



## **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 15 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

Manjeet Gill  
Interim Chief Executive  
Published on 5 January 2018

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	Chris Bowring

### **Substitutes**

Mike Haines	Clive Jones	Dianne King
Ian Pittock		

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
29.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
30.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017	5 - 8
31.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
32.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> 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 <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
33.		<b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any member questions.	
34.	None Specific	<b>WOKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION</b> To consider an update on the progress towards and impact of the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration	9 - 18
35.	None Specific	<b>HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKS PROGRAMMES</b>	19 - 26

	To consider the development of the annual work programme.	
<b>36.</b>	<b>None Specific</b>	<b>MAY 2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS</b>
<b>37.</b>	<b>None Specific</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>
		To consider the work programme for the municipal year 2018-19
<b>38.</b>		<b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b>
		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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# Agenda Item 30.

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2017 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.00 PM

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillors: Shahid Younis (Chairman), Bill Soane (Vice-Chairman), Pauline Jorgensen, Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall, Clive Jones and Dianne King

### **Other Councillors Present**

Councillors: Andy Croy and Malcolm Richards

### **Officers Present**

Arabella Yandle (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist) and Simon Price (Category Manager, Housing Operations)

### **Others Present**

Shaun Virtue (Local Policing Area Commander)

### **20. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor David Sleight (Councillor Diane King attended as substitute), Councillor Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey (Councillor Clive Jones attended as substitute) and Councillor Philip Mirfin.

### **21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **22. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **23. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### **24. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions.

### **25. REPORT BY THE CATEGORY MANAGER, HOUSING OPERATIONS ON UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS**

Simon Price, Category Manager Housing Operations, delivered an update on Unauthorised Encampments, outlining reductions in the number of encampments and the cost of clearing up during the preceding year. He explained the process that was followed to deal with a camp and highlighted some of the issues that accompany the process, such as welfare issues and time taken for paperwork to be completed by the courts. He went on to describe the close working relationship that the team had with the police and the pressure on the service due to the need to double team when visiting sites.

In answer to Member questions, Simon stated that, whilst not sufficient to address public perceptions of travellers completely, having clear and transparent policies and procedures on the Council website would help allay fears to a certain extent. The process of moving a camp on could be expedited if a Section 61 order was imposed or if the site was in a vulnerable area such as a school playing field, but that the normal time period was approximately 2 weeks. As part of the changes to processes coming from 21<sup>st</sup> Century

and as part of a Berkshire-wide protocol, it was hoped that officers would be empowered to assess sites and choose the most efficient and appropriate way of dealing with them. A paper was being prepared that would cover all these issues and was due to be presented to the Executive in February 2018.

Shaun Virtue, Local Area Police Commander, outlined the types of issue that would lead to the exercising of a Section 61 order. He stated that the force had a wide pool of police officers that could be summoned when needed, as had happened when a camp of 30 caravans landed in Bulmershe in July 2016. He explained that data was used to identify hotspots of crime and anti-social behaviour and that this would identify any links between camps and incidences.

In response to Member questions regarding prevention, Simon stated that after each encampment incident there was a wash-up session during which suggestions were welcomed of how to improve the process. Sites were assessed and methods of preventing access were used where appropriate. He would speak to the Council's Property Team about identifying sites and risk and pro-active measures that could be taken to avoid access.

In response to a specific question regarding clearing up on private land, Simon stated that the onus was on the landlord and that he would communicate with the Waste and Recycling Team regarding enforcement. An invitation was extended to the Committee for Members to visit a site with an officer to see the assessment process in action.

**RESOLVED** That

- 1) Simon Price be thanked for his report;
- 2) Officers approach Property Services regarding pro-active preventative measures that could be taken;
- 3) Officers approach Waste and Recycling to ascertain the process needed for enforcement of clearance on private land, and
- 4) The information on the Council website regarding the procedure taken to deal with unauthorised encampments be reviewed and improved in terms of clarity and ease of access.

**26. UPDATE FROM LOCAL AREA POLICE COMMANDER**

Superintendent Shaun Virtue, Local Area Police Commander, delivered an update on local area policing and the joint Bracknell and Wokingham Police Area. The presentation highlighted the issues that were facing the force in terms of new and emerging crimes and the areas where there had been success, such as the work targeting drug dealing in Norreys Estate. Overall, Wokingham was one of the safest boroughs in England and Wales.

In response to a Member question regarding drug use in schools, Superintendent Virtue stated that that it was an ongoing concern, especially amongst Looked After Children who were often more vulnerable. Schools usually called the police in when incidents occurred. There were a range of options available for addressing this including education. He went on to state that he would feed concerns about drug selling in Maiden Place into the team.

In relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, he indicated that information supplied could be subjective but, when unpicked, informed priorities.

In response to questions regarding cyclists using lights, Superintendent Virtue indicated that there was a joint responsibility regarding bikes and education was part of this. Enforcement was not an answer. Cycle deaths were increasing. Various methods could be used, such as employers enforcing the use of lights as part of bike schemes. Regarding thefts of Asian gold, the figures were fairly low as the change in rules around accountability for cash generating companies had impacted it positively. Regarding Domestic Violence, the figures showed an overall reduction but that the percentage of repeat offenders was still high. The force worked closely with a number of outside agencies, such as Berkshire Womens Aid, to improve the situation. Overall, one of the key drivers of crime was drugs. There was a need for increased community intelligence and this would be aided if the police were more effective in feeding back the results of intelligence to the public.

In response to Member questions regarding staffing, recruitment and retention, Superintendent Virtue stated that the force had 250 police and PCSOs. The increase in firearms teams meant that a team could attend an incident in less than 9 minutes. Across Thames Valley as a whole, there had been a cut of 400 posts since 2010. The backroom functions had been pared back and the service was stretched. The increase in local population would lead to higher demand. Thames Valley was one of the least well-funded in the country. Approximately 70% of funding came from the Government so the increase in local population would only have a slight impact on the precept that provided the remainder. Recruitment was a particular problem currently. The nature of policing as a career appeared to have changed with people seeing it as a short-term career. Although loss of experienced staff to the Metropolitan Police had reduced, many forces were recruiting actively and some, such as Surrey, offered better packages. The cost of accommodation locally was significant, with some police officers having to take second jobs or claim benefits. A lot of legwork was actually carried out by volunteers.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) Superintendent Shaun Virtue be thanked for his update;
- 2) a further report be presented to the Committee in 2018 to update Members on crime statistics and the impact of changes in policing/emergency services, and
- 3) Members be asked to submit questions to Democratic Services to be sent to Superintendent Virtue prior to this.

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

As part of improving Overview and Scrutiny within the Borough, the Committee considered a report on possible agenda items for inclusion in the work programme in future. They were asked to suggest items of concern to receive reports on; suggest stakeholders to invite to future Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meetings, and comment on the proposals in this paper as a method of determining future work programmes.

It was felt that Overview and Scrutiny would be more effective if carried out at the formative stage of policy or awarding of contracts rather than afterwards merely as an

update. Committee meetings would be more effective if targeted on one or two issues at a time and looking at them in more depth with a combination of submissions from officers and stakeholders. A report would be allocated a set period and followed up by witness testimony and then questions from Members.

The work programme for January included an item on the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration and Members suggested that interested groups be invited to act as witnesses.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report on Community Safety Partnership and policing be postponed until March 2018;
- 2) Stakeholders such as the Business Chamber of Commerce and the Federation for Small Businesses be invited to the Committee meeting in January 2018 to provide witness on the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration Item;
- 3) A report on the proposed annual work programme be invited from Highways and Transport;
- 4) A representative of Highways be invited to present a report on parking standards, parking and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and parking and railway stations;
- 5) Stakeholders such as Bill Luck been invited to the Committee meeting in January 2018 to provide witness on the item to be delivered by Highways on parking standards ;
- 6) A range of other reports be invited for March 2018 including the impact of CPE;
- 7) Stakeholders such as Sam Milligan of JAC (Just Around the Corner) and Action Groups be invited to the Committee meeting in March 2018 to provide witness on the item on Community Safety and Policing, and
- 8) The Committee to consider items relating to the environment for consideration in June 2018.

## **28. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no items subject to exclusion.

# Agenda Item 34.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2018
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Chief Executive - Interim Manjeet Gill

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Regeneration of the borough's towns is a key part of the Council Vision and of the Local Plan. The regeneration will provide:

- Improved public spaces
- A better retail experience
- An improved entertainment offer
- Better sports and leisure facilities
- Improved access and transport
- Improved sustainable community
- A rental income which can be used unencumbered for provision of services across the Borough

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To provide an update on Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration

## **Scope of Regeneration report and update**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration projects.

It should be noted that, whilst there is a range of works currently going on across the town centre, the Regeneration projects encompass the following areas only

- Peach Place (the area behind the blue hoardings and the adjacent part of Rose Street only)
- Carnival Phase 1 (the new multi-storey car park and ground floor leisure unit)
- Elms Field (the former Wellington House site, the park and the Paddocks car park)
- Carnival Phase 2 (the area made up of the leisure centre, adjacent offices and former bowling alley site)

### **Update on progress – Peach Place**

Dawnus Construction Limited started work on site at Peach Place on January 9 2017. Over the past 12 months development has progressed well and the development remains on target to complete for Christmas 2018.

Progress to date include the demolition of the original parade of shops, laying of foundations and associated archaeological studies, installation of site utilities and services, construction of the core steel frame and recladding if the retained Costa/Superdrug building on Market Place.

Works over the coming months will include the completion of the sub frame and brickwork, installation of roofs and windows, internal fit out and external landscaping and public realm works across the site.

The project remains within the budget identified within the MTFP.

In September 2017 the Executive also approved the In principle agreement for the 22 completed apartments to be leased to a Council owned housing company for the provision of Key Worker housing. In addition to the benefit of providing local affordable housing this move will also help the Council with the recruitment and retention of staff delivering essential public services, such as teachers, care workers and social workers.

It should be noted that, since starting on site, the Council has now purchased the former M&S unit adjacent to the Peach Place site in December 2017. This opportunity arose once M&S announced they were to close in summer 2017.

The purchase sits outside the main Peach Place development although, as it is adjacent to it, options for the site are being carefully considered to ensure that any proposals work smoothly with what is proposed for Peach Place and can be coordinated effectively. Feasibility studies continue to be developed in greater detail and a decision will be made later in 2018 once options are fully assessed.

Temporary use of the site will be established to help activate the high street whilst the best proposal is established. Given the need to retain flexibility it is likely that any use will primarily be charitable and on a temporary basis.

### **Update on progress – Carnival Phase 1**

The original Carnival car park closed and the site was handed over to Balfour Beatty on June 6 2016.

Work progressed well and the main development was completed at the start of June 2017 with the 529 space car park opening to the public on June 15 2017. Additional landscaping works took place in autumn 2017 rather than June to avoid the heat of summer whilst planting established itself.

The new multi-storey car park has been handed across to the Council's car parks team to be run as part of the overall town centre parking portfolio.

On completion the ground floor leisure unit was handed over to American Amusements Ltd who started work on fitting out a new bowling alley and laser quest facility. Their new unit opened successfully on November 15 2017 and the original Superbowl site has now been handed over to the Council (see Carnival Phase 2)

The project remained within the budget identified within the MTFP.

As a note, whilst the car park is primarily used at the moment by council staff and users of the leisure centre and bowling alley, the car park has been developed as part of the Council's strategic approach to parking in the longer term, meeting capacity requirements once the Paddocks car park closes and being ideally located to serve those entering from the south of town (including the new Southern SDL's and distributor road) and to reflect increasing southern footfall from the Elms Field commercial development, cinema and hotel.

### **Update on progress – Elms Field**

Whilst originally planned to start in summer 2017, tendering and ensuring value for money led to a delay in starting on site. The Council is currently in the process of finalising detailed negotiations with their preferred partner McLaughlin and Harvey.

Although the time taken to appoint a contractor has been extended this has had little impact on the overall programme of works which remains on target to complete in phases from the end of 2019 to 2020.

In September 2017 the council started on the parallel process of pre-construction works to ensure the project remains on programme. Work is ongoing and includes a series of surveys on Elms Field and the Paddocks including arboricultural, topographical, drainage, utilities and archaeological studies. In December 2017 the Council also completed the final process of securing a Stopping Up Order from the Department of Transport for highways across the site.

Pre-construction works continue to be carefully managed to minimise impact on the town centre and keep facilities open for as long as viable. A more detailed programme of phasing and works will be released in early 2018

The Council's Joint Venture partners, David Wilson Homes, will continue to work closely with MCLH and the Council over the coming months as they start to deliver the residential development to the west of the park.

The project remains within the budget identified within the MTFP.

## **Update on progress – Carnival Phase 2**

Following in-depth studies of the existing leisure centre in autumn/winter 2016 it was established that significant work would be required to refurbish the swimming pool to a suitable standard. Given the significant costs involved in refurbishment, and the fact it would take over a year to complete, the Council decided to review their options for the site and carried out further feasibility studies for Carnival Phase 2.

Following assessment of the options the Council decided to move forward with a revised approach which would see the existing leisure centre demolished and rebuilt completely. This approach provides a significantly improved layout for the site and better value for money.

The revised layout for the site has also allowed the Council to agree the relocation of the Library facility to the site on completion of the new centre. The relocation will provide the library with an improved facility all located on one floor, and allow them to extend the range of additional services they offer residents such as events and activities which are proving increasingly important in encouraging use and generating revenue. The approach will also allow for reduced operating costs (more effective systems shared with the leisure operator) and lower man power required to keep the library open during the day and evening.

A detailed planning application was submitted in July 2017 with Planning Committee resolving to grant consent on November 8 2017.

In order to redevelop the site the existing leisure centre will need to closed and be demolished. This is expected to take place in 2020/2021. The exact timing of this has yet to be agreed but will be coordinated with the redevelopment of a new leisure centre for Bulmershe which was agreed by the Executive in November 2017. This will ensure alternative facilities are available for residents elsewhere in the borough.

Having taken control of the former Wokingham Superbowl site the Council expects to move forward with demolition of this property in early 2018 and ensure the site remains safe and secure until main construction works begin.

Alongside the planning process the Council continues with the process of assembling the site necessary to deliver the plans. It is hoped this can be achieved through negotiation, however the council are committed to delivering this scheme, and a process continues to run in parallel to use Compulsory Purchase Order powers should they be required as a final resort.

The project remains within the budget identified within the MTFP.

## **Impact of development on the Town Centre**

For the purposes of this report, it should be noted that the Regeneration project is completely separate from the Market Place improvement project which is being delivered by WBC Highways and the Town Council. As such the report does not comment on the direct impact of elements such as the closure of Denmark Street and the Market Place

In terms of disruption the Regeneration works have been planned to minimise their impact on the roads and town centre. The 15 week single lane closure of Peach Street

from February 27 to June 12 was carefully handled to ensure traffic could continue to flow and, whilst a restriction has been placed on Rose Street to allow for works to be carried out, Rose Street has remained open to two way traffic throughout by using a priority system.

The northern footpath of Peach Street remains closed whilst the new frontage is completed and Highways have requested that the small entrance from Luckley Path remains closed during this period to protect the additional number of pedestrians using this side of Peach Street. This closure also supports the Market Place works.

In terms of car parking the Peach Place works required the closing of the Rose Street car park and the loss of 43 spaces in this location. However we are advised that car parking figures for the town centre continued to rise year on year demonstrating that this lost car parking has simply been displaced to other car parks within the town centre rather than resulting in lost visits to the town centre.

Whilst a large amount of work at Elms Field can be delivered with minimal impact to the surrounding area, due to the nature of some works, such as the creation of new junctions on Wellington Road and Shute End and the widening of the bottom of Denmark Street it is likely there will be some impact on the town centre whilst these are carried out.

The Council and their contractors will work closely with Highways to ensure that any disruption is minimised and affected parties are kept notified of what is happening.

### **Support for businesses**

Whilst the regeneration project is having limited impact on the town centre the Council is aware that the cumulative impact of the Regeneration when considered alongside the Market Place Improvement project risks being detrimental to the town centre and has increasingly put resources into tackling this.

Working in partnership with the Town Council and alongside groups such as the local Business Association the Councils continue to implement a range of support for the town centre and businesses. This includes offers such as –

- Free after Three parking until end Jan 2018, and free parking at weekends in the run up to Christmas. To encourage footfall in the town centre and help reduce the pressure on peak time traffic.
- Improved communications to businesses. Including regular drop in surgeries at the Town Hall, ongoing newsletters and bulletins on works happening in the town centre
- Initial promotion of the town and its businesses. Including funding a range of adverts in the press and online, social media, banners, posters and flyers to promote the town remaining open as usual and raise awareness of the Business Association
- Ongoing promotion of the town and its businesses including supporting the creation of further marketing collateral to promote the town through social media and advertising campaigns such as ‘Business as Usual’, ‘Keep it local’, ‘Keep it local this Christmas’, ‘Woky Presents’, ‘People and Personalities’ etc.
- Love Wokingham Videos. Produced with local businesses to help promote the town and its businesses and encourage people to come into Wokingham

- Local Events. In addition to setting up events in the town centre, such as the Keep it local this Christmas shopping event and open day on December 2, the Council is also offering additional support to other large events in the town centre such as the Winter Carnival to ensure they can be a success.
- Marketing Strategy. Initial discussions have been held with the Town Council and Business Associations to reaffirm the vision for destination Wokingham and meetings are being arranged with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) to identify potential resources and methods for developing the marketing strategy further.
- Retailer update meetings. Working with the Business Association to run sessions on topics of interest to local businesses including a large brainstorming evening in October 2017
- Business Rates support. The council has appointed consultants Vail Williams to offer town centre businesses support with the business rates system
- Business Improvement District support. The council has offered to pre-fund the process of local businesses establishing a BID for Wokingham town centre
- Promotion of Apprenticeship Scheme. Support to help local businesses access the apprenticeship scheme to find new staff and upskill existing employees.
- Potential recruitment drives. The regeneration will help create over 550 permanent new jobs for the town in the new shops and restaurants which will help provide local employment for Wokingham as it grows in size.

Both councils will continue to monitor the impact of the Regeneration and Market Place Improvement works, ensure they are minimised as much as possible and review the support offered on an ongoing basis.

### **Retail Conditions**

Nationally the retail outlook is divided with the situation in the south east being significantly better than that in the north and other areas of the UK.

Whilst the national average vacancy rate (empty shops) sits at around 11%-12%, Wokingham continues to buck national trends with very few empty units and a vacancy rate of 1% (based on 182 commercial units). At the time of writing this report the only empty units in the town centre were the former Cara unit which came onto the market at the end of 2017 and the former M&S unit which is in the ownership of the council.

Although 2017 saw a handful of business closures in the town centre these all reflect wider company issues and changes in strategies rather than direct local conditions. This is represented by M&S who have opened a flagship store in Bracknell and are also closing stores of a similar size and format to Wokingham across the UK and Cara Shoes who closed over half of their units on the same weekend without notice. Wetherspoons have also announced that they will be closing their unit in Wokingham when the lease comes to an end this year. This is in line with a large number of closures by the chain which claims to have been hit by the increase in national minimum wage.

In regards to M&S, whilst there is some interest in the unit, the Council wishes to assess options first before committing this site. Local agents have confirmed that the existing Wetherspoons Gig House unit has generated some market interest and no update has been received from the agents about the Cara shop which has just been placed on the market.

In addition to this low vacancy rate Wokingham has also shown strong interest over 2017 when units do become available including the opening of a brand new Card Factory unit, the Sedero Lounge restaurant by Waitrose, Bar 56 on Rose Street, the new salon in the former Santander unit and the relocation of Specsavers to a larger unit along with their former unit being taken by Vodaphone. Boots opticians and J Strange the Jewellers also chose to work with the Council to relocate to other units within the regeneration portfolio (Market Place and Bush Walk) when the opportunity arose rather than moving to alternate locations in the area. All of these show good interest in Wokingham as a location to do business

Confidence in the south east as a location for retail and restaurants is also demonstrated locally by the successful opening of new large shopping areas at Bracknell (Lexicon) and Oxford (Westgate).

Whilst there have been concerns raised about the impact of such developments on the success of Wokingham town centre it should be noted that these projects differ significantly from Wokingham. In terms of identity both Bracknell and Oxford are positioning themselves as major 'day out' destinations with an emphasis on large multinational retail businesses similar to Reading and the Oracle.

Wokingham's vision differs greatly from this and the intent is to establish a distinct identity for the town centre by offering something different from these larger neighbours with a more intimate boutique and independent feel. Given this, whilst there is some cross over of brands, in general different groups of businesses are being targeted for the developments reducing the amount of conflict and competition between the schemes. Several conversations between our lettings agents, Strutt and Parker, and businesses have shown a preference from some retailers to be located in market towns rather than larger shopping venues to reflect their branding and preferred demographic.

The recent openings at Oxford and Bracknell also reinforce the message received from Strutt and Parker around the timing of pre-let agreements and the expectation that the majority of lettings will be made within six months or less of opening.

At the point of start on site in Bracknell only a handful of key tenancies were pre-let such as the Fenwicks department store and M&S. The majority of lettings at the Lexicon happened in the few months running up to opening in September 2017 and they are currently 95% let. Similarly when construction commenced on Westgate they only had one pre-let in place to John Lewis. At the time of opening in October 2017 they had 85% open or pre-let and several more units are now under offer.

In regards to Wokingham the council has already secured strong pre-lets with Aldi, Everyman Cinemas and Premier Inn. These pre-lets represent c65% of the projected Elms Field income and place the council in a strong position moving forward. Conversations continue to be held with other operators and the council is encouraged by the levels of interest. It should be noted that, in addition to national and regional names, several enquiries have also been received from local and independent businesses in support of the vision for Wokingham.

The 12 month gap between the opening of these larger centres and the completion of Peach Place will also help allow the schemes to settle down and allow businesses to assess trading performance and where trade is coming from. Initial feedback from the market is that the Lexicon is that it has opened well. This initial success should help

Wokingham as it reinforces that the area is a good one to locate to and continues to perform strongly.

In terms of footfall all these schemes have been designed to reflect not just the existing population but the significant increase that will be seen over the next decade as the local plans are delivered. With many thousands of new homes set to be delivered across the region there is a significantly growing catchment that could be attracted to the town centre. Establishing ‘destination Wokingham’ and effectively marketing the town centre will remain important in targeting and attracting footfall.

### **Cost of Regeneration**

The cost to the council of delivering the regeneration proposals sits at £115m. In addition there is a further £17m allowed for interest payments on borrowing up to FY24/25.

This cost includes delivering everything from the new commercial elements such as the shops, cinema, hotel and residential properties; to the non-commercial elements such as the play area, park improvements, new road and leisure centre.

As this programme is being run as a commercial development the residential elements are then sold with the income being used to offset the costs of delivery. This leaves the Council with a completed scheme debt of £47m for assets which will be worth £88m which could be sold on the open market as an investment.

The Council could also retain the commercial assets and continue to benefit from the retail income generated each year. After using a proportion of the commercial rental income to service the debt the council would receive a further annual income of c £2.9m annually, rising over the years.

Considering Wokingham’s rapidly decreasing funding from central government, projects like the Regeneration that will secure avenues of additional income for the council are increasingly critical. It is hoped that the commercially viable model used for the Town Centre regeneration can be rolled out elsewhere within the borough to further support income generation and help fund services.

Whilst there is an element of risk in investment the Council has taken a careful approach to mitigating risks on the project. Costs continue to be actively managed by the project team and the council has already secured c65% of the income for Elms Field through existing pre-lets. This reduces the risk of development as this level of income is sufficient to service the debt accrued through the development.

### **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?
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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

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>
N/A

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
N/A

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# Agenda Item 35.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Highway Maintenance Plan and Programme for 2018/19</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2018
<b>WARD</b>	None specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Josie Wragg, Interim Director of Environment
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Chris Bowring, Executive Member for Highways and Transport

## OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The benefits of highway maintenance works and programmes aligned to Wokingham Borough Council's adopted Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy are:

- management and development of the highway asset aligned with corporate objectives
- delivery of highway services and schemes that are shaped by stakeholder expectations and customer requirements
- maximising the use of resources and budgets to ensure value for money for highways users and the residents and businesses of Wokingham borough

## RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

- 1) consider and comment on the related requirements, initiatives and improvements underway and being proposed for the year ahead
- 2) note the Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2018/19

## SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides an update on highway maintenance activities and the planned highway maintenance programme for the year ahead, to be delivered by the final year of the Wokingham Highways Alliance, a partnership of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), WSP professional services and the term contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) including:

- highway safety inspections, reactive works and assurance checks
- WBC's adopted Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy 2016
- the highway maintenance programme for the financial year 2018/19
- major highway projects to support Strategic Development Locations (SDL's)
- new requirements promoted by central government
- highways and transportation communications initiatives
- improvements underway and proposals for new contracts from April 2019

## **Background**

The Highways and Transportation Service is a key service committed to keeping the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee updated of improvements and developments within the service, along with any specific requests made by the Committee.

Wokingham Highways Alliance is partnership operating since 2008 of Wokingham Borough Council (the Council), WSP professional services (WSP) and the term maintenance and construction contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) delivering the highways and transportation services to Wokingham. The existing contracts are due to expire in March 2019, and the Council has been preparing for new contracts to be operating from April 2019 aligned to stakeholder and corporate requirements.

## **Highway safety inspections, reactive works and assurance checks**

Highway maintenance works are divided into reactive works resulting from safety inspections and enquiries from members and residents, and planned highway works. Reactive works usually take the form of filling potholes or patching to keep the network safe, whereas planned works are preventative works that represent better value for money, as they are planned and programmed well in advance therefore delivered more efficiently. The long-term aspiration for effective highway management is to improve and increase the planned works programme, which will improve the highway network condition reducing the requirement for reactive short-term works.

The Council has a team of highway inspectors who carry out safety inspections of the highway network by a defined inspection frequency, and order repairs of highway defects from BBLP that are above a defined intervention level (measurement). These follow prescriptive government requirements detailed in Wokingham's Highways Maintenance Management Plan 2013 (HMMP) available to view at this link:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/search/?q=highway%20maintenace%20policy>

Compliance with the 2013 plan protects the Council should a highway user suffer injury or loss, and subsequently claim against the Council. The Council has one of the highest defence rates from third party accident claims of the 200 highway authorities operating across the UK, which suggests a robust and fit for purpose system.

No BBLP operative, is allowed to undertake a specific task unless they have the required skills and appropriate qualifications. They are fully inducted before they commence work on the contract, ensuring full awareness of agreed processes and procedures. Works supervisors are issued with a manual, which includes standard details, method statements, and risk assessments that are bespoke to Wokingham, ensuring works are delivered to a safe and consistently high standard. BBLP works agents carry out audits of completed works to ensure that the finished product meets the required standard. The Council's own staff inspect all major works before payment is made, and a proportion of the 7,000 annual reactive works tickets (patching and potholing) are checked for compliance. In addition to this, each year two external quality audits are carried out across the contract in Wokingham to ensure that a robust quality system is in place.

## **WBC's adopted Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy 2016**

There has been significant improvement in Highways Asset Management since the Executive approved the Council's Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy in 2016, now available to view or download at this weblink:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/search/?q=highways%20asset%20management>

The adopted Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy and subsequent operational plans have assigned various "asset owners" as detailed in the framework diagram below to ensure effective management of all the different parts of the highways asset valued at £4B (£1.3B gross replacement cost plus £2.7B land value).

WBC's highways asset comprises:

736 km Road length: Includes 8 km of non-Highways England motorway A329(M)  
3,286 streets (613 traffic sensitive-18.5%)

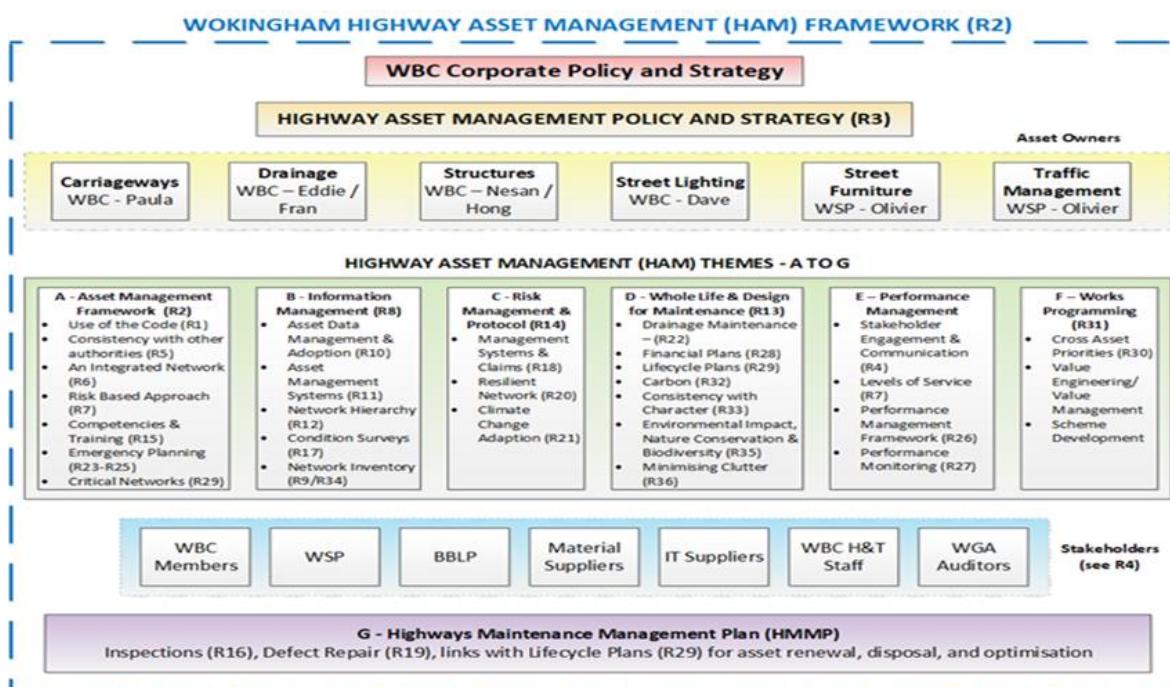
820 km Footway length

8 Million m<sup>2</sup> Highway Verges

250 Structures (including 166 bridges)

16,000 Street lights

30,000 Road gullies



Effective asset management promotes increased planned works, and lower levels of reactive works including patching and pothole filling. This is considered a more efficient use of funding, although it is recognised that keeping the network free from defects and safe for highway users is of paramount importance across the Highways and Transport service. Programmes of planned works are currently produced annually, consulted upon with the Executive Member for Highways and Transport and published on the Council's website.

## The Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2018/19

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE ROADS PROGRAMME 2018/2019	
<i>To maximum grant funding from Central Government via the Department for Transport, Councils must demonstrate effective highways asset management via an annual return. A key requirement ensures that Wokingham's 735km highway network valued at £1.3B (gross replacement cost) is continually subject to technical surveys, assessments and analysis and the data generates an annual road maintenance programme, ensuring investment goes where it most in need rather than being allocated on a regional or ward by ward basis. Wokingham Borough Council committed to this technical approach via the adoption at Executive Committee of the Wokingham Highways Asset Management Plan and Strategy in November 2016, which can be accessed at this weblink:</i>	
<i><a href="http://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=129&amp;Mid=1954">http://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=129&amp;Mid=1954</a></i>	
Road resurfacing schemes	Ward/s
A3032 High Street, Twyford (The Grove to Springfield Park)	Twyford
A3032 High Street, Twyford (Weavers Wy to Twyford c,road)	Twyford
A4 Bath Road (Holmehill Drive to Pound Lane)	Sonning
A4 London Road (TV Park rbt to Suttons rbt, eastbound)	Bulmershe and Whitegates
B3030 Robin Hood Lane (Winnersh crossroads to Garth Cl)	Winnersh
B3430 Nine Mile Ride (Sandhurst Road to Heathlands Road)	W'ham Without/Finchampstead North
B3016 Jubilee Road (War Memorial to The Village)	Finchampstead South
Hilltop Road (Hilltop spur road to London Road service road)	Bulmershe and Whitegates
Amberley Drive	Twyford
A33 Swallowfield Bypass (Lambs Lane to Barge Lane SB)	Swallowfield
B3430 Nine Mile Ride (Heathlands Rd to New W'ham Rd)	Wokingham Without
Redhatch Drive (around Collins Drive)	Hillside
Simons Lane (A329 Reading Road to Walter Road)	Emmbrook/Winnersh
Zinnia Close	Emmbrook
Charvil Lane (B4446 to Charfield Cottage)	Sonning
Suttons Park Avenue (end loop)	Bulmershe and Whitegates
A329 Berkshire Way North Bound Offslip	Wescott
Surface Dressing Programme	Ward/s
Cantley Crescent	Emmbrook
Marks Road	Emmbrook
Valley Crescent	Emmbrook
The Rise	Emmbrook
Copse Drive	Emmbrook
Clifton Road	Emmbrook
Sewell Avenue	Emmbrook
Swallowfield Road (Arborfield Cross rbt to Greensward Ln)	Arborfield
Scotts Drive	Emmbrook/Evendons
Hinton Road (A321 to Waltham Rd)	Hurst
Lambwood Hill (Bourough Boundary to Mortimer Road)	Shinfield South
Swallowfield Street (Basingstoke Rd to The Street)	Swallowfield
A321 Broadwater Lane (Hogmoor Lane to Whistley Green)	Hurst
A4130 White Hill (White Hill House to Aston Lane)	Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe
A4130 Henley Road	Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe
Byways	Ward/s
Doles Lane	Barkham/Evendons
Oaklands Lane	Wokingham Without

## **Major highway projects to support Strategic Development Locations (SDLs)**

Forming part of the Council's Core Strategy the Council is progressing new distributor roads comprising of North & South Wokingham Distributor Roads, Winnersh Relief Road and Arborfield Cross Relief Road and to support the SDLs via a national procurement framework managed by public sector partnership Scape Group. The Council has been dealing with WSP as the lead designer and Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering UK (a sister company of Balfour Beatty Living Places) under the Scape framework since 2016 and progressing with the planning, environmental and design issues and developing a robust construction delivery programme with supply chain partners for this considerable infrastructure programme. The preliminary work is nearing conclusion, and the Council will soon be moving into a new phase by agreeing a detailed design and construction programme to deliver the five distributor/relief roads by Winter 2021. It is planned that the construction programme with completion dates for each section of the five distributor/relief roads will be circulated and communicated widely, and via the community forums, from early in 2018.

## **New requirements promoted by central government**

Central government has been promoting a Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) that requires all local Councils to adopt effective Highways Asset Management Plans, and more efficient highways maintenance services. Demonstrating compliance enables Councils to receive maximum annual block funding settlement from the Department for Transport (DfT).

All Councils submit an annual self-assessment technical submission each January, demonstrating how the Council is performing in this regard. WBC is expecting to reach the top band 3 status at the January 2018 self-assessment and following submission. To ensure this it is essential the Council continues to improve its delivery of the full range of highway maintenance services, including reducing its reliance on reactive works and moving to longer-term programming of maintenance and capital works considering the "whole life cost" of works, to ensure and demonstrate value for money and long-term thinking.

Additionally central government released a new code of practice in November 2016 titled Well Maintained Highways. The code requires (mandatory) a step change towards a "risk based approach" for highways maintenance and asset management across all asset classes, where all Councils must decide their own maintenance standards. Government have allowed a 2 year window for Councils to adopt their own risk based plans with a deadline of November 2018 to achieve this. The new code details 36 recommendations that must be considered and embedded into the way Wokingham delivers highways asset management and highways maintenance services.

WBC is considered one of the most advanced Councils across the 200 Highways Authorities operating across the UK regarding its progress with the new code. This has resulted in a positive article in the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation's prestigious Transportation Professional in October 2017, plus WBC was asked to attend an industry "best practice" event with the Department for Transport in November 2017, to showcase WBC's progress to date in adopting and embedding the 36 recommendations of the new code of practice. WBC is one of the few authorities developing a web based tool called Wokingham Highways Asset

Management (WHAM) to deliver and demonstrate how it has embraced and is embedding the code. The WHAM web tool is due to go live early in 2018 and will be available via the Council's website and will be a single go to place for highway maintenance services for suppliers, Members, Town & Parish Councils and residents and very much supporting the self-serve principles of the 21CC.

A specific requirement of the new code during 2018 will be a wholesale revision of the Council's Highway Maintenance Management Plan 2013 detailed earlier in the report, to a new 2018 plan that fully adopts and embraces a risk based approach. This will allow the Council to deliver its highway maintenance services aligned to local needs and priorities identified at the stakeholder engagement events over 2016 and 2017, rather than the prescriptive standards formerly required by central government. It is a mandatory requirement that the Council adopts, published and embeds this new approach to highway maintenance before the November 2018 deadline.

### **Highways and transportation communications initiatives**

Improving communication of works and projects on the highway network is top priority for the highways alliance partners. There have been significant improvements in the planning and programming of schemes and projects, looking to the end of the current alliance contracts to March 2019. This involves all the Council's highway projects, but also third party "works promotor" projects including developers and the statutory utility companies. A concept called "visual project management" has been introduced since early 2017, and over the year, the initiative has become embedded ensuring a collaborative approach to project management and delivery. This has led to improved network management, a more joined up approach between the alliance partners, improved management of projects and improved communications with Members, Town and Parish Councils and residents.

A Highways and Transportation Communication Strategy has been underway over 2017 and is emerging fully aligned to resident, stakeholder and Council priorities. The strategy will include a network impact assessment (self-serve), which will set communication requirements for all works promoters carrying out activity on the highway network. This will ensure all works promoters are clear of what is required to work on WBC's highway network, and who is required to undertake specific communication actions. It is proposed a Highways and Transport Communications Member briefing will be arranged for early 2018, when more information of this initiative will be provided.

### **Improvements underway and proposals for new contracts from April 2019**

Improvements and streamlining of processes, response times and improved customer services remain a Council priority and the customer experience is centric to the 21st Century Council initiative. As an interim measure, the Highways and Transportation team introduced the [HighwaysforMembers@Wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysforMembers@Wokingham.gov.uk) Inbox, which has provided excellent service to Members with an increased usage and satisfaction from Members since its inception in Summer 2016. Members are encouraged to use this inbox for the best the service available.

Over 2016 and 2017 there were a number of highways workshops held with key stakeholders including Members and Town and Parish Councils plus WBC's Highways and Transport annual residents' surveys were undertaken. In addition to

this, the Council ran a Wokingham Transport and Highways survey from the Wokingham website and hard copies distributed around the community buildings and libraries around the borough during November and December 2017. The survey was very popular with over 1,000 residents and commuters completing the survey by the end of December 2017. This considerable data source is currently being assessed and analysed and will inform future priorities.

The purpose of these workshops and surveys was to find out which parts of the highway network, and which highway and transport services are most important to our customers including elected Members and Town & Parish Councils. The opportunity was used to undertake transport visioning work, to understand what is likely to become more or less important as we move into the future, looking as far ahead as 2036, which is the same period of the emerging Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, which are both being reviewed. The engagement and sessions provided essential data enabling the service to evolve to meet the needs of stakeholders both now and into the future, including opportunities with the new highways and transport contracts that will come into effect from April 2019.

A summary of some of the information collated is provided below:

Challenges to 2036	Opportunities to 2036
Community Isolation	Local Plan and Strategic Control
Affordable Housing	CIL & Infrastructure Delivery
Congestion/Air quality	Improvement in IT & data
Move to a driverless world	Public transport/walking/cycling
Climate Change & Flood Risk	Health & Wellbeing

There have been several changes in personnel within WSP and BBLP over the last 6 months, which has improved the performance of the Highways Alliance. The teams and personnel are working in collaboration towards shared goals and a vision via a signed Memorandum of Understanding and Transport Vision to 2036 agreed in 2017. Further to this, a business improvement initiative has been created bringing new ideas, innovation and target areas in need of improvement across the service. This has brought an increased focus towards improving the quality of the reactive works service including patching and potholes and improving how we deliver the many highways projects on the network, and a focus towards improving stakeholder and customer communication.

A review of the current Highways & Transportation Services is underway as part of the Council's 21st Century Council programme Phase 2. It is programmed that the review and redesign of the service will be complete and implemented by Spring 2018. In parallel with this, and aligned to the stakeholder engagement during 2016 and 2017 new contract documents and specifications are being drafted that will come into operation from April 2019. The new contracts will include the following priorities:

- Smarter Working (21CC IT for staff & customers)
- One Team (partnership working/reduce man marking/duplication)
- Network Coordination & resilience (manage works & congestion)
- Providing Flexibility (network & technological)
- Customer Focus (self-serve, improved communication & managing expectation)
- Outcome based performance measures (Congestion / Journey Times / Air Quality)

## Innovation (IT/Customer Experience & Satisfaction)

Evaluation criteria and performance measures for the new contracts, which will benefit along with 21st Century Council from new IT, will have a focus towards reducing congestion, promoting public transport/walking and cycling, environmental improvements like improving air quality, improved control of works and projects, introducing innovation and focus towards self-serve and enhanced customer service.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

The costs for this service are provided and delivered within existing contract and budget provision for the WSP and BBLP contracts

### **Cross-Council Implications**

No specific cross cutting themes

### **List of Background Papers**

None

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<b>Date</b> 3 January 2018	<b>Version No</b> 4

# Agenda Item 36.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>May 2018 Local Elections</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2018
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andrew Moulton, Acting Returning Officer (and Assistant Director, Governance)

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That Members and the public have an understanding of the issues that affect the timing of the Borough and Parish counts taking place in May 2018.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Community and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes that the Borough and Parish election counts will take place overnight immediately following the close of polls on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

On Thursday 3 May 2018, there will be elections held for seats on the Borough and Parish councils.

When reaching a decision as to the most effective timing of the election counts, the Acting Returning Officer is required to take into account the guidance and performance standards of the Electoral Commission.

The report considers the various options for undertaking the election counts following the close of polls at 10pm and sets out the rationale for holding the counts overnight on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May

## **Background**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 there will be elections to seats in 18 out the 25 Borough wards as follows:-

- Arborfield
- Bulmershe and Whitegates
- Coronation
- Emmbrook
- Evendons
- Finchampstead North
- Finchampstead South
- Hawkedon
- Hillside
- Loddon
- Maiden Erlegh
- Norreys
- Remenham, Wargrave & Ruscombe
- Shinfield South
- South Lake
- Swallowfield
- Winnersh
- Wokingham Without

In addition, there will be elections for four Parish councils which may or may not be contested.

The decision as to when to hold the counts rests with the Acting Returning Officer taking into account guidance and performance standards from the Electoral Commission.

## **Analysis of Issues**

With regard to the Borough and Parish counts, three possible options have been identified and considered:-

1. Immediately following the close of polls at 10am and overnight through the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> May
2. Later in the day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May
3. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May

## **Analysis of Options - Pros and Cons**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivers results as early as possible in accordance with Electoral Commission guidance and standards</li><li>• Separate count team employed who, in the main,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some Councillors would need to take a further day off from work as final results may not be available until 5-6am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May If (Parish Council counts are required the results would be the last to be declared).</li></ul>

	will not have been working on the elections during the day.	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results declared day following election but clearly later than option 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most Councillors would need to take a further day off from work.</li> <li>Difficulty securing sufficient count staff</li> <li>Possible that not all counts would be completed (if we start at say 2pm on Friday) – eg if Parish counts are required these are more complex as they involve multiple seats.</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most Councillors would not have to take additional holiday from work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results declared two days after election</li> <li>Financial implications as would have to pay staff weekend rates</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

Taking into account the above analysis, option 1 is the most effective taking all stakeholders into account. This is in accordance with past practice when, historically, local election counts have been performed overnight except when polling day has been combined with national and/or regional elections (General, European). On those occasions, the national election count has taken precedence.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

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

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

## Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

\*\* the costs of elections are not separately broken down within the electoral services budget

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

Services and staff from across the Council support the delivery of the elections e.g. provision of poll clerks/presiding officers.

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

Not applicable

**List of Background Papers**

Electoral Commission guidance and performance standards for Returning Officers

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# COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME MARCH 2018

12 March 2018

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
Community Safety Partnership & Policing	To consider an annual review of the operation of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership and Update on Policing	Required by legislation	Julia Mlambo
Civil Parking Enforcement	To consider the impact of the introduction of CPE within the authority	Update following item 3 March 2017	Matt Gould
Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the municipal year 2018-19	Standing Item	Arabella Yandle, Neil Carr

**To be scheduled**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
Unauthorised Encampments	To update the Committee on progress towards recommendations	Update following item 6 November 2017	Simon Price
Highways and Transport Work Programmes	To update the Committee on progress towards recommendations	Update following item 15 January 2017	Clare Lawrence/Matt Gould
Public Protection Fees and Charges	To consider fees and charges and the way in which fees and charges were set by the service.	Requested by O&S Management Committee	Clare Lawrence

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Agenda Item 37.

Flood Risk Update Report	To consider any local flooding issues arising during the winter of 2016/18	Statutory requirement	Francesca Hobson
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