



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

An Extraordinary Meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manjeet Gill', is positioned above the printed name.

Manjeet Gill  
Interim Chief Executive  
Published on 23 August 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.

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council’s website.

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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 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Parry Batth (Chairman)	Philip Houldsworth (Vice-Chairman)	Andy Croy
Lindsay Ferris	Guy Grandison	Kate Haines
Mike Haines	Ken Miall	Ian Pittock
Malcolm Richards	Bill Soane	Shahid Younis

### Substitutes

Alistair Auty	Rachel Burgess	Carl Doran
John Jarvis	Clive Jones	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
31.		<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
32.		<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest</p>	
33.		<p><b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions relating to the Call-In item on the Agenda.</p> <p>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.</p> <p>The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this Committee.</p> <p>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></p>	
34.		<p><b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any Member questions relating to the Call-In item on the Agenda.</p>	
35.		<p><b>CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE - CONSULTATION REPORT 2018</b> To consider the Call-In of the Executive decision (26 July 2018) relating to the termination of the School Crossing Patrol service and its replacement by permanent crossings.</p>	
35.1		<p>Background In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five non-Executive Members of the Council have submitted a</p>	

formal notice “calling in” the Executive decision to remove the School Crossing Patrol service from seven sites across the Borough once permanent crossing facilities were installed.

The full decision made by the Executive was as follows:

That:

- 1) WBC continue with its proposal to provide safe, permanent crossings at the seven locations that currently have a school crossing patroller, and, following their installation, remove the school crossing patrol service once the permanent crossings are complete as set out in Option 2, Appendix 1 of the report;
- 2) all affected schools are reminded that they have access to the Council’s road safety and My Journey teams who can facilitate further road safety training for pupils if requested.

**The decision has been called in on the following grounds:**

- 1) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 a) of the Council’s Constitution, in that the action being proposed is not proportionate to the desired outcome.
  - a) A blanket decision has been made to replace all remaining School Crossing Patrols (SCP) with pedestrian crossings, despite the different characteristics and requirements of the locations.
  - b) The desired outcome appears to be to save money yet the costs both of the crossings and the school crossing patrol have not been fully or correctly stated. None of the other options quoted had any costs provided.
  - c) The decision was made on the basis of costs for crossings which have not yet been designed – as a redesign is taking place at four sites due to the first design not being suitable; it is therefore unclear whether a crossing is actually the right answer for those locations, as well as the costs being unknown.
- 2) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 b) of the Council’s Constitution, in that due consultation and the taking of professional advice from Officers

has not occurred.

- a) The consultation was not complete at the point at which the decisions to withdraw the service were made.
  - b) The consultation was not carried out at an early stage, and was not meaningful, and contravened the Council's own rules on consultation.
  - c) There was no consultation with ward Members on the withdrawal of the service.
  - d) The replacement crossings were designed without reference to ward Members and before the consultation was carried out – and ward Members were not even informed until mid-July that the crossings had been designed.
  - e) Wokingham Town Council's consultation response has not been taken into consideration.
  - f) Letters putting the staff at risk of redundancy were issued before the consultation was concluded.
  - g) The Council's responses to the points made by respondents are inadequate.
  - h) At least one crossing was scheduled to be installed before the decision on the outcome of the consultation took place.
  - i) At least one safety audit was done during the school holidays.
  - j) No Equality Impact Assessments accompanied the information in the report.
  - k) It is not clear that all guidelines for the provision of safe crossings have been observed.
  - l) It is not clear that all the evidence comparing the appropriateness of SCP versus crossings has been taken into account.
- 3) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 d) of the Council's Constitution, in that openness has not been observed.
- a) At least one of the crossings was designed in February but this was not communicated to ward Members.
  - b) Some information was shared with individual members of the public but was not made available to all.
  - c) No overall plan for the removal of SCP was made available following the removal of the funding in the 2015 Medium Term Financial Plan.

- 4) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 e) of the Council's Constitution, in that clarity of aims and desired outcomes has not been achieved.
  - a) The recommendations refer to a proposal to provide safe, permanent crossings – yet four of the crossing proposals have been rejected in the period shortly before the Executive meeting that made the decision, and therefore the decision has been made before there is certainty that the recommendation can be delivered, or that the costs are as given in the report.
  - b) Due to the failure to present all costs for all options it is not possible for the Executive to have come to a properly informed decision.
  - c) Due to the failure to present the Equality Impact Assessments it is not possible for the Executive to have come to a properly informed decision.
  
- 5) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 f) of the Council's Constitution, in that the details of all the options and reasons for the decision have not been recorded.
  - a) A set of options has been laid out but it excludes the most obvious option of replacing some but not all of the patrollers with crossings.
  - b) There was a presumption that no funding was available for the service to continue, whereas a supplementary estimate could have been used to find the money, but was not considered.

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**REFERENCE INFORMATION FOR  
CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

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- 1) Extract from the 2015/18 Medium Term Financial Plan;
- 2) WBC Consultation Approach;
- 3) Questions and Minutes from the Council meeting held on 19 July 2018;
- 4) Report on the School Crossing Patrol Service submitted to the Executive on 26 July 2018;
- 5) Questions and Minutes from the Executive meeting - 26 July 2018;
- 6) Report by the Director of Locality and Customer Services on the issues raised by the Call-In **(to follow)**

37.

**LIST OF WITNESSES AND INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

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**38.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consider the Call-In and either:

- 1) Confirm the decision of the Executive, or
- 2) Recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Executive, setting out the reasons for its recommendation.

**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.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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