiring occasion.</p>	

Do you think the Council should continue to be represented on this Outside Body?	Yes
If No, please state why	
<p>Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful</p> <p>The website address is www.wokinghamboroughsportsCouncil.org.</p>	

Councillor Michael Firmager

Signed 

Dated: 2nd March 2015

Return completed forms to:
 Democratic Services
 Governance and Improvement Services,
 Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014- 2015

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Borough Sports Sponsorship Fund
Name of Member	Ken Miall
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Panel Member
Number of meetings called to attend	2
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>Sporting Development Grants</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>Help aid exceptional children up to the age of 18 with sport costs</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?

See my annual report

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

See my annual report

Councillor.....Ken Miall.....

Signed..... *K Miall* **Dated:...**3rd March 2015.....

Return completed forms to: Democratic Services Manager
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH SPORTS SPONSORSHIP FUND

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014- 2015

Date: 3rd March 2015.

The Wokingham Borough Sports Sponsorship Fund (WBSSF) is distributed by a committee that meets twice a year. The committee looks at requests for funding of children living in Wokingham Borough up to the age of 18, funding is given to truly exceptional and dedicated athletes that are already competing at local, national and international level. The funding for the WBSSF comes from the Sports Council and some additional sources.

Many people with children will be aware of the costs involved when their child takes up a sport, and when at a competing level the costs involved can be considerable with equipment, kit and travel expenses, No matter your financial status, these costs can sometimes be restrictive and a little extra funding can make all the difference for some children going on to achieve great things.

In 2014 we have given £5750.00 to 20 children aged 10 to 17 years old.

Sport disciplines supported are Athletics, Trampoline, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Rowing, Ice Hockey, Synchro Swimming, Golf, Badminton, cycling and Kayaking.

One additional point I would like to bring to everyone's attention is "Matched Funding". When we award funding to children living in some town wards, the local town council will match the funding given by this committee, Now we have Finchampstead, Hurst, Winnersh, Wokingham and Earley Town Councils supporting this very worthwhile fund.

If you were one of the councillors that did bring this fund to your town councils notice then a very big thank you to you.

If you would like your town council to offer "matched funding" then Beverley Thompson is the contact at WBC if you require additional information. In these difficult times I am well aware of the demands on expenditure, but consideration of this will cost nothing.

Our targets this year are Arborfield & Newland, Charvil, Remenham, Ruscombe, Shinfield, Sonning, Swallowfield, Twyford and Wokingham Without. So if any of you know these town councils well, then please by all means pass them a copy of this request.



Cllr Ken Miall.

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

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	5
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clash 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>Finding and placing volunteers Running a volunteer transport service (eg to hospitals/ doctors etc) Running a gardening scheme in the area for older residents Running a town centre mobility scheme</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 have represented the Council for many years and the organisation is well known to me and I am aware of its activities and achievements</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?

The organisation provides a volunteer gardening scheme in partnership with the Council.

It provides volunteer transport for residents of the Borough, mainly for hospital, doctor and similar visits.

They also act as a broker to find and place volunteers in the Borough.

The Centre is a representative on the Place and Community Partnership which is part of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership

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

Councillor... Dianne King

Signed

Dated:...6th March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Waterside Centre
Name of Member	David Chopping
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Director
Number of meetings called to attend	5
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Conflict with other meetings when meeting dates changed after diary entry, holiday
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>The provision of an accessible, prestigious and a well equipped facility to all members of the local community at affordable prices.</p> <p>-To enable everyone to have fun whilst experiencing the challenge and excitement of water sports in a safe and beautiful environment.</p> <p>The Centre management board established these objectives in 2003 when the Charity was first formed to take over the management and direction of a custom built and excellently equipped water sports centre, set on a particularly beautiful stretch of the River Thames, near Reading and Wokingham in Berkshire. Those objectives remain as relevant today as they did at the inception of the Charity.</p> <p>In essence the provision of water-based sports on the River Thames and other locations. Working with able-bodied groups, companies, schools and specialist organisations to improve personal confidence, through sporting activities</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>Induction and training</p> <p>When new trustees are appointed they are invited to the Centre for a day to see for themselves the activities of the Centre and the type of programs the Centre offers. These inductions are typically run when there are numbers of young people participating in programmes.</p>	

Each new trustee is invited to attend a meeting at which the operation of the Centre is explained. In addition to the day to day running, this covers the administrative and control procedures, the health and safety controls and the responsibilities of the trustees.

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 Centre has strived to provide water based sports facilities in as safe a manner as is possible. To achieve this they have become one of the few BCU accredited facilities in the country. The Centre sets the highest of standards, making this it one of the best quality units in the country. Working with schools, youth groups, scouts etc, as well as families the Centre promotes water based sports, and the self assurance of future generations

Whilst employing a full time centre manager to run day-to-day matters, together with part-time highly qualified training staff, the Centre is, otherwise, only staffed by dedicated amateurs. Quite frankly I am amazed at the dedication and skill shown across the volunteering sections of the Centre.

The Centre also hosts the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon, "one of the most demanding open-to-all endurance events on the planet", as it sits on the confluence of the Kennet & Avon canal, with the River Thames.

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

YES

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

There is little more to add except to strongly recommend to the Council that this is a local facility which is well thought out in its concept, conscientiously and well managed, doing a difficult job. It is a well thought of organisation, much respected in its field, and worthy of our full support. I wish my successor, Alison Swaddle, all the best, she will be amazed at what is achieved here.

My personal regret is that I have to hand over my responsibilities to another, so that our involvement meets with their own preferred timings for meetings. We are there for their benefit and must listen to their requests. The WWC deserves our full support.

Councillor... David Chopping

Signed

D. D. Chopping

Dated:... 17th February 2015

Return completed forms to:

Democratic Services

Governance and Improvement Services,

Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Wokingham Youth Counselling and Information Service (ARC)
Name of Member	Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Member Executive Committee
Number of meetings called to attend	6
Number of Meetings attended	5 individual meetings with the director and 1 event
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	The meetings conflicted with Planning committee meetings and other assigned committees and training.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <p>They covered mental well being issues of young people including but not limited to bullying, homophobia, depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, substance abuse, parental abuse, sexual abuse and low self esteem.</p> <p>They provided counselling in the borough schools, in a separate location, as well as referrals from CAMHS for less serious cases. They helped the young people stay in school, perform better in school and cope with problems at home at school and with their peers. They also worked with parents to help them cope with their own stresses, mental health issues and to provide a more supportive and nurturing home life for children easing the stress of life as a teenager.</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 had an individual briefing on the aims, and objectives of the ARC to help the well being of young people in the Borough</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?

ARC has very effectively helped young people who would not be able to succeed in life without their help. It has helped maintain and enhance the Wmental well being and enabled children to stay in school, go to apprenticeships and go on to further education to become productive members of society.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

I believe that mental health is an issue that seems to be ignored largely in the past and this has allowed many people to fall through the cracks of society or not succeed in life up to their full potential. There has been a perception in the past that mental health issues are a weakness in character, and that individuals just need to pull themselves together by their bootstraps rather than a real issue. Mental health issues have been realised to cost the UK economy a lot of money in lost lives and lost productivity. No more than you can cure a broken leg or pathogenic illness without medical treatment, so you can help people with counselling to get them through times of stress and make them more resilient to cope in the future

Councillor Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Signed
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Dated:...
8 March 2015

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (TCMI)
Name of Member	Keith Baker and Bill Saone
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Committee Member / Executive Committee Member
Number of meetings called to attend	18
Number of Meetings attended	15
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	Clashed with council meetings
<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. 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. A project has been set up to redevelop the northern end (Headley Road end) with a budget of around £100K. 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>As I have been involved with this organisation for over 8 years I have had full information available.</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?

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.

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

Yes / No

If No, please state why

N/A

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

This initiative is hugely successful and other town centres have been visiting to understand the way business has been carried out. One of the keys to the success is having small Executive overseeing things together with the TOTAL depoliticising of the Initiative. This does not mean politicians are not involved but they leave their political hats outside the door of any meeting.

Councillor... Keith Baker (and on behalf of Bill Soane)

Signed

Dated:...
09/3/15

Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM

MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2014 - 2015

Name of Organisation	Woodley Volunteer Centre, Christchurch Hall, Crockhamwell Road, Woodley
Name of Member	Abdul Loyes
Capacity appointed, e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Wokingham Borough Council Representative
Number of meetings called to attend	3
Number of Meetings attended	2
Reasons for not attending, if appropriate	One meeting missed due to clash with a Borough meeting.
<p>Please give a brief synopsis of the key areas covered by the Outside Body during the past Municipal Year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer drivers taking patients to their local doctor's surgery & hospitals. - 5 alarm aids are in use, more available if required. - Recruitment of more drivers needed as there is an increase of demand for this service. 	
<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>In November 2014, Healthwatch Wokingham carried out a survey which looked at the value of voluntary transport. From this research, it was found 170,000 patient visited the Royal Berkshire Hospital were from the Borough. Of these 170,000 patients, 130,000 visitors made their own way, 24,000 were A&E emergency admissions and 16,000 visits were assisted non A&E. 3,500 (22%) of these are made by volunteers - (350 volunteer drivers and 80 support staff). The report noted the significant cost saving as a result of these volunteers and the importance of funding their organisations. The volunteer's priority is to take the patients to the doctor/hospital.</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>	

The volunteers of the centre are very hard working and are highly dedicated towards the residents of Woodley and surrounding areas of Wokingham Borough. Example, free transport car service.

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

Yes

If No, please state why

-

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor...

Cllr Abdul Loyes, Loddon Ward Woodley

Signed

Abdul Loyes

Dated:...

4/3/2015

Return completed forms to:

Democratic Services

Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

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 relevant

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

Yes

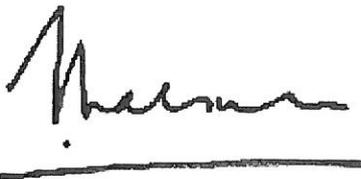
If No, please state why

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful

Councillor...

Signed

Dated:...1st March 2015



Return completed forms to:
Democratic Services
Governance and Improvement Services,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WQ or
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank