



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

An Extraordinary Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

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

Manjeet Gill  
Interim Chief Executive  
Published on 7 September 2018

This meeting will 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 EXECUTIVE

Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Leader of the Council
Richard Dolinski	Adults Social Care, Health and Wellbeing
Pauline Helliar-Symons	Children's Services
Norman Jorgensen	Environment, Leisure and Libraries
Pauline Jorgensen	Housing
Philip Mirfin	Regeneration
Stuart Munro	Business and Economic Development and Strategic Planning
Anthony Pollock	Highways and Transport
Simon Weeks	Planning and Enforcement

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
39.		<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence</p>	
40.		<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest</p>	
41.		<p><b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions</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 relating to the item on the agenda only.</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>	
42.		<p><b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any member questions</p> <p>A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice relating to the item on the agenda only.</p> <p>Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply.</p>	
42.1	None Specific	<p>Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:</p> <p><b>Question</b> Cllr. Ferris in Member questions (26 July Executive minutes para 24.3 refers) challenged the quoted</p>	

random £600.00 per site for upkeep. He also challenged why there was no replacement costs. My question is including school crossings how many pedestrian crossings in total has WBC got and are they all budgeted at £600.00 per annum for maintenance?

## **TO CONSIDER A REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

43. Coronation;  
Emmbrook;  
Loddon; Maiden  
Erlegh; Norreys;  
South Lake;  
Twyford;  
Wokingham  
Without

### **CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE - CONSULTATION REPORT 2018**

At its meeting of 26 July 2018 the Executive considered a report relating to the School Crossing Patrol Service – Consultation Report 2018 and resolved 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.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five non-Executive Members of the Council submitted a 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 decision was 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.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee met on 3 September 2018 to consider the call-in and following consideration of the evidence presented made the following resolution:

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) the Executive be requested to review their 26 July 2018 decision on the School Crossing Patrol Service in light of the evidence presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
- 2) the request to the Executive for a review is based on the following reasons:
  - a) the original 2015 decision to remove the School Crossing Patrol Service was taken prior to the consultation, and, with the substantive decision having been taken, subsequent consultation exercises were not seen as meaningful;
  - b) the original 2015 decision was taken without an underpinning business case and the 26 July 2018 Executive report did not contain detailed information showing the current costs of the service and the full financial implications relating to the proposed implementation, maintenance and future replacement of the new permanent crossing facilities;
  - c) the original 2015 decision was taken without an underpinning Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and the subsequent April 2018 EIA did not contain detailed information about consultation with specific groups and did not reflect the individual circumstances relating to each of the proposed crossing sites.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will attend the meeting to present the Committee's findings and recommendations.

43.1

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Executive consider the Overview and Scrutiny's recommendations.

The following documents are included for reference within the agenda:

- 1) School Crossing Patrol Service – Consultation Report 2018 – report considered at the Executive meeting held on 26 July 2018 (**pages 9-24**);
- 2) Extract from the minutes of 26 July 2018 Executive meeting (**pages 25-32**);
- 3) Draft minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 September 2018 (**pages 33-44**). Documentation presented at the meeting can be found on the Council's website or on request from Democratic Services.

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Anne Hunter**  
**Tel**  
**Email**  
**Postal Address**

Democratic and Electoral Services Lead Specialist  
0118 974 6051  
anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk  
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN