



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 4 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Graham Ebers
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 24 August 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	Clive Jones	Dianne King
Ian Pittock		

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
11.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
12.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017.	5 - 8
13.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
14.		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	
15.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.	
16.	None Specific	STRATEGIC REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR SERVICES (PLACE COMMISSIONING) To consider the ongoing Strategic Review of Voluntary and Community Sector providers in relation to the Place Commissioning service.	9 - 12

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|------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| 17. | None Specific | HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT UPDATE REPORT
To consider an update on Highways and Transport activities within the Council's Highways Alliance with WSP and Balfour Beatty Living Places. | 13 - 18 |
| 18. | None Specific | CYCLE LANES UPDATE
To consider an update on the development of a comprehensive cycle network across the Borough. | 19 - 24 |
| 19. | None Specific | WORK PROGRAMME
To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18. | 25 - 28 |

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 19 JUNE 2017 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.20 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Shahid Younis (Chairman), Bill Soane (Vice-Chairman), Pauline Jorgensen, Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall, Philip Mirfin, David Sleight and Ian Pittock

Other Councillors Present

Councillors: Dianne King, Chris Bowring, Michael Firmager and Norman Jorgensen

Officers Present

Arabella Yandle (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist), Paul Feven (Assistant Director of People Commissioning (Interim)), Matt Gould (Service Manager, Transport & Road Safety) and Edward Napper (Drainage Maintenance Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted from Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 March 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest in item 9 was submitted from Councillor David Sleight on the basis that he was a Member of the Parking Working Group.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

6. PRINCIPLES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Arabella Yandle, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist presented a paper on the principles of overview and scrutiny. The paper outlined the benefits to the community of a rigorous approach to overview and scrutiny, citing good and bad examples and suggesting a range of stakeholders to approach for input. It was designed to stimulate a conversation about checks and balances, a topic that was particularly pertinent in the week following the fire at Grenfell Tower.

During the discussion of the item, the following points were made:

- The quality of scrutiny depended on the timeliness and quality of information provided;
- Members needed time to digest the contents of reports so reports should be published with the agenda. Verbal reports alone would not be accepted. Items that did not include reports should not be discussed;
- Ideally, items should come to overview and scrutiny committees prior to being adopted/finalised so that the committees could inform the process;

- Different approaches to increasing the contribution of a range of stakeholders should be considered, including the potential of holding themed evenings and inviting key stakeholders to contribute;
- It would be valuable to gain knowledge of overview and scrutiny by attending overview and scrutiny meetings in other boroughs. The value of this could then be fed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
- Holding Chairman's Briefings to look at draft reports prior to the publication of the agenda allowed the opportunity to make sure the reports were fit for purpose, and
- To increase the involvement of all the Members of the Committee, Members would be invited to submit questions and issues to the Chair two weeks after a meeting. These would be passed to the officers to ensure their inclusion in the reports.

Resolved: That

1. Neil Carr, Scrutiny Officer, investigate and advise on good practice in overview and scrutiny meetings in other boroughs that Members could attend prior to the next Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meeting;
2. A recommendation be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee relating to late items and, if approved, be submitted to the Constitutional Working Group for consideration, and
3. Members of the Committee consider items in the Forward Plan and submit any questions or issues to the Chair within two weeks of the meeting for inclusion in reports.

7. REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Arabella Yandle, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist, delivered a brief summary of the history of the Committee's interest in the voluntary sector and outside bodies.

Paul Feven, Assistant Director of People Commissioning, then presented the report, outlining the intention behind the Strategic Review of voluntary sector services and the work that had been carried out on it to date. The focus was to ascertain which services were being provided; how they were being delivered and determine the means by which they would be evaluated in future (i.e. clear required outcomes for service users). On the whole this would also involve moving from short term grant funding to longer term contracts, providing more security for providers. The review will also improve the service to the residents by attaching KPIs to the services they were provided with whilst assisting the voluntary sector in their medium to long term planning. He explained that the report had gone to Executive in January and that it was a work in progress.

In response to Member questions, it was clarified what was meant by outside bodies and the voluntary sector, explaining that the two overlapped in that some of the outside bodies that the Council had representation on were also providers. The work that was covered by the report related to any organisation that provided a service that had been commissioned by the People Directorate, commissioning being the assessment of a need and how to meet it. This is as opposed to procurement, which is the process of purchasing.

The Assistant Director of People Commissioning went on to explain how the new process would be streamlined to remove areas of service duplication. Providers would only be asked to provide necessary information that added value to the review process.

During the discussion of the item, the following points were made:

- Ward Members were frequently asked questions by residents that they could not answer as they were not kept up to speed with changes;
- A process should be put in place to advise and assist charities whose funding was not going to continue;
- Users of services and service providers should be invited to take part in overview and scrutiny as part of ensuring quality provision and rigorous overview and scrutiny;
- In the pursuit of transparency, details of grants, funding and other payments received by outside bodies and the voluntary sector should be posted on the internet, and
- The Review needed to be expanded to include Place.

Resolved: That

1. For the Assistant Director for Place Commissioning to deliver an update on the Review at the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on 4 September 2017;
2. The invitation be extended to the Assistant Director of Place Commissioning so that she might report on how the review could be extended to the Place Directorate;
3. The Directorates open and maintain communication pathways with Ward Members to keep them informed about items that affect their wards, and
4. Officers investigate the feasibility of posting a page on the internet listing organisations and the funding they receive.

8. FLOOD RISK UPDATE

Eddie Napper, Drainage Maintenance Manager, delivered an update on Flood Risk in the Borough on behalf of Francesca Hobson, Flood Risk Manager, outlining the progress made with the Lead Local Flood Authority's duties during 2016-17.

In response to Member questions, he outlined the process needed to assess an asset and enter it on to the asset register, which would be accessible on line for both staff and residents. In relation to Land Drainage Byelaws, he stated that there were powers to force a landowner to maintain a Land Drain and that these would be enhanced under Wokingham specific byelaws that included, among other things, a restriction on building within 8m of the top of a bank, a rule that would be upheld under Planning regulations.

He went on to state that a new company had been awarded the contract for Gully Cleansing and outlined how the company worked with technology to provide up to date and accurate data that would be readily accessible when dealing with a resident query.

In response to a Member question regarding Flood Wardens, he explained the value of local knowledge of residents in reporting river and stream levels. Ward Members and Parishes would be informed who they were and the areas they covered.

Resolved: That

1. Ward Members and Parish Councils be informed as to who the Flood Wardens were and which areas they covered, and

2. The Flood Risk Manager review the online content of the asset register and inform the Committee as to when it will become available.

9. CAR PARK PRICING

(Councillor David Sleight declared a personal interest)

Matthew Gould, Service Manager, Transport & Road Safety, delivered an update from the Parking Working Group, outlining the benefit to residents of the changes in the Council's parking strategy.

In response to Member questions regarding school drop offs, the Service Manager, Transport & Road Safety, confirmed that the item on school gate parking would include 'kiss and go' drop offs. He stated that the issue of school dropping off points and additional parking would be considered as part of the new strategy.

In regards to the road restrictions on Peach Street (that had recently come to an end) and other concerns around illegal parking, he suggested that the adoption of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE), which was due to come on board in the near future, would allow the Council to pursue illegal parking aggressively and that a lot of the existing issues would be resolved disappear. He also stated that CPE would help to address some of the issues regarding lorries and other vehicles blocking roads where they are contravening parking restrictions.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

The Work Programme for September was reviewed and the following points were made:

- As per the resolutions in item 6, Members of the Committee should submit any questions or issues around the items on the agenda in September to the Chair by week commencing 3 July 2017 for referral to officers for inclusion in their reports;
- As per the resolutions in item 7, the two Heads of Strategic Commissioning be invited to attend the September meeting to deliver updates on the review of voluntary sector;
- The item on Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration be postponed to November;
- Alex Deans be asked to include issues on the work on the A329M in his update, and
- David Wilby be asked to include how the work on the Reading Road is being managed in his update on cycling lanes.

The Work Programme for November was reviewed and the following points were made:

The item on the 21st Century Council should be postponed until January 2018 at the earliest, but the Committee felt that, as such an important issue, it was important that all aspects of overview and scrutiny be given enough time to examine its impact. If it was to be merged into one meeting with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Members of all other overview and scrutiny committees should be invited to attend.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be noted and the changes outlined above be actioned.

TITLE	Strategic Review of Voluntary Sector Services (Place Commissioning)
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2017
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Josie Wragg – Interim Director, Environment Graham Ebers – Director, Corporate Services
LEAD MEMBER	Julian McGhee-Sumner – Executive Member for Adults' Services, Health, Wellbeing and Housing

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The review will provide

- the opportunity for longer term arrangements for the voluntary and community sector, supporting sustainability and market development within the sector;
- a clear and defined offer from the voluntary and community sector that delivers against a range of priorities and outcomes which have been jointly developed by the Council and the sector;
- clarity, through the partnership arrangement, on how the Council and the voluntary and community sector will work together as strategic partners in the delivery of key outcomes for Wokingham's residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

- 1) Note that the Place Commissioning Service is engaged in the Strategic Review of Voluntary and Community Sector services, alongside the People Commissioning Service, as reported to this Committee on 19 June 2017;
- 2) Note that the Review includes the following elements:
 - The development of a co-produced Partnership Agreement between Wokingham Borough Council and local voluntary and community sector providers including the key priorities and outcomes required for service delivery;
 - A strategic review of voluntary and community sector funded services including the further development of commissioned services with established outcomes for Wokingham's residents;
 - The continued direction of travel from the award of grants to voluntary sector providers to the award of contracts.
- 3) Comment on the proposals in the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To outline to the Committee the approach being taken to the Strategic Review of Voluntary and Community Sector providers by the Place Commissioning service, which will mirror the approach being taken by People Commissioning, as reported to the meeting of this Committee on 19th June 2017.

The aim of the review is to secure the value the sector brings to residents as well as offering sustainable support to individual organisations within the sector.

The review will deliver:

- Measurable outcomes for each commissioned or grant funded voluntary sector service;
- The establishment of a clear relationship between the Council's continued grant funding of a voluntary sector service and the achievement of measurable outcomes;
- Transitional support arrangements for any current service which is recommended for decommissioning or where grant funding will not be renewed;
- The increased use of contracts rather than grants for voluntary sector services;
- The development of investment priorities to help shape future commissioning of voluntary sector services;
- A programme of outcome focussed reviews of current investments in the voluntary sector.

Background

At the meeting of this Committee on, 19th June 2017, the Assistant Director of People Commissioning presented a report outlining work that was underway to review voluntary and community sector services to ascertain which services were being provided; how these were being delivered and the means by which they would be evaluated in future i.e. through clear outcomes for service users. This would, in the main mean moving from short term grant funding to longer term contracts, providing more security for providers. The review would also improve the service to residents by attaching Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to the services being provided whilst assisting the sector with their medium to long term planning. This followed a report to Executive in January 2017.

The Committee requested that the Assistant Director, Place Commissioning provide an update to this meeting on how the review could be extended to Place-based Commissioning.

Analysis of Issues

The scale of Place-based voluntary and community sector commissioning is considerably smaller than that in People Commissioning, with only 3 organisations currently receiving annual grant-based funding totalling £45,600.

The three organisations are:

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

However, the approach being taken is intended to mirror that which is underway for People based commissioning to ensure that there is consistency across the Council. In summary reviews will be undertaken in two main phases, with Phase 1 from September - October 2017, and Phase 2 from November 2017 to January 2018. Initial meetings are underway with providers to make them aware of the process and timetable for review.

Each review will follow the following process:

Meeting 1

This will be the core part of the service review and cover the following areas:

- Service description and aims;
- Governance arrangements;
- Monitoring arrangements;
- Outcomes identified, monitored and delivered;
- Customer, carer and stakeholder feedback;
- Potential opportunities for strategic alignments/partnerships with other providers;
- Alignment to the Council's priorities and outcomes.

Commissioning Analysis

Officers will consider the review material and propose recommendations for the service under consideration.

Meeting 2

The outcome of the review will be communicated to the provider via the second meeting.

The impact on the provider, customers and stakeholders will be carefully considered and, where changes are proposed, officers will recommend a transitional arrangement pertinent to the particular nature of the service. Recommendations will be focussed on the appropriate service future for the next 2-3 year period, with transitional steps where appropriate, e.g. transitional contract for year 1, market procurement in year 2.

Each individual service review will lead to recommendations covering a wide spectrum of options including:

- No change – continue with existing arrangements;
- Reduce/increase the scope of the service;
- Identification of performance issues that need to be resolved via an improvement plan;
- Move from grant funded arrangements to contracted arrangements;
- Increased or reduced grant funding;
- Expose the service to external competition;
- Decommission the service;

The potential outcomes of the review will be discussed with providers, and a draft review timetable will be available setting out proposed timescales.

The impact on providers, customers and stakeholders will be carefully considered, and the approach will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the service being commissioned.

Decision-making and Oversight

There are currently no grants/potential contracts which are over the EU threshold (£589,000). A meeting of the Executive on 30 March 2017 agreed to delegate authority to the relevant Director and Lead Member to approve outcomes from individual reviews. The Leader of the Council, as voluntary sector champion, will be provided with regular briefings on the progress of the strategic review.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

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

In reviewing these services account will be taken of any potential impact on other council services, and key internal stakeholders will be consulted as part of any individual review.

List of Background Papers

Strategic Review of Voluntary Sector Services – Executive on 30 March 2017

Contact Sarah Hollamby	Service Strategy and Commissioning - Place
Telephone No 0118 974 6817	Email sarah.hollamby@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 7 August 2017	Version No. 1

TITLE	Highways and Transport Update Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2017
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Josie Wragg, Interim Director of Environment
LEAD MEMBER	Chris Bowring, Executive Member for Highways and Transport

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Improved delivery and control of highways and transportation services and schemes across the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

- 1) note the improvements made to date;
- 2) consider and comment on the further improvements and initiatives proposed and detailed within the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides an update on highways and transportation activities and initiatives within the Wokingham Borough Council, WSP and Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) Highways Alliance, with a focus towards highway maintenance works and as requested the report also includes an update on:

- Highways asset management;
- Assurances and checks in place to ensure that roadworks are delivered to the right specification and to the right standard in terms of quality;
- Highways England Smart Motorways projects acoustic barriers;
- M4/J10 junction improvement works to improve traffic flows and reduce congestion.

Background

The Highways and Transportation Service are 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.

General Update

There have been several changes in personnel within WSP and BBLP over recent months, which has provided some challenges to business continuity and maintaining relationships within the highways alliance. However the current teams and personnel are working well together. Via a signed Memorandum of Understanding in September 2016 “partnership working” has very much improved within the Highways Alliance over the last year. This has brought an increased focus towards improving the quality of our reactive works (patching and potholes), improving how we deliver the many highways projects on the network, and a focus towards improving stakeholder and customer communication, engagement and service. Current arrangements and contracts with WSP (Professional Services) and BBLP (Highways Term Maintenance and Projects) are scheduled to end in March 2019.

A review of the current Highways & Transportation Services is underway as part of the Council’s 21st Century Council (21CC) programme Phase 2. It is programmed that the 21CC review and design is complete by Autumn 2017; then drafting the new highways and transport contracts can commence for operation from April 2019. It is early days but the performance measures of the new contracts, which will benefit along with 21CC 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 a strong focus towards self-serve and enhanced customer service.

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 Transport team introduced the 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.

The Council’s current Highway Maintenance Plan dated 2013, including highway inspections and intervention for defects, is available on the Council’s website at this weblink: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/search/?q=highway%20maintenace%20policy> Central Government released the new Codes of Practice in November 2016. The new codes require (mandatory) a step change towards a risk based approach where local Councils must decide their own maintenance standards, which must be risk based for all asset classes. Government allowed 2 years for local Councils to adopt their own guidelines by a deadline of November 2018. However Wokingham is planning to undertake the process early to ensure the new risk based approach can be written into the new contracts re-procurement cycle which commences in early 2018.

Update of Specific Issues

Highways Asset Management

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>

Over 2016 and 2017 there were a number of workshops held with stakeholders including Members and Town and Parish Council plus our Highways and Transport annual residents' surveys were undertaken. The purpose of these workshops and surveys was to find out which parts of the highway network, and which highway and transport services were most important to our customers. We also utilised the opportunity to undertake some 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 were very positive from an Officer perspective, and this enables 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 which will come into effect from April 2019.

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

Challenges to 2036

Community Isolation
Affordable Housing
Congestion/Air quality
Move to a driverless world
Climate Change & Flood Risk

Opportunities to 2036

Local Plan and Strategic Control
CIL & Infrastructure Delivery
Improvement in IT & data
Public transport/walking/cycling
Health & Wellbeing

Opportunities surrounding new Highways & Transport Contracts from April 2019

Smarter Working (21CC IT for staff & customers)
One Team (partnership working/reduce man marking/duplication)
Network Coordination (manage works & congestion)
Network Resilience (operation & asset performance)
Providing Flexibility (network & technological)
Customer Focus (self-serve, comms & expectation)
Outcome based performance measures:
Congestion / Journey Times / Air Quality / Carbon Red
Innovation / IT / Customer Experience & Satisfaction

As well as ensuring the Highways and Transport service is tailored to our Members, Town and Parish Councils, businesses and residents preferences, effective highways asset management promotes a technical, long term approach to delivering highway maintenance works and delivering Highways and Transport projects. Looking at the Borough and budgets holistically, with expert support from our professional services experts (WSP) and term highway contractors (Balfour Beatty Living Places) we ensure that we take a long term approach to maintaining and developing the highway network, ensuring we use the best techniques and materials to ensure value for money for the residents of Wokingham.

The adopted Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy and subsequent operational plans have now assigned various “asset owners” to ensure effective management of all the different parts of the highway asset £4B (£1.3B gross replacement cost plus £2.7B land value) 736km highway network including roads, footways, bridges, structures, drainage, street lighting, traffic signals and street furniture.

Effective asset management promotes more planned works, and lower levels of reactive works like 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 relevant Executive Member, then hosted on the Council's website. Schemes for 2017/18 (up to 31 March) can be found at this link:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/search/?q=road%20programme>

Moving forward and aligned with improvements in asset management we are working towards longer programming of planned schemes and projects, and of all highways asset classes (not just roads) and this will be introduced over coming months along with an improved Highways and Transport Communication strategy for all works promoters; providing greater visibility of what is proposed on the network with access via self-serve.

Assurances and checks in place to ensure that roadworks are delivered to the right specification and to the right standard in terms of quality

The Council's highway maintenance and street lighting contractor, Balfour Beatty Living Places, put great emphasis on the quality of their workmanship. No operative, be they directly employed by BBLP or a member of the supply chain, is allowed to undertake a specific task unless they have the required skills and appropriate qualifications. All team members are fully inducted before they commence work on the contract, ensuring that everyone is fully aware of agreed processes and procedures. Each works supervisor is issued with a manual which includes standard details, method statements and risk assessments that are bespoke to Wokingham, ensuring that 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 and that quality procedures are adhered to.

Additionally the Council's Highways and Transport contracts have various performance measures, the majority of which sit within the BBLP term maintenance contract. Through improved partnership working it has been agreed between the Council, WSP and BBLP that these performance measures dating back to 2007, when the contracts were originally written, were in need of a full review. This process is underway and it is proposed the contracts will now be measured by both high level outcomes focussed performance measures aligned to corporate requirements and the Council's Transport Vision to 2036, which Members and the Town and Parish Councils helped to shape, as well as more operationally focussed performance measures such as response times.

The review is also assessing how the performance data can be better presented and shared with Members and residents via the Council's website.

Update on Highways England M4 Smart Motorways Scheme acoustic barriers

In March 2017 Highways England (HE) were invited to Wokingham Borough Council to provide a presentation to Lead Members and Officers regarding the M4 J2-J12 Smart Motorway Scheme, including how HE intended to discharge the requirements of the Secretary of State's Development Consent Order (DCO) made on 2nd September 2016. One of these requirements related to acoustic barriers. At the presentation, the then Leader of the Council requested that HE provided some straightforward and simple information and plans regarding the proposals for the acoustic barriers relevant to the Borough which would help allay local Members' and residents' concerns. At the presentation HE confirmed they would arrange this and submit before the end of June 2017. Regrettably HE failed to deliver on this assurance, and after several approaches from Officers submitted their acoustic barrier proposals as part of their formal application to Wokingham Borough Council's Local Planning Authority to discharge this and various other aspects of the DCO. Below are the web links to this submission from HE.

Acoustic Barrier Specification:

https://smpbim.withbc.com/pub/english.cgi/0/1047340?op=download_page&id=1047340

Acoustic Barrier Location Plans:

https://smpbim.withbc.com/pub/english.cgi/0/1035507?op=download_page&id=1035507

The Local Planning Authority are currently assessing the details submitted from HE in respect of Requirement 22 (Acoustic Barriers) in conjunction with Environmental Health Officers, and were working to a deadline of 28th July 2017.

Update on the M4/J10 junction improvement works to improve traffic flows and reduce congestion

Further to the HE's "Congestion Study Report" released by HE in September 2016 it was agreed between the Council and HE that the "S1&S3 short term works" options from the report would be implemented by the end of March 2017. Due to some of the innovative signing and lining solutions proposed by HE being "non-standard" the approval process turned out to require government/DfT authorisation. This delayed the Council and HE approval processes, meaning the works could not be undertaken by March 2017 as originally planned.

In the meantime the major bridge maintenance works continue with an original end date of November 2017 currently communicated. From discussions with HE it appears their site contractors have encountered some unforeseen ground conditions and their programme and end date may now slip. HE are currently re-assessing the programme and will confirm and arrange appropriate comms should this slippage be confirmed. The short term works will be accommodated as part of the major bridge maintenance works/traffic management. However it is unlikely the subsequent traffic monitoring required to determine if the short term works have eased congestion adequately will provide accurate data until 3 months after the junction is clear of all road works and restrictions, which on the current timescale will be early 2018.

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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Date 18 August 2017	Version No 1

TITLE	Cycle Lanes Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 th September 2017
WARD	All
DIRECTOR	Josie Wragg Interim Director of Environment
LEAD MEMBER	Chris Bowring, Executive Member for Highways and Transport

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- The development of a comprehensive cycle network to encourage sustainable transport and to address congestion on the highways network;
- To support the My Journey Wokingham travel plan project, by providing new infrastructure, encouraging more residents to cycle for short journeys.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

- Note the cycling improvements and initiatives underway;
- Note the proposals to continue the development of the cycle network across the borough;
- Note the incorporation of the DfT's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Planning guidance to assist the prioritisation of new cycling and walking schemes;
- Comment on the updates and proposals in the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The report considers the impacts of new cycle lanes across the Borough and cycling safety issues including the update on the extension of new cycle lanes after the completion of Phase 4 of the A329 cycleway project. (Phase 4, Ferndale Crescent to Holt Lane).

Background

In January 2017 the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee were given a presentation considering the impact of new cycle lanes across the Borough and cycling safety issues including an update on the extension of new cycle lanes. The presentation included:

- A recap of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme including the funding mechanisms and ambitions of the project;
- An overview of cycle lanes and how these have generally been funded in recent years, including Government funding (DfT) LSTF funding, Cycle Safety Funding,

Thames Valley LEP funding through the local Growth Fund and developer contributions collected as part of their commitment to sustainable travel and cycling;

- Wider commitments to the delivery of sustainable transport through planning, this included a roundup of the My Journey Wokingham project;
- A review of Safety Programmes offered by the Council, including the Bikeability work that is on-going;
- A review of the progress of the A329 Corridor cycleway project, this is also referred to as NCN 422, the number Sustrans have provisionally given to a new National Cycle route crossing the Borough.

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked that an update report on the impacts of new cycle lanes across the Borough and cycling safety issues, including the update on the extension of new cycle lanes after the completion of Phase 4 of the A329 cycleway project, be provided.

Funding for cycleways since 2013

As previously explained in the first presentation to the Committee, in September 2016, new cycleways are delivered where there is the greatest opportunity to encourage transport behaviour change and where the highways network and funding allow development. Since 2013 the Council has used a combination of grant funding and developer funding to provide new cycleways.

The Lower Earley Cycleway was delivered by a combination of a grant from DfT and Section 106 contributions collected from the development of Marsh Farm, now Barn Croft Drive. The Council applied to the DfT's Cycle Safety Fund, which was a competitive bid process and secured over £750,000 from a £20m nationally allocated funding pot.

The Council also secured £2.75m from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, which was supplemented by Integrated Transport Block and S106 funding to give a project funding total of £4.6m to be spent over 3 years. LSTF funding was a mixture of revenue and capital funding, split 60/40. We used the capital funding element to take a packaged approach to delivering a new cycleway on the A329 corridor. A packaged approach means replacing traffic signals, improving bus stops and shelters, addressing the footway condition and kerbing, removing pedestrian islands that were a barrier to cycling and most importantly resurfacing the carriageway.

The LSTF funding only delivered enough funding to get the project as far as Winnersh, the junction with Woodward Close and the A329 Reading Road. The Council was successful in securing a portion of £4.2m of Local Growth Fund capital from the Thames Valley LEP to continue with the A329 project and convert the scheme into something that has regional and economic significance.

New cycle lane impacts

The Lower Earley Way cycleway opened in September 2015 and the first phase of the A329 cycleway opened in late 2013. The A329 cycleway is being delivered in phases.

Phase 4 is on the ground now with the last major phase being planned for delivery in 2018.

The impacts of the two cycleways have been mixed. Data collected for a full year from cycle counters on the Lower Earley Way cycleway indicated that there were 29,646 cycle trips in a year. This equates to removing 18,528 car trips from the network over the course of that year. On a daily basis that is an average of 81 cycle trips in place of 51 car journeys.

As yet we do not have cycle counters embedded in the A329 cycleway, these are programmed to be delivered late in 2017, funding dependent. We have conducted a weekly survey at 8 points along the A329 route for the last 5 years to ensure we have comparable data.

The data for 2017 shows that there are about 18,300 cycle trips along the A329 each week (both directions, 7 day total). This shows that there has been an increase in cycling along the length of the route of about 14% on the base year of 2013 (2,280 cycle trips). In terms of removing car trips from the network at our most successful point, Loddon Bridge, this equates to removing 19,400 car trips a year from the network on the 2013 base year. From the base year of 2013, on a weekly basis this is an extra 597 extra cycle trips or a reduction of 374 car journeys.

To analyse the decongestion values that cycling gives we have used the overall increase in cycling numbers and divided that by All Purpose Car/Van occupancy figures provided by the DfT's National Travel Surveys statistics figures. All Purpose Car/Van occupancy figures are 1.6 people per car/van.

Cycle safety

On the whole Wokingham Borough is a relatively safe place to cycle. The latest records from Accs-Map show that in last 5 years there have been 236 accidents in Wokingham Borough where cyclists have been involved.

This includes two fatalities the first of which was on the A4 Bath Road in 2012, where a cyclist was hit by a car from behind and the second one was in March 2017 on Church Lane where a cyclist crashed and wasn't wearing a helmet. The fatality was a result of head injuries.

The main issue in regards of safety is that of the 236 slight and serious accidents 55 were recorded on the A329 corridor. This is almost a quarter (23%) of all slight and serious accidents. The delivery of a new cycle infrastructure, a shared facility and an on-carriageway cycleway along the Borough's busiest cycling corridor will go a long way to improving cycle safety and raising awareness of cyclists.

Wokingham Borough runs an effective Road Safety programme which is proving to be effective especially for our young people. Generally Wokingham doesn't have issues with young people being in cycle accidents. The data from Accs-Map shows that of the 236 cycle accidents in the last 5 year only 31 have involved children, (13%). This is because the Council delivers a comprehensive package of Bikeability training every year to 10–11 year olds. Bikeability replaced cycle proficiency some years ago and now

we train upwards of 1,500 children a year, before they go to secondary schools. We aim to educate local cyclists to do the right thing from a young age. So far in the last 9 years we have educated over 11,300 children. In 2016 we trained over 90% of all 10-11 year olds in the Borough.

The main issue for the Borough, and elsewhere, is adult cyclists being involved with accidents with cars and lorries. As a Council we undertake a number of Driver Education programmes as part of our long standing partnership with 'Safer Roads'. The education programmes, not only make cyclists aware of all the dangers around them, but also seek to educate drivers.

This programme has been supplemented in recent years with other locally run initiatives. In 2016 the Wokingham Road Safety team held a driver training event with Stewarts Coaches, located in Headley Road industrial park. Coach and bus drivers were taken out on educational led rides so that they could experience what it's like to be a cyclist when confronted with a large vehicle. The Council will continue to take an innovative and creative approach to road safety and addressing the issue of adult cycle accidents.

Update on new planned cycleways

Phase 4 of the A329 cycleway is programmed for completion in mid-September 2017. This will complete the project on the western arm of the A329. The next cycling scheme programmed to be delivered is the final phase of the A329 cycle project. A cycleway along the London Road to Coppid Beech roundabout. Plans are still being considered for this link and how to integrate works with the town centre regeneration and junction of the northern distributor road.

The feedback from the delivery of the first four sections of the A329 cycleway has been mixed. Feedback from cyclists has been positive, including the Reading Cycle Campaign. Cyclists particularly like the smooth road surface that has been installed as it makes cycling much more comfortable. This is reflected in the extra numbers of people using the cycle lanes on the A329.

Feedback from non-cyclists has been mixed. Some pedestrians and joggers using the Lower Earley Way scheme have reported that they feel intimidated by cyclists. Motorists and motorcycle riders along Lower Earley have complained about the fence and its proximity to the carriageway. This is contrasted by the numbers of parents that use the cycleway to train their children how to ride their bikes, because the route is straight, flat and secure. The fence provides a sense of security for all users.

Feedback from non-cyclists regarding the Reading Road scheme has been confined to the initial changes in the highways layout. Over a period of time these have settled down. More recently the Council has received comments about the construction and the time it has taken to complete some tasks.

We are also developing plans to implement a new cycleway along the Bader Way, this will involve an off-carriageway route through Dinton Pastures. The route will be delivered in phases, with the aim of linking up residential areas around Mohawk Way

and will be funded by development at Sandford Farm and the Lin-Pac site development on Miles Way.

In the future we intend to develop a new prioritised plan for walking and cycling based on DfT guidance. DfT have very recently produced guidance for local authorities to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The plan will be developed by making best use of the GIS tools provided on the DfT website, including the Propensity to Cycle Tool as well as undertaking some public consultation events to understand where are the biggest barriers to walking and cycling, real and perceived. The plan will be developed alongside a new Local Transport Plan and will support the ambitions of the emerging Local Plan Update and be aligned with our Greenways initiative.

Summary

Where possible we have taken a packaged approach to delivering cycleways so that they offer the Council maximum value for money. A packaged approach means that we have replaced kerbs, repaired drains and drainage, replaced life expired traffic signals, surfaced shared use footways, installed road safety schemes and resurfaced the carriageway. This full route treatment is a cost efficient way of improving the highway, and provides a high quality finish which should need little or no maintenance for several years.

To date the A329 cycleway project has delivered 5.5km of new on-carriageway cycleway. This has meant that we have provided a new road surface on 5.5km of the A329 corridor, and upgraded signal junctions at Three Tuns, Loddon Bridge Road, Winnersh Crossroads, Woodward Close and improved the signalised crossing at Emmbrook. Footways have been resurfaced in Winnersh and on the approaches to Woosehill. Drainage systems have been repaired and maintained for the full length of the road resurfacing programme.

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

Cycle infrastructure is allocated as part of the annual capital programme plus s106 developer and government and grant funding and therefore, there are no financial impacts associated with this update report.

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

New transport infrastructure has to be maintained. All new roads, cycleways and footways need to be swept and greenery cut back.

List of Background Papers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools>

<http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/>

<http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/discover-wokingham/cycling/cycling-on-the-a329-corridor/>

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Date 17.08.2017	Version No. 4

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Work Programme from September 2017

**Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice.
The information in this work programme is subject to approval at the Committee meeting scheduled for
4 September 2017**

*The order in which items are listed at this stage may not reflect the order they subsequently appear on the agenda / are dealt with
at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting.*

All Meetings start at 7.00pm in the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, unless otherwise stated.

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
6 Nov 2017	To review the potential impact of changes to the Right to Buy policy	To consider an update on the Government's Right to Buy proposals included in the Housing and Planning Act 2016, including levies	Requested by the Committee on 13 March 2017	Simon Price
	Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration	To consider an update on the progress towards and impact of the Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration	Requested by the Chair and Vice Chair May 2017	Bernie Pich
	Unauthorised encampments	To consider an update on Unauthorised Encampments in the Borough in 2017 and the response to the ideas and feedback from Members. A comparison to the previous year with explanation for differences	Requested by the Committee 21 November 2016	Jude Whyte
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2017/2018 so that the resources of the Committee can be used as effectively as possible.	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
15 Jan 2018	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	Supt Rob France/Joanne Castro
	Interaction with the Public	Update on public budget discussions and feedback on the interaction with public on the Council's budget		Graham and Anthony Pollock
	21st Century Council	To consider an update presentation/report on the 21 st Century Council Change Programme	Requested by the Committee on 9 Jan 2017	Chief Executive/ Heather Thwaites
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2017/2018 so that the resources of the Committee can be used as effectively as possible.	Standing Item	Democratic Services

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