



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN **MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 27 October 2017

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

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

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

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

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

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Shahid Younis (Chairman)	Bill Soane (Vice-Chairman)	Pauline Jorgensen
Abdul Loyes	Ken Miall	Philip Mirfin
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	David Sleight	

Substitutes

Mike Haines	Dianne King	Ian Pittock
Clive Jones		

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
20.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
21.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017.	7 - 12
22.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
23.		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 this committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee 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	
24.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.	
25.	None Specific	REPORT BY THE CATEGORY MANAGER - HOUSING OPERATIONS To update Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on encampments in the borough for 16/17 and 17/18 year to date.	13 - 20
26.	None Specific	UPDATE FROM LOCAL POLICE COMMANDER	21 - 24

To consider an update on policing in the Borough following submissions to Council in September 2017 by the Chief Constable and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

27. None Specific

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETINGS - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING

25 - 28

To consider items for inclusion in future agendas.

28.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as appropriate.

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2017 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.40 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Shahid Younis (Chairman), Bill Soane (Vice-Chairman), Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey and David Sleight

Other Councillors Present

Councillors: Chris Bowring

Officers Present

Neil Carr (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist), Alex Deans (Highways and Transport Transition Lead), David Wilby (Principal Planner, Highways and Transport) and Louise Strongitharm (Category Manager, Strategy and Commissioning)

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted by Pauline Jorgensen and Philip Mirfin.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

15. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

16. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR SERVICES (PLACE COMMISSIONING)

The Committee considered a report, Agenda pages 9 to 12, which gave details of the strategic review of Voluntary and Community Sector providers being undertaken by the Place Commissioning service. This piece of work mirrored the approach taken by the People Commissioning Service as reported to the previous meeting of the Committee (Minute 7 refers).

The aim of the review was to deliver:

- Measurable outcomes for each commissioned or grant funded voluntary sector service;
- A clear correlation between grant funding of a service and the achievement of measurable outcomes;
- The increased use of contracts rather than grants for voluntary sector services;
- Development of investment priorities to help shape the future commissioning of voluntary sector services.

Louise Strongitharm, Category Manager, Strategy and Commissioning, stated that the scale of Place-based voluntary and community sector commissioning was considerably

smaller than in People Commissioning, with only three organisations currently receiving annual grant-based funding, totalling £45,600. The organisations were:

- Wokingham Job Support Club;
- Woodley Town Council (Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative);
- Earley Town Council (Earley Help Shop).

The approach being taken in Place Commissioning was the same as that in People Commissioning to ensure consistency across the Council. The process involved an initial meeting with the providers followed by commissioning analysis and the development of recommendations. A second meeting with each of the providers would involve sharing the outcome of the review and any recommendations for the future. In the event of a proposal to decommission a service transitional support arrangements would be put in place.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- In addition to the three organisations currently receiving funding, were any other organisations under consideration? It was confirmed that the ongoing pressure on budgets meant that there were no plans to extend funding to other organisations.
- In the move to longer term contract-based arrangements how would organisational performance be monitored? It was confirmed that performance targets would be agreed with each of the organisations and would be the subject of ongoing assessment.
- As discussed at the previous meeting, how would Officers keep Members updated about issues relating to voluntary sector providers in their wards? It was confirmed that discussions would be held with People Commissioning to identify suitable communication channels for Members.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the update on the Place Commissioning service review of voluntary and community sector services be noted;
- 2) the components of the review, including partnership agreements, commissioned services and a move from grants to contracts, be supported;
- 3) People and Place Commissioning services develop a method for improved communication with Members on issues relating to voluntary sector service providers in their wards.

17. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report, Agenda pages 13 to 18, which provided an update on highways and transport activities and initiatives within the Highways Alliance (Wokingham Borough Council, WSP and Balfour Beatty Living Places). Alex Deans (Highways and Transport Transition Lead) and Chris Bowring (Executive Member for Highways and Transport) attended the meeting to answer Member questions.

The report focussed on a number of issues including:

- Highways asset management;

- Checks and balances to ensure that roadworks were delivered to the correct specification and quality standard;
- Highways England Smart Motorway project acoustic barriers;
- M4/J10 improvement works to improve traffic flows and reduce congestion.

The report stated that the Highways Alliance had focussed on improving the quality of reactive works (patching and potholes), improving the delivery of highways projects and customer communication and service. The current contractual arrangements with WSP and Balfour Beatty were due to end in March 2019. In the meantime, a review of Highways and Transport was under way as part of the 21st Century Council programme. The outcomes from the review would be incorporated into the new Highways and Transport contracts.

The report also gave details of stakeholder workshops held to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the service. The workshops, involving Members and Town and Parish Councils, were useful in identifying key local issues and priorities over the next 20 years. Issues raised included the impact of new housing, traffic congestion, air quality, health and wellbeing and alternatives to the car.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- What penalties could the Council impose on utility companies when roadworks were not completed on time? It was confirmed that Officers met with the utility companies to co-ordinate projects. However, emergency works could be necessary and these could not be co-ordinated in advance. Good communication and management of expectations were important. A further briefing session on communication was being arranged for Members later in 2017.
- What works were being undertaken at Junction 10 of the M4? It was confirmed that major bridge maintenance works were being carried out and that Highways England was the client.
- When would new performance indicators, linked to 21st Century Council, be introduced and reported to Members? It was confirmed that new performance measures were being designed to address high level issues identified in the Council's visioning work and operational matters such as response times. An update would be provided to Members at the communications briefing later in the year. Members emphasised the need for more up to date information as part of the new performance management regime.
- Members queried the response time for the Highways for Members Inbox service. Had the response time been increased from 48 hours to five days? It was confirmed that the Highways for Members service had originally been set up with a five day response time and this had not changed. Members requested clarification on response times and the route to be followed for other issues e.g. emergencies.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the improvements to Highways and Transport services and customer service, outlined in the report, be noted;

- 2) Officers provide an update on the new performance management regime at the Member communications briefing to be held later in 2017;
- 3) Officers circulate information to all Members clarifying the response time for the Highways for Members Inbox and the process to follow when reporting other highways issues such as emergencies.

18. CYCLE LANES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report, Agenda pages 19 to 24, which provided an update on cycle lanes and cycle safety since the previous report to the Committee in January 2017. David Wilby (Principal Planner, Highways and Transport) attended the meeting to introduce the report and answer Member questions.

The report reminded Members that since 2013 a combination of grant funding and developer funding had been used to fund the provision of new cycleways. The funding had been used to deliver the Lower Earley Way Cycleway and work was now ongoing to deliver a cycleway on the A329 corridor. The works included replacing traffic signals, improving bus stops and shelters, improving footways and kerbs and resurfacing the carriageway.

The report gave details about the impact of the Lower Earley Way Cycleway which had opened in late 2013. The data collected indicated that there were over 29,000 cycle trips per year which equated to a reduction of over 18,000 car journeys. The A329 cycleway was being delivered in phases with the final phase planned for delivery in 2018. Data available indicated an increase in cycle journeys of 14% on the A329 route compared to 2013.

The report stated that Wokingham Borough was a relatively safe place to cycle. Records indicated that there had been 236 accidents involving cyclists over the past five years. 23% of these accidents had taken place in the A329 corridor and it was felt that the new cycleway would help to improve safety and raise awareness of cyclists.

The report reminded Members of the Council's Bikeability training programme for 10-11 year olds. Over the past nine years over 11,000 children had received training and in the past two years over 90% of eligible children had been trained. Officers also provided training for drivers and had run specific sessions for coach and bus drivers.

The report also referred to the recent Government guidance relating to the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. It was intended to develop a plan for the Borough alongside a new Local Transport Plan and in line with the Council's Greenways initiative.

In the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- Was Government funding available for the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan? It was confirmed that Officers had made a bid for Government funded consultancy support and were waiting to hear the outcome of the bid.
- How was data collected to provide performance management on the new cycleways? It was confirmed that three permanent cycle counters had been put in place for the

Lower Earley Way Cycleway. Officers were investigating the potential for a similar arrangement for the A329 corridor.

- What were the benefits of the new cycleways in relation to air quality across the Borough? It was confirmed that active travel measures could play an important part in mitigating the impact of vehicle emissions. This was important as the new housing in the Borough would result in additional vehicles on the Borough's roads.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) the cycling improvements, new initiatives and proposals to develop the cycling network, set out in the report, be noted;
- 2) the incorporation of the DfT's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Planning guidance, to assist the prioritisation of new cycling and walking schemes, be supported;
- 3) Officers consider performance measures relating to cycling initiatives as part of the wider review of performance management discussed under the Highways and Transport Update item;
- 4) Officers be congratulated on their success in securing external sources of funding and delivering the successful Bikeability scheme.

19. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its Work Programme for 2017/18, set out on Agenda pages 25 to 27.

RESOLVED: That the 2017/18 Work Programme be confirmed.

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TITLE	Report by the Category Manager – Housing Operations
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 November 2017
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Director of Corporate Services
LEAD MEMBER	Julian McGhee-Sumner - Executive Member for Adults' Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on encampments in the borough for 16/17 and 17/18 year to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee note report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Summary of unauthorised Encampments 2015 – 2017

DETAILED CONSIDERATION**Overview**

Wokingham Borough Council has the duty for managing unauthorised encampments within its borough boundaries, unauthorised encampments are currently managed by the Housing Service at Wokingham Borough Council. An unauthorised encampment is where any person camps (in vans, trailers or any other moveable accommodation) on land that they do not own, and where they do not have permission to reside.

We know from borough experience unauthorised encampments can cause issues in our communities when they arrive and where they stay for a prolonged time, issues can include;

- Anti-social behaviour
- Reports to local councillors and MP's
- Fly tipping
- Disruption to local businesses
- Disproportionate take up of local resources, such as housing and police

Many unauthorised encampments are dealt with without the need for police intervention and require only one visit from housing staff to put in place the current process for removing unauthorised encampments, the average length of unauthorised encampments has steadied over the last 2 years to around 4 days, this performance

should go some way to alleviating members concerns to the amount of time required to deal with unauthorised encampments in the borough.

As we know from experience it only takes one unauthorised encampments to cause major resource issues for agencies in the borough, an example of this being Bulmershe in August 2016.

Since August 2016 I can confirm interdepartmental working and communication between the teams involved in unauthorised encampments work continues to improve. The Thames Valley Police have also worked closely with council officers on unauthorised encampments and are fully engaged in the process, and exercise S61 as required.

Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPO Act) and where applied can lead to eviction in a much shorter timescale. At the outset the main task of visiting officers is to establish whether Section 61 can legally be applied to any unauthorised encampment.

Often the expectation of the local community and land owners is that the Police will perform the eviction using Section 61 powers. The mere presence of an encampment without any aggravating factors should not normally create an expectation that Police will use these eviction powers. In all cases relevant human rights processes must be applied in all decisions made.

Where the encampment is on privately owned land, the land owner may contact Wokingham Borough Council and the Police. Thereafter the authority responsible for the encampment at that point will liaise with the landowner and provide advice regarding their powers. It does not fall to the local authority to take action on private land.

Unauthorised Encampment Activity

Appendix 1 details unauthorised encampment activity in the borough for last three years.

Activity data shows that so far in this financial year we have seen a drop in unauthorised encampments from 29 in 16/17 to currently 13 in this financial year with the main travelling period behind us, clean-up costs of 2016/17 were £10,686 and currently at £2315 for 2017/18.

Next Steps

Members expect officers to deal with unauthorised encampments in an efficient and professional matter.

To this end officers looking at the legal remedies, civil and criminal, available to Wokingham Borough Council to remove unauthorised encampments. This has involved meetings with members, internal discussions, investigating how other local authorities manage unauthorised encampments and discussions with other agencies including other local authorities and the Thames Valley Police.

A paper will come forward in the new year outlining options available to Wokingham Borough in dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Contact: Simon Price	Title: Category Manager – Housing Operations
Telephone No: 0118 974 3775	Email: simon.price@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 24 th October 2017	Version No: 1

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Unauthorised Encampments Performance Data - 15/16 Financial Year (July 15 onwards)

Key Performance Indicator		Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Section A	Frequency									
Number of unlawful encampments reported	Monthly	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	4
Number of unlawful encampments reported - cumulative for the year	Monthly	5	5	8	8	8	8	9	11	15
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	Monthly	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	Monthly	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	Monthly	4.5	0	7	0	0	0	5	1	2.5
Section B										
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	Monthly	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	Monthly	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Section C										
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July Commentary										
There were 3 encampments reporting in July. The sites have been on land at Stanlake Meadows, Loddon Primary School (WBC Land) and private land at Hinton Road. Section 61 powers were used to remove 2 encampments, with the average number of days encampments on land was 4.5 days.										
August Commentary										
There were no unauthorised encampments reported in August.										
September Commentary										
The service had 3 encampments in September; it has been the same family group moving to different sites within the Borough. The encampments have been at Bulmershe Pavillion, Tesco's Car Park and Easthampstead Road Car Park (West).										
October Commentary										
There were no unauthorised encampments reported in October.										
November Commentary										
There were no unauthorised encampments reported in November.										
December Commentary										
There were no unauthorised encampments reported in December.										
January Commentary										
The service had one unauthorised encampment on Easthampstead Road Car Park. They left of their own accord so no court proceedings were required.										
February Commentary										
A total of 2 encampments were reported in February. 1 on private land and 1 on WBC land that is ongoing (they arrived on 26.02.16)										
March Commentary										
The service had 4 unauthorised encampments reported in March; the most reported in any given month in this financial year. The encampments in question have been the same group moving around the Shinfield area. They split up into smaller groups to try and avoid the use of Section 61 powers. However due to ASB issues, the use of Section 61 powers were used to move the families on.										

Unauthorised Encampments Performance Data - 16/17 Financial Year

Key Performance Indicator		Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17
Section A	Frequency												
Number of unlawful encampments reported	Monthly	1	4	1	9	6	1	2	3	1	0	0	1
Number of unlawful encampments reported - cumulative for the year	Monthly	1	5	6	15	21	22	24	27	28	28	28	29
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	Monthly	0	2	0	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	Monthly	1	2	1	5	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	Monthly	14	7	7	6	3	1	5.5	2	1	0	0	4
Section B													
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	Monthly	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	Monthly	0	4	1	6	4	1	2	3	1	0	0	0
Section C													
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

April Commentary

There was 1 encampment reported in April, on private land in Earley. This encampment was difficult to remove taking 14 days to clear off the land and required a Section 61 and police presence to move the encampment on. However, there were no welfare issues to report on this encampment.

May Commentary

May saw the same traveller family move onto 4 different sites within the Borough, hence 4 unauthorised encampments being reported. The traveller family were on 2 sites on WBC Land (2 areas in Cutbush Lane) and 2 private sites (Arborfield development site and Mole Road). There were no welfare issues to report and Section 61 powers were not required to move the travellers on.

June Commentary

There was 1 encampment reported in June, on private land at Bell Farm. This encampment took 7 days to clear off the land and did not require a Section 61 and police presence to move the encampment on. There were no welfare issues to report on this encampment.

July Commentary

July saw an influx of unauthorised encampments in the Borough, with 9 encampments reported. 4 of these encampments were the same traveller family who moved to different areas in the Borough once they moved on from 1. This family moved from Cantley Park to Bell Farm, then back to Cantley Park and then to Latimer Park before they eventually left the Borough. The other 5 encampments were located at Cutbush Lane, Bulmershe Field, Asda car park in Lower Earley, another in Bulmershe and another in Cutbush Lane. Despite the high number of encampments, the ASB Officer and Housing Manager did excellent work in ensuring the average number of days to move the encampments was only 6 days, actually lower than previous months. There were no welfare issues to report on any encampment. 3 of the encampments had to be moved on with police powers but the rest moved on themselves.

August Commentary

August saw 6 unauthorised encampments in the Borough, 3 less than last month, but still higher than the average of last year. Of these encampments, 3 were on WBC land and 3 were on private land. The 3 encampments on WBC land were located at Easthampstead Road, Cantley Park and Dinton Pastures. The 3 encampments on private land were located at Arbor Lane, Forest School Field and Bell Farm. Despite the high number of encampments, the ASB Officer and Housing Manager did excellent work in ensuring the average number of days to move the encampments was only 3 days, actually lower than previous months. There were no welfare issues to report on any encampment. 2 of the encampments had to be moved on with police powers (Section 61) but the rest moved on themselves.

September & October Commentary

Throughout September and October, a total of 3 unauthorised encampments were reported; 1 in September and 2 in October. The encampment reported in September was on WBC land, Headly Road Car Park. The encampment was removed from the site after only 1 day. In October, 1 of the encampments was on WBC land and 1 on private land. The private encampment was at the corner of Headly Road and was moved on after 1 day. The encampment on WBC land was on Lytham Road Car Park West. This encampment took longer to remove off the land, a total of 10 days (meaning the average number of days encampments were in the Borough in October was 5 and a half days). There were no welfare issues to report on any encampments reported.

November Commentary

There were 3 unauthorised encampments reported in November. All 3 were on private land; located at Winnersh Triangle, Bell Foundry Farm and Keepatch Lane. The average number of days the encampments were on the sites was 2 days. Section 61 powers were not required to move the encampments and there were no welfare issues to report.

December Commentary

1 unauthorised encampment was reported in December, on Headley Road Car Park, which is WBC land. However, the encampment was removed after only 1 day with no welfare issues to report.

January Commentary

There were no unauthorised encampments reported in January.

February Commentary

There were no unauthorised encampments reported in February.

March Commentary

There was one unauthorised encampment recorded in March, on Highways land. The encampment was removed after 4 days, using Section 61 powers.

Unauthorised Encampments Performance Data - 17/18 Financial Year

Key Performance Indicator		Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17
Section A	Frequency												
Number of unlawful encampments reported	Monthly	1	4	1	1	6	0						
Number of unlawful encampments reported - cumulative for the year	Monthly	1	5	6	7	13	13						
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	Monthly	1	3	0	0	3	0						
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	Monthly	0	1	1	1	3	0						
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	Monthly	8	8	2	4	4.5	0						
Section B													
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	Monthly	1	1	1	0	1	0						
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	Monthly	0	3	0	1	5	0						
Section C													
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	Monthly	0	0	0	0	0	0						

April Commentary

1 unauthorised encampment was reported in April. The encampment was on WBC land and the travellers moved on from their own accord. The same group of travellers moved onto Joel Park (Holt School) in early May (3rd) and the Police used Section 61 Powers to remove them 4 days later. No welfare issues were reported.

May Commentary

There were 4 Unauthorised Encampments reported in May; 1 was on private land (Danes Hill Auto Trader) and the other 3 on WBC land. It took an average of 8 days to remove all the sites, with one site taking 18 days to remove.

June Commentary

1 encampment was reported in June, on private land on Hyde End Road. The encampment was moved on after 2 days, using Section 61 powers.

July Commentary

1 encampment was reported in July, on private land on Warren House Road. The encampment was moved on in 4 days without the use of Section 61 powers.

August Commentary

There were 6 unauthorised encampments reported in August, the highest number reported this financial year. Of these 6 encampments, 3 were on the WBC land and the remaining 3 were on private land. The 3 reported encampments on WBC Land were located at Silchester Place (Three Mile Cross), Cutbush Land North and Cutbush Lane Bridge. Section 61 powers were not required to remove any of the encampments. The 3 encampments on private land were located at All Saints Church, Kelvin Close and Bohunt School, all in Arborfield. Section 61 powers had to be used to remove the encampment at Bohunt School. The average number of days the encampments were on these sites was 4.5 days.

September Commentary

There were no unauthorised encampments reported in September.

October Commentary

November Commentary

December Commentary

January Commentary

February Commentary

March Commentary

	Total for the year
2015/16 - Totals (July onwards)	
Number of unlawful encampments reported	13
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	8
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	5
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	2
Section B	
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	5
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	5
Section C	
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	0

	Total for the year
2016/17 - Totals	
Number of unlawful encampments reported	29
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	13
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	16
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	4
Section B	
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	6
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	22
Section C	
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	0

	Total for the year
2017/18 - Totals (Up until October)	
Number of unlawful encampments reported	13
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	7
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	6
Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	4.5
Section B	
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	4
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	9
Section C	
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	0

Totals	Total of all recorded
Section A	
Number of unlawful encampments reported	55
Number of unlawful encampments on WBC land	28
Number of unlawful encampments on private land	27
Total/Average number of days unlawful encampments on sites	3.5
Section B	
Number of encampments cleared with Section 61	15
Number of encampments cleared without Section 61	36
Section C	
Number of welfare issues reported on unlawful encampments	0



**Superintendent
Shaun Virtue**
Local Police Commander
Bracknell & Wokingham

Serving with pride and confidence



Our commitment:
Working together to make
our communities safer

Building on our successes, we will continue to work together to make our communities safer.

We will foster the culture, values and skills needed to deliver an effective and efficient police service which meets the needs of the public we serve.

We will **transform** and **innovate** to meet policing needs **now** and in the **future**.



**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

An emergency service that keeps people safe and brings offenders to justice

- Dealing with increasing demand
- 75% non crime related calls for service
- Complexity of crime
- Safeguarding the vulnerable
- Neighbourhood Policing
- Problem Solving for lasting outcomes
- Increasing population / homes
- Terrorism



**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

Working together to build stronger, more resilient communities

- Community Forums / Neighbourhood Action Groups
- Breaking the cycle of offending and vulnerability
- New threats – County Drug lines , Cyber threats, Modern Slavery
- Need to develop our feedback for community intelligence
- Traveller Encampments
- Efficiency and Effectiveness of our services

THAMES VALLEY POLICE



A modern police force which meets the needs of our communities

<p>We Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Website • Thames Valley Alert App • Using and supporting local networks 	<p>We Will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Portal • Digital Transformation • Demand Management • Contact Management – 101 service
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THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Wokingham Borough

- Operation Stronghold
- Drug dealing targeted in Norreys Estate
- ASB targeted in Woodley / Finchampstead
- Remains one of the safest boroughs!



Serving with pride and confidence

 THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Wokingham Borough - Crime

- Victim Based Crime YTD +14%
- Violence against Person YTD -1%
- Burglary (Residential) YTD -5%
- Theft from Vehicle YTD+29%
- Domestic Violence
- Crimes with injury - YTD -25%
- Repeats victims –
- 40% more than one occurrence
- 46% repeat victim of DV crime.

Serving with pride and confidence

 THAMES VALLEY POLICE NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



Questions?

Superintendent Shaun Virtue

Serving with pride and confidence

TITLE	Possible Agenda Items for future Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meetings - Community Safety and Housing
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 November 2017
WARD	None specific
OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Assistant Director Governance

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Scrutiny will become more rigorous and effective if topics of real concern to the Borough are discussed and the stakeholders involved asked to give testimony.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

- 1) Suggest items of concern to receive reports on at future Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meetings;
- 2) Suggest stakeholders to invite to future Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meetings;
- 3) Comment on the proposals in this paper as a method of determining future work programmes.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report raises the issue of Overview and Scrutiny and the identification of agenda items. It suggests a range of issues relating to the two key areas of community safety and housing. It asks Members to consider the issues of concern to residents of the Borough today and the work that is being done by the Council to address these concerns. Members would be then asked to select key questions to be considered at future meetings as agenda items.

Background

In the recent past, the Council has looked at Overview and Scrutiny and the methods that can be used to make it more rigorous. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny are asking the Committee to think about its key areas of responsibility and what questions to ask to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny is carried out effectively. The areas identified so far include community safety, housing, the environment and highways. In the light of current issues, community safety and housing have been chosen as the possible first two areas.

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the overarching responsibility to examine the Council's performance in regard to community safety and housing, both areas of focus for residents of the Borough. The Committee has received submissions relating to both areas in the past but this has not always included a follow up or the involvement of a wider group of stakeholders.

Community Safety

In January 2017, the Committee received a presentation from Superintendent Rob France updating the Committee on the impact of the merger of the Bracknell and Wokingham forces and referring to crime across the Borough in general.

As a result of that a number of benefits were alluded to and it would be useful to have the impact reported on:

- police officers being freed up to focus on their key roles;
- more effective deployment and higher resistance plus faster reaction times;
- the impact of policing visibility on crime levels;
- methods of talking to people;
- the impact of the closure of the public counter at Wokingham Police Station;
- whether the increase in burglary and decreases in violent crime have continued;
- whether the increase in hate crimes has now abated;

The Committee received its annual report from the Community and Safety Partnership in March 2017. This partnership agrees the borough's response to crime and anti-social behaviour. It sets priorities to ensure partners are working together to create a safe place to live, work and visit. The partnership funds specific projects that are targeted at its priorities. The priorities are:

- Increasing the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to encourage the reporting of domestic abuse and responding accordingly;
- Work with the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Cohort to reduce the likelihood of repeat offending;
- Understand the needs associated with hidden crime such as hate crime, and
- Understand the issues affecting all residents and working to make them feel safer.

There are a range of issues related to crime that are of particular interest to residents and that maybe valid for exploration by the Committee.

Types of Crime

- Has the shared police force seen an increase in the new crimes that are concerning people – moped/acid/rural?
- What is being done about it?

- What impact do neighbourhood groups have? Can the Council help them?

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

- What has been the initial impact of the introduction of CPE? Are there any figures/reports?

Working with offenders/young people

- What is the impact of halfway houses on recidivism?
- What is being done to educate young people about crime and its impact?
- What is the impact of petty crime – vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Stakeholders in this area are numerous. Apart from Officers, Members and police they could include Neighbourhood Watch, Pubwatch, JAC (just around the corner), Youth Offending Team and Members of the Public. The Local Area Policing Commander, Superintendent Shaun Virtue, will be attending the meeting on 6 November 2017

Housing

In March 2017, the Committee received a report about the Right to Buy Policy. This is a policy that is in a state of flux currently, with issues around safety, affordability and private rent in everyone's minds. There is much debate around affordable housing, private rentals and the plight of key workers and what the Council response is to some of these areas.

Housing stock

- What are the current levels of housing stock of council houses and housing association housing?

Rental Market

- What are the waiting lists like for Council owned accommodation?
- Statistics of families in receipt of housing benefit
- What is the rental market like in the Borough?
- What are the numbers of households in temporary accommodation?

Vulnerable persons relocation

- What are the levels of provision for refugees, previous offenders and victims of domestic violence? Are there any statistics clarifying the position in Wokingham Borough?

Local Plan Update (considered at Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee September 2017)

- What happens if neighbouring boroughs do not meet their targets under East Berkshire Housing Market Area?
- What can be done about it?
- Where does the Borough stand in terms of its % of affordable homes.
- What measures is the Council putting in place for key worker housing? (subject of a call-in 16 October 2017)

Homelessness

- What are the current numbers for the Borough?
- What provision is being put in place?

Stakeholders in this area are numerous. Apart from Officers, Members and police they could include Citizens Advice Bureau, Representatives of tenants associations, Housing Associations and the Benefit agency.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

List of Background Papers

Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes

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