



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 23 MARCH 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', with a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 13 March 2020

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, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business

Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Guy Grandison (Chairman)
Shirley Boyt
Clive Jones

Ken Miall (Vice-Chairman)
Paul Fishwick
Abdul Loyes

Keith Baker
Graham Howe

Substitutes

Andy Croy
Emma Hobbs

Carl Doran
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Pauline Helliard-Symons
Caroline Smith

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
52.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
53.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020	5 - 14
54.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
55.		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	
56.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.	
57.	None Specific	BURIAL CAPACITY - UPDATE To consider an update on Burial Capacity within the Borough	15 - 22
58.	None Specific	LOCAL FIRE SERVICE UPDATE To consider an update from the local Fire Service	23 - 40

59.	None Specific	LOCAL POLICING UPDATE To consider an update on local policing from the Area Commander	41 - 42
60.	None Specific	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT To consider an update on the Community Safety Partnership	43 - 78
61.	None Specific	WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21 To consider potential items for inclusion in the Committee's 2020/21 Work Programme	79 - 82

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 13 JANUARY 2020 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.19 PM

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Guy Grandison (Chairman), Keith Baker, Shirley Boyt, Paul Fishwick, Graham Howe, Clive Jones, Abdul Loyes and Pauline Helliard-Symons (Substitute)

Executive Member Present

Councillor: John Kaiser (Executive Member for Finance and Housing)

Other Councillors Present

Councillors: Malcolm Richards

Officers Present

Nigel Bailey (Interim Assistant Director - Housing & Place Commissioning), Neil Carr (Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist), Graham Ebers (Deputy Chief Executive (Director of Corporate Services)) and Callum Wernham (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist)

44. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Ken Miall. Pauline Helliard-Symons attended the meeting as a substitute.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2019 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 6 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regards to agenda page 7, Clive Jones asked for an update on how income would be generated from the enhancement of Cantley Park. Graham Ebers, Deputy Chief Executive (Director of Corporate Services) stated that income would be derived from increased patronage of the pitched, an additional 3G pitch, the new café and numerous arts and culture events. The Football Foundation Grant had not yet been secured however officers remained optimistic and expectant of the grant bid to be successful.

46. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

48. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

49. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee received and reviewed a report, set out in agenda pages 9 to 18, and 2 supplementary agenda packs, which detailed the proposed capital programme for 2020-23.

John Kaiser (Executive Member for Finance and Housing) and Graham Ebers (Deputy Chief Executive – Director of Corporate Services) attended to meeting to answer Member queries.

John Kaiser stated that this was the final package of budgetary proposals, and included the proposed capital programme for 2020-23. John added that these proposals were intended to provide capital projects and investments in infrastructure across the Borough, and was designed from the ground up to deliver for the needs of the residents.

For the purposes of clarity, the published agenda shall be referred to as document one, the supplementary agenda containing the detailed sheets shall be referred to as document two, and the supplementary agenda containing the detailed highways sheets shall be referred to as document three.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised the following points and queries:

- Relating to document three page 4 (SCAPE) and document two page 9 (Managing Congestion and Pollution), was the SCAPE investment included within or in addition to the Managing Congestion and Pollution proposals? Officer response – The SCAPE proposals were in addition to the proposals for managing congestion and pollution, with the latter wholly focussing on managing congestion and pollution within the Borough.
- Relating to document one page 17, were these proposals referring to building new relief roads? Officer response – These proposals were about managing existing relief roads and ensuring that congestion and pollution issues were dealt with. In future, these breakdowns would be reworded to make it clear that these were not proposals to develop new relief roads.
- Relating to document two page 6, what was the current state of the Gorse Ride regeneration? Executive Member response – Members and officers would be liaising with the Parish Council regarding proposals to increase the pace of delivery of the project.
- Relating to document three page 4, were the payments for the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road to be made via S106 contributions? Officer response – Yes, these payments would come from S106 funding and were honouring the agreed payment arrangements for this scheme.
- Relating to document two page 8, had a business case for the proposed Coppid Beech Park & Ride been developed? Executive Member and Officer response – Not as yet, however developer funding had been received for this specific purpose. Once a business case had been written, it would then be presented to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) who would carefully analyse the case and contribute funding accordingly should they agree with the business case.
- Relating to document two page 6, would the feasibility study for developing a new crematorium include a carbon study? Executive Member response – This would be included within various assessments and investigations to be carried out by specialists when examining and formulating proposals. Should the crematorium be built, it would service the Borough's needs and provide an income for the Council. The proposed crematorium would be built to the highest standards and could include an arboretum.

- What were some of the increases capital expenditure within Children's Services going towards? Officer response – Examples of expenditure were to improve existing facilities and to create new facilities to cater for an increase in service demand (provision of this was statutory). Overall, this was a modest spending proposal within this area over three years.
- Relating to document one page 17, were these figures related to new roads or existing roads? Officer response – These roads were all tied into the SDLs, and the capital expenditure was residual payments according to the agreed terms.
- Were WBC planning on building new houses next to relief roads? Executive Member response – WBC were committed to not place Council developments next to relief roads. However, when new roads opened up developers usually tried to make new sustainability arguments to support planning applications, which the draft Local Plan was looking to address.
- Relating to document three page 5, could more detail be given regarding the proposed spend on the Toutley Depot? Executive Member and Officer response – This proposed spend involved replacing the existing aging depot with new modern facilities four WBC's four contractors. This would include parking, office space and other associated infrastructure. There was some doubt that this project would cost the amount of money specified and this would be closely monitored.
- Relating to document two page 5, could more detail be provided with regards to the proposed spending on road improvements? Officer response – These improvements would mainly focus on the key A-roads within the borough, and would provide items such as crash barriers.
- Relating to document two page 8, had the Winnersh Triangle Pathway expenditure from £500k last financial year? Response received after the meeting from Officers – It was not certain that this was previously shown as £500K, although the business case was only approved formally in June so WBC may have originally only allocated £500k (which is the WBC contribution) until the LEP money was confirmed to cover the full amount.
- Relating to document two page 11, why was there no mention of funding for the proposed new SEND school? Officer response – The SEND investment programme was in addition to funding the Addington expansion. There were plans for a new potential shared SEND school with Reading, however this was still at a considerable work in progress stage. Should the project go ahead, the expectancy would be that the DfE would fund the project.
- Relating to document two page 8, what were the significant funds relating to renewable energy infrastructure projects to be used for? Executive Member and Officer response – WBC were looking to build state of the art solar farms and connect them directly to the power grid. There was approximately 360 acres of potential land available within the Borough. Officers were investigating what would be the optimal sized farm to generate and store energy and a report was being worked on. Two of the potential sites would have a capacity of 30 Megawatt and 20 Megawatt power respectively.

- Relating to document three page 3, could more information be provided regarding the highways carriageways structural maintenance proposals? Officer response – This was part of a continual programme of key asset management and maintenance. An annual maintenance programme was produced which listed the priority order of highways requiring maintenance within the Borough. Should this funding not be sufficient, the Executive Member stated that the reserves could be used in order to meet the needs of the residents. In addition, document three page 5 outlined the Wokingham highways investment strategy, which proposed a higher level of investment that ever before focussing on early prevention and a better experience for road users.
- Relating to document three page 3, which bridges were proposed to be strengthened? Officer response – The Earley footbridge was one of the bridges proposed to be enhanced.
- Relating to document 2 page 17, what did WBC do with their laptops at the end of their 4 year usage? Response received after the meeting from Officers - WBC have a contract in place with a company called Charterhouse Muller to dispose of our laptops and other IT equipment when they reach the end of its usable life. Charterhouse Muller ensure that all equipment is wiped and disposed of ethically to ensure the Councils data and security is not compromised. This is important to ensure we remain within GDPR and PSN regulations. Where obsolete equipment still has a value this is deducted from Charterhouse Muller's disposal charge.
- Relating to document two page 9, was the proposed funding for waste recycling schemes to be used for new and replacement bins? Executive Member response – Yes, this was the intention.
- Was the capital programme expenditure likely to remain the same or change? Officer response – WBC had a good track record of spending within their capital programme. The figures at present were a best estimate, and could change subject to the formal tendering processes.
- Relating to document two page 9, could more detail be provided with regards to the proposed energy reduction project? Response received after the meeting from Officers - The measures WBC will look to do incorporates some 45 different measures but to give a general indication of such measures, this will include LED lighting replacements, loft / cavity wall insulation, draughtproofing, controls upgrades, heating system replacements / upgrades, renewable energy generation equipment / technologies and some double / triple glazing.
- Had any calculations been done to ascertain Wokingham's current carbon emission levels and what reduction the proposed capital schemes would have? Executive Member response – The capital proposals were the start of a long term programme to reduce carbon emissions within the Borough. There was a limit to what WBC could do, and much of the task would come down persuading businesses to lower their carbon footprint.
- Were climate emergency budgets likely to change? Officer response – The proposed budget relating to tackling the climate emergency were likely to change in future as we moved towards tackling carbon emissions within the Borough. The proposed spending

was the beginning of an ambitious set of schemes aimed at tackling the climate emergency within the Borough.

- Relating to document two page 15, why had the proposed Arborfield swimming pool been pushed back? Executive Member response – It was assessed as too ambitious to run this scheme alongside other major leisure schemes and therefore it was proposed to carry the scheme out in 2022/23.
- Relating to document two page 8, was any of the proposed funding for South Wokingham railway crossing intended for use at the Star Lane crossing, after 1800 houses had been built in the nearby area? Response received after the meeting from Officers - The Council has no plans to undertake works on Star Lane Crossing (Easthampstead Road). Any works to this crossing will be undertaken by National Rail as part of the works they have discussed with us in association with their Feltham Re-Signaling project. The works if undertaken would include the delivery of a renewed fully automated replacement level crossing facility. There are currently no plans for bridges or tunnels.
- Relating to document two page 6, what was the expected return from the property investment strategy? Executive Member response – The expected return was two percent per annum.
- Were there any plans for ground extension of the Earley burial ground? Executive Member response – Services were welcome to put forward supplementary budgets for consideration. There were no current plans for these works.
- Relating to document two page 7, what specifically were the proposals for the Denmark Street environmental improvements? Response received after the meeting from Officers – This was the extension of the Market Place public realm works into the wider town. It was anticipated that the design work 'only' would be worked up this coming year. No delivery of the projects are expected until after the SWDR and NWDR are completed as there was not an appetite for further roadworks and potential congestion within the town following, the combined delivery of regeneration and Market Street, which caused some negative feedback during construction. The SWDR and NWDR will provide some resilience to the highway network, enabling delivery of projects like this to be delivered with less impact to road users as alternative routes through the town would be available.
- What funding was being received from the LEP for associated projects? Officer response – The most significant contributions from the LEP would be towards the Winnersh Park & Ride (£2.8m) and the Coppid Beech Park & Ride (£2.4m).
- Relating to document two page 6, how many additional pitches would the proposed £1.5m secure, and would we abide by the Government's 20 pitch per site limit? Executive Member response – The Inspector will need to be convinced that WBC have an adequate supply of pitches in order to show our commitment. Any site allocation needed to be done properly whilst meeting the Borough's needs.
- Relating to document two pages 7 and 15, what were the proposed significant capital sums being put towards at Carnival Pool to be used for? Officer response – The £10m sum was for development of the sports hall, and the £30m sum was for the development of the library and residential units.

- Were the proposed capital sums to tackle the climate emergency enough to ensure the Borough was carbon neutral by 2030? Executive Member response – The sums allocated would address the initial climate emergency action plan. The action plan would be developed over the coming years, which could involve further capital investment. The initial investment was an unprecedented commitment towards tackling climate change, standing at approximately £60m.
- Relating to document two page 15, what were the enhancements proposed to be made at Cantley Park? Officer response – This would involve drainage works, a 3G pitch, a new café, new changing room and enhancements to car parking.
- Relating to document two page 11, which schools would benefit from the basic needs funding? Officer response – This would provide new school spaces at primary schools such as Aldergrove and Matthewsgreen, there was no specific needs for secondary school places, 300 additional 6th form places, 50 previously agreed SEND places at Addington and there was a hope of 75 SEND spaces at a joint school with Reading.
- Relating to document two page 12, what were the proposed 6th form expansions? Executive Member and Officer response – This was primarily to meet our commitment to build Bohunt. There was a growing need for 6th form places in the Borough and some of these funds would be used to improve existing facilities.
- Relating to document two page 11, was the new children’s care home going to be a small development? Officer response – The proposed development would be a small care home for small cohorts of children who were of the most need. A feasibility study was proposed to be undertaken in 2020/21.
- Relating to document two page 13, how many residents would the proposed dementia home be able to accommodate? Officer response – The home was projected to accommodate around 60 service users. WBC had a relatively low percentage of local authority care places in use (around 10%), and this proposal was to try to alleviate growing pressures within the Borough.

The Chairman and the Committee thanked all Executive Members, Deputy Executive Members, Directors, Assistant Directors and Officers that had enabled this budget scrutiny process to take place. Particular thanks were given to John Kaiser and Graham Ebers for their attendance at each of the budget scrutiny sessions, and for their thorough and frank answers throughout the process.

John Kaiser and Graham Ebers thanked the Committee for their hard work throughout the year, and added that this process had helped the overall budget setting process.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Graham Ebers and John Kaiser be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) The Chairman present a report to the Executive and full Council, outlining the process undertaken by the Committee and the key areas that the Committee will overview going forwards;

- 3) The Committee continue to monitor the key items, particularly the large spends that would have the greatest impact on residents, throughout their implementation;
- 4) The budget scrutiny process be continued in the next municipal year.

50. BOROUGH DESIGN GUIDE UPDATE

The Committee received and reviewed a report, set out in agenda pages 19 to 22, which gave an update on the progress of the creation of the new Borough Design Guide and other key planning documents which had been the focus of the team.

Nigel Bailey, Interim Assistant Director - Housing & Place Commissioning, stated that the draft Local Plan update had been the key area of focus for the team. Resultantly, there was no current timetable for the new Borough Design Guide and significant work was unlikely to begin until late 2020 at the earliest. Nigel stated that he was happy to keep the Committee updated with developments, including when a provisional timetable was set.

During the ensuing discussions Members raised the following points and queries:

- Until the new draft Local Plan was formally adopted, were Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) required to use the existing 2012 Local Plan? Officer response – Yes, until any new Local Plan was formally adopted WBC would use the existing Local Plan.
- How long was it estimated to take for the new Borough Design Guide to be created? Officer response – The creation of a new Borough Design Guide was a considerable piece of work which would likely take the next couple of years to complete. The team may have to consider bringing in extra capacity in order to carry out the creation of the new Borough Design Guide. Officers needed to look at the risks of not having a new Borough Design Guide, however the 2012 version was still fit for purpose for all that it could do with a refresh.
- Were Officers considering a refreshed Borough Design Guide, or a full overhaul which would take considerably more time? Officer response – Officers needed to assess the National Design Guide and then gauge the views of Members as to their preference. There was currently a capacity issue within the team due to the considerable amount of work required to formulate the draft Local Plan Update. The Chairman asked that after an initial view in the summer, an update return to the Committee in autumn 2020 with a view to gauge Member preference.
- Was there capacity within the team to gather Member opinion regarding their preferred approach to reviewing the Borough Design Guide over the coming months? Officer response – Whilst there was no capacity to move forward with any substantial work until the draft Local Plan was submitted, there was some potential to engage in some light opinion gathering from Members.
- Had Officers considered liaising with the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement regarding setting up Member working groups, including capitalising on the knowledge of current and former Planning Committee Members? Officer response – Working groups and other forms of Member engagement would all be utilised throughout the Borough Design Guide creation process.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Nigel Bailey be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) The Committee be kept up to date with the formation of any provisional timetable relating to the new Borough Design Guide;
- 3) An update be returned to the Committee in autumn 2020 after an initial view on the Borough Design Guide from Officers over the summer;
- 4) Officers investigate conducting some light opinion gathering from Members with regards to their preferred direction for the new Borough Design Guide.

51. BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE

The Committee received and reviewed a report, set out in agenda pages 23 to 28, which gave an update on the current burial plot provision within the Borough.

Nigel Bailey, Interim Assistant Director - Housing & Place Commissioning, stated that within the last week Officers had agreed to collate information from other burial ground providers within the Borough as Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) did not currently have an overview of overall burial space provision within the Borough. WBC had looked to expand their own sites, however they had encountered water table issues within areas such as Ruscombe. WBC were investigating the creation of an in-Borough crematorium, however this was at an initial concept stage and required further research. Muslim burial plots were almost at capacity within WBC sites and Officers would engage in talks in the coming weeks to look at options to address this.

During the ensuing discussions Members raised the following points and queries:

- What sites had been initially identified to address the Muslim burial plot shortages within the Borough? Officer response – There was potential to create some additional Muslim burial plots at the Shinfield burial site. There were currently 3 Muslim burial plots available, and a further two had been used last year. Suitable plots needed to be identified in areas where the water table was suitable.
- Were there a shortage of Jewish burial plots within the Borough? Officer response – Jewish burial plots were not identified as an issue within the Borough.
- Were Officers considering meeting other burial site providers within the Borough to discuss current provision? Officer response – Yes, discussions would be had with regards to current capacity and any potential for expansion.
- Had Officers considered looking at creative methods of expansion, for example stacked tombs or re-using of old graves? Officer response – Officers would look into a variety of options for expansion and would gauge Member opinions on their findings.
- Would the proposed crematorium address burial plot provision issues? Officer response – The proposed crematorium was envisaged to provide a variety of eco-friendly cremation and burial options to serve the Borough's needs.
- The Chairman and Committee saw this issue as very important and time critical, and suggested setting up a task and finish group to look into the issue in more depth. The

Chairman asked that an update return to the Committee in March 2020 after the initial discussions with other burial providers had begun and a better idea of overall burial plot provision had been realised.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Nigel Bailey be thanked for attending the Committee;
- 2) An update be taken to the Committee in March 2020 after the initial discussions with other burial providers had begun and a better idea of overall burial plot provision had been realised;
- 3) The Committee consider setting up a task and finish group focusing on burial ground capacity within the Borough to investigate means of addressing this issue;
- 4) Officers investigate options of burial plot expansion within the Borough.

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TITLE	Burial Plot Capacity - Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2020
WARD	None specific
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Sarah Hollamby

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To ensure there are sufficient burial plots available at WBC owned cemeteries to meet the current and projected demand.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee consider the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

At its meeting in January 2020 the Committee considered a report providing an overview of current burial plot capacity in Wokingham Borough Council-owned cemeteries and potential opportunities for additional provision.

The Committee requested a follow-up report to be brought to this meeting providing more information on overall burial plot capacity across the Borough including the provision of specific plots dedicated for Muslim burials.

A survey was sent out to all cemeteries within the Borough with the responses summarised in a table at Appendix 1. The returns show varying levels of remaining capacity however it is anticipated that (based on current demand) there should be sufficient burial plot capacity at a Borough-wide level in the short and medium term based on:

- the capacity reported from other cemeteries
- the additional capacity identified at Shinfield & St Sebastian's Cemeteries
- the possible development of a new WBC owned cemetery on land opposite the Church at Ruscombe
- the proposed extension at Mays Lane Cemetery
- the opportunity to provide additional burial plots as part of any new crematorium within the Borough

Following a survey and site visit to the Shinfield Road cemetery, opportunities have been identified to potentially provide around 60 additional Muslim burial plots on that site over the next few years. There may also be opportunities at Mays Lane and as part of any new crematorium to provide additional dedicated Muslim burial plots.

Background

The report to this Committee in January highlighted that the Council does not have a statutory duty to provide cemeteries but it does have a duty to maintain any sites under its control in a fit and proper state. However it confirmed that the Local Authority is responsible for the burial or cremation of any person who dies within its boundaries and for whom no other funeral arrangements are being made. The report also stated that the Council intends to continue as a Burial Authority, operating and maintaining its own cemeteries.

Whilst cremations currently account for around 80% nationally trend predictions suggest an environmental backlash against 'standard' cremations. The report identified that this may open up a potential market for more eco-friendly cremations such as that proposed for a potential new facility in Wokingham Borough.

The report also identified a growing demand for other options such as 'green' or natural burial sites, including 'woodland' burials, memorial tree planting and benches and 'strewing areas' for cremated ashes.

Analysis of Issues

Current Provision

There are over 20 burial sites spread across the Borough with 2 operated by the Council. Most of the others are operated by the Diocese of Oxford with other individual sites owned and/or operated by town or parish councils. (eg Mays Lane Burial Ground which is owned by Early Town Council). The table in Appendix 1 gives the feedback of a recent survey into current capacity across all cemeteries in the Borough.

Current WBC Provision & Future Capacity

The Council currently operates two cemeteries – Shinfield and St Sebastians. Shinfield Cemetery is located in Spencers Wood and has 1,167 current plots including an area dedicated for Muslim burials. St Sebastians Cemetery is in Wokingham Without and has 644 current plots.

Both cemeteries are well maintained and recent improvements to Shinfield Cemetery have included the creation of a dedicated 'strewing' area for cremated ashes which is already proving popular.

Currently we have between 8-12 new burials per year across the 2 WBC owned cemeteries (9 in 2018/19) and, following a recent review of capacity, have identified 165 new potential plots between those cemeteries (148 additional lots in Shinfield and 17 in St Sebastians). However these are subject to ground conditions with particular concern around ground water levels in certain areas.

In addition the Council has been in discussions for a number of years with the Diocese of Oxford about purchasing an area of land in Ruscombe with the potential to provide a further 172 burial plots. Further investigative work is planned in 2020 to address concerns raised about water table levels before any final planning application is made prior to completing any purchase.

Finally the Council is considering options for building its own eco-friendly crematorium facility within the Borough. Not only would this serve the existing and future needs and requirements of the Borough's residents it would also allow us to offer a range of eco-friendly cremation and burial options to a wider population. Depending on final plans there may be opportunities to include some burial plots if required as well as woodland burials and strewing areas.

Other Future Provision

As highlighted in the able at Appendix 1 Earley Town Council have identified an area of land adjacent to the current cemetery that could be used to extend the cemetery and provide around 400 additional full burial plots and 1,400 new plots for cremated remains. There could also be additional specialist provision for Muslim burials and burial plots for children and babies.

The Town Council are proposing to fund the extension themselves through an increase in Council Tax precept.

Provision for Muslim Burials

At its January meeting the Committee raised a specific concern over the future capacity for dedicated plots for Muslim burials.

As a result further work has been done to investigate the opportunity to extend provision at WBC's Shinfield cemetery. It is thought that by removing a row of hedge plants within the cemetery boundary that around a further 60 plots could be created (these are in addition to the 148 new plots identified in the more general capacity survey). Costings are currently being sought for the removal of the hedge plants.

There may also be opportunities at Mays Lane and as part of any new crematorium to provide additional dedicated Muslim burial plots.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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	Not Applicable
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Not Applicable
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Not Applicable

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None relevant

Cross-Council Implications
None

Public Sector Equality Duty
Due regard has been given to WBC's duties under the Equality Act

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
Not applicable

List of Background Papers
Appendix 1: Survey of Burial Plot Capacity

Contact Nigel Bailey	Service Place Commissioning
Telephone No; 0118 974 6779	Email nigel.bailey@wokingham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Survey of Burial Plot Capacity - March 2020

Cemetery	Current available burial plots	Current available plots for cremated remains	Number of burials per annum	Anticipated date for reaching capacity	Extension potential and plans
Shinfield Cemetery, (WBC Owned)	147 additional full burial plots available - dependant on ground conditions.	Plenty of space plus possibility for more plots along pathways. Scattering area for unlimited use	9 in 2019	On current demand approx. 14 years (ground condition dependent)	No (but further opportunity to extend provision for Muslim burials by removal of hedge)
St. Sebastian's Cemetery, (WBC Owned)	9 full burial plots	10 - but possibility of more along pathways	4 in 2019	On current demand approx. 2 years	Further site visit to consider other options for additional provision
Mays Lane Burial Ground, Earley (Earley Town Council owned)	81 full burial plots		19 full burials, 13 cremated remains & 4 Muslim burials & 4 Child/baby in 2019	On current capacity approx. 3-4 years for full burials & 2-3 years for cremated remains	Yes. Option to extend to provide 400+ full burial plots, 1,400+ new plots for cremated remains and could include specialist provision
St Mary's Church Shinfield	None	Approx 70 plots for cremated remains available	3-4 cremated remain burials per annum	On current demand approx 25 years	No
St Peter's Church, Earley	None	100+ plots available for cremated remains	5 per annum	On current demand approx. 20 years	No
St James the Great, Ruscombe	3 full burial plots (1 reserved)	Approx 25 plots for cremated remains. All for Ruscombe residents.	Approx 2 burials and 2-3 cremated remains per annum	2020 for full burials & 8-10 years for cremated remains.	None in church cemetery (WBC investigating option of purchasing paddock opposite church to provide 170 additional plots)
All Saints Church, Wok'ham	None	570 for cremated remains in Garden of Remembrance	12 cremated remains in 2019 (23 in 2018)	Approx. 2070	No
St. Pauls Church, Wok'ham	16 full burial plots		15 cremated remain burials & 6 full burials	Approx 2/3 years (excluding any additional plots identified in survey)	Currently carrying out survey of site to identify additional useable plots.

Cemetery	Current available burial plots	Current available plots for cremated remains	Number of burials per annum	Anticipated date for reaching capacity	Extension potential and plans
St Nicholas Churchyard Hurst	None	38	1 burial and 3 burial of cremated remains in 2019	5-6 years for cremated remains	No
St Mary's, The Chalk Pit, Wargrave	Currently approx. 75% capacity	Currently approx. 75% capacity	5-7 Burials, 8-10 cremated remain burials per annum	Approx 25-30 years based on 75 capacity	No
St Mary's Churchyard , Wargrave	Closed for Burials	Has capacity for cremated remains in future but using the Chalk Pit first	-	-	No
St James' Church Barkham	20 new full burial plots	50+ new plots for cremated remains	Average 1 full burial in a new plot per year & 2 cremated remain burials	Approx 20 years for full burial plots and 25 years for cremated remains	No
St Sebastian's Church Wok'ham Without	Closed				
Holy Trinity Church, Grazeley	Reasonable unused capacity	Reasonable unused capacity	1-2 full burials per annum. Rarely used for cremated remains	Approx 25 years	No
St Andrew's Churchyard , Sonning			5 burials per annum	Approx. 8 years for both full & cremated remains burials	A possibility but would require significant further investigation
St John the Evangelist, Woodley	Closed for Burials – unless with ancestors already buried	Cremated remains can be buried in unmarked grassed area			

Cemetery	Current available burial plots	Current available plots for cremated remains	Number of burials per annum	Anticipated date for reaching capacity	Extension potential and plans
St Catherine's Bearwood Church, Sindlesham			In last 5 years: 17 new full & 16 new cremated remains burials	Sufficient capacity for foreseeable future	No
All Saints Church, Swall'field	None	A few cremated remains burials of ashes could be accommodated	1/2 new full burials & 2/3 new cremated remains burials	Probably more than 25 years	No
Nutbean Lane Cemetery, Swall'field	Plenty of space	Plenty of space	1/2 full burials, 2/3 cremated remain burials	Probably more than 25 years	No
St Michael & All Angels, Spencers Wood	None	Approx 60 in churchyard	2/3 new cremated remains burials per annum	Probably around 25 years	No
St Mary's detached cemetery, Shinfield	Closed				
St Nicholas Churchyard Remenham	No information at present				

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TITLE	Local Fire Service Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2020
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Director of Resources and Assets – Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To listen and engage with the Local Fire Service on the specific issues and challenges that they face, whilst recognising the vital service that they provide to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

Following consideration of the update that the Committee:

- 1) Note the update on the Local Fire Service;
- 2) Identify areas for question and challenge;
- 3) Thank the Local Fire Service representatives for attending the meeting.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Local Fire Service's update aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Service as a whole, as well as identifying the specific issues and pressures that the service currently faces.

Background

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are encouraged to engage with local services such as the Fire Service to help understand the challenges that they face. The Committee can then engage with the Fire Service in finding solutions to these challenges and identify areas where the Council can work more closely with the Fire Service to deliver a better service for the Borough's residents.

Analysis of Issues

The update from the Fire Service shall provide a comprehensive overview of the issues and challenges that the Service faces.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

None specific

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Callum Wernham	Service Governance
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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

23rd March 2020

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 [Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Royal-Berkshire-Fire-&-Rescue-Service)

Area Manager Paul Binyon Group Manager Tregear Thomas

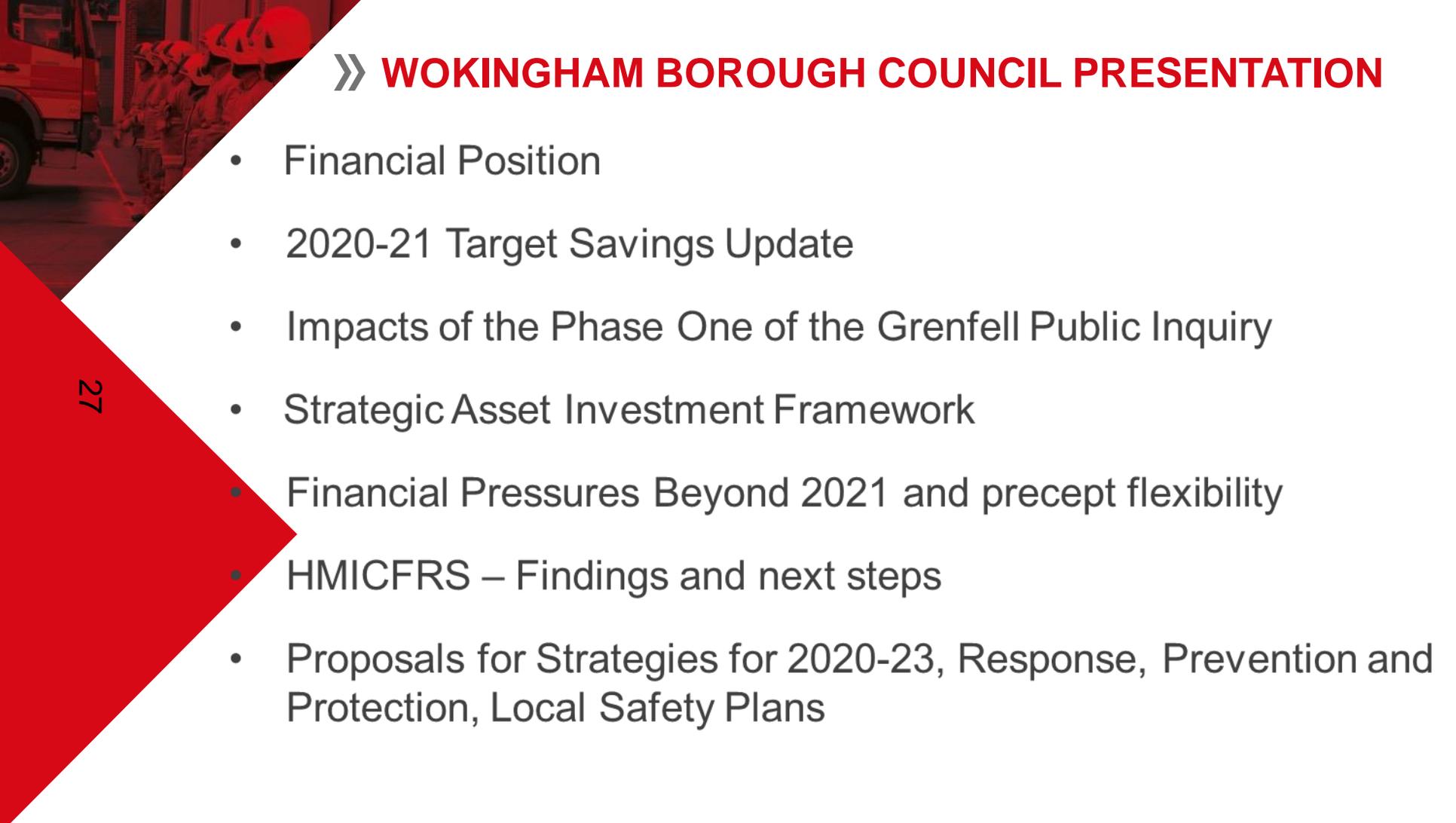
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» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

- Financial Position
- 2020-21 Target Savings Update
- Impacts of the Phase One of the Grenfell Public Inquiry
- Strategic Asset Investment Framework
- Financial Pressures Beyond 2021 and precept flexibility
- HMICFRS – Findings and next steps
- Proposals for Strategies for 2020-23, Response, Prevention and Protection, Local Safety Plans



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Financial Position

(2020/2021 Budget - £35.263Million)

- Between 2010 and March 2016 we saved £4.96million from budget
- Between April 2016 - November 2019 we have delivered a further £975,000
- We need to identify an additional £1,281,000 worth of savings or income by the end of 2021/22
- We have planned a significant programme to refresh our capital assets which will need funding beyond 2021



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Volatility of Funding due to:

- CSR planned for 2020/21
- Review of Fire Funding formula planned for 2020/21
- 75% Business Rates retention decision planned for 2020/21
- Pension grant decision planned for 2020/21
- Supreme Court Pensions McCloud decision due 2020/21
- Impact of Brexit
- Pay dispute 17% Claim



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

2015-19 £2.4Million Target Savings Update

- Restructure of service support functions and move to local Hub delivery model. Target £1.1million savings (Delivered 2017)
- Disestablishment of the Retained Support Unit. Target £425k savings (Delivered 2018)
- Introduction of new remotely managed station model and the FDO review. Target Savings £550k (Delivered £550,00 Nov 2019)
- Closing of Wargrave Station. Target Savings £168k (Decision Pending June 2020)
- Closure of Pangbourne and Opening of Theale. Target Savings £168k (Delayed to 2021 due to planning delays, work has now begun on site)



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

- **Impacts of the Phase One of the Grenfell Public Inquiry**
- **RBFRS Phase One**
 - Community Safety Project Team Inspected 157 High-rise premises
 - 4700 face to face visits
- **RBFRS Phase Two**
 - Jointly Inspected 74 to date
 - Every resident in every building inspected offered a HFSC
 - All ACM Clad Residential High Rise Buildings, Hotels and Care Quality Commission Care Facilities identified
 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Interim Measures implemented and monitored (Guidance now updated 2020)
- **RBFRS Phase Three**
 - Working to implement Grenfell Inquiry Phase one findings, and monitoring buildings in Interim Measures
 - Evolve our protection function to deliver on the all of the recommendations and findings the following Grenfell Inquiry (The New Normal)



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Strategic Asset Investment Framework

- First new Tri-Service Community Station opened in Hungerford 2017
- Second Tri-Service Community will be Crowthorne opening Summer 2020
- Third Tri-Service Community Station will be Theale opening Summer 2021
- 11 of the new generation Volvo fire appliances have been delivered since 2017 @ £200k each, a further four are due 2020
- New 53 metre Aerial Ladder Platform ordered 2018 for 2020 delivery June 2020, £800k
- Capital Investment up to 2021 funded within Medium Term Financial Plan



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Strategic Investment Framework

- Adjusted for 2020/21
- £1.25m investment in refurbishment of Whole-time stations
- Additional 4 new Volvo appliances (~~Early – Mid 2021~~) now 2020
- Potential for a small number of older Volvo's to improve resilience in reserve fleet, Young Fire Cadet vehicles
- 4x4 Crew Cab vehicles
- New 4x4 Vehicle at maidenhead
- New vehicle for Water Rescue incidents



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Financial Pressures Beyond 2021

- Funding for Capital Programme (SAIF) beyond 2021 needs to be found
- Phase 4 of Grenfell plan may need additional funding
- Pay pressure. Medium Term Financial Plan based on 2% pay increase assumptions. Inflation closer to 3%
- Fire Authority has been working with local MPs, National Fire Chief's Council and Fire Minister to seek greater flexibility on local precept increases (£5 for Fire)
- RBFA historically a very prudent Authority and in the lower quartile of Precepting Fire Authorities



» WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

2019-23 Corporate Plan and IRMP

- Sets out what the Fire Authority is planning over the next 4 years
- Public Consultation is currently running on the new strategies for Protection Prevention and Response
- Fire Authority will consider the consultation responses
- The updated Plan will formally be published 2020



PREVENTION PROPOSALS 2020-23

1. Introduce a risk-based programme of follow-up Safe and Well Visits for our most vulnerable residents
2. Rename our target groups for Safe and Well Visits to better reflect the type of risk posed to 'Risk to Individuals' and 'Risk to Households'
3. Within our Road Safety Programme include targeted activity for motorcyclists based on risk
4. Focus our activities in support of children and young people through our road water safety education programmes, Fire Cadets and Fire Safe
5. Continue to pilot an Adult FireSafe programme to fully understand the implications and potential benefits of this activity



»» **RESPONSE PROPOSALS 2020-23**

1. In 2020/21, we propose to undertake a review of our specialist water rescue capability to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and national best practice
2. In 2021/22, we propose to undertake a review of our technical rescue capability to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and national best practice
3. In 2022/23, we propose to undertake a review of our incident support capability to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and reflects national best practice
4. A project be undertaken to consider the feasibility of introducing dynamic risk-based daytime nucleus crewing in the West of the County to improve emergency incident response times
5. We propose to retain the current operational planning assumptions and use these assumptions to underpin our Integrated Risk Management Planning
6. To avoid having to reduce our ability to meet our Response Standard in order to balance our budget, the Fire Authority will lobby Central Government for a fair funding settlement to sustain our optimum model



» PROTECTION PROPOSALS 2020-23

1. Develop our Risk-Based Inspection Programme methodology to look at both risk to property and risk of compliance
2. Continue to respond to changes in legislation and guidance related to building regulations and fire safety and ensure this is reflected in our policies, processes and ways of working

Questions



» Thank you

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 [RoyalBerkshireFire](https://www.instagram.com/RoyalBerkshireFire)

 [Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Royal-Berkshire-Fire-&-Rescue-Service)

TITLE	Local Policing Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2020
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Director of Resources and Assets – Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To listen and engage with the Local Policing Service on the specific issues and challenges that they face, whilst recognising the vital service that they provide to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

Following consideration of the update that the Committee:

- 1) Note the update on the Local Policing Service;
- 2) Identify areas for question and challenge;
- 3) Thank the Local Police Area Commander for attending the meeting.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Local Police Area Commander's update aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Service as a whole, as well as identifying the specific issues and pressures that the service currently faces.

Background

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are encouraged to engage with local services such as the Police to help understand the challenges that they face. The Committee can then engage with the Police in finding solutions to these challenges and identify areas where the Council can work more closely with the Police Service to deliver a better service for the Borough's residents.

Analysis of Issues

The update from the Local Police Area Commander shall provide a comprehensive overview of the issues and challenges that the Police Service faces.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

None Specific

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Callum Wernham	Service Governance
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TITLE	Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2019/20
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2020
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Graham Ebers - Deputy Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The key objective of the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is to work collectively to address crime, disorder, substance misuse, and anti-social behaviour. This includes raising awareness and increasing the confidence of local residents to report hidden crimes.

The partnership's statutory members include the Police, the Local Authority, the National Probation Service, Health and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. These organisations work together to progress the work of the local community safety strategy and action plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Board notes the contents of this report and supports the Community Safety Partnership in delivering the strategy.;
- 2) The Committee is asked to review the next steps for the partnership and consider how they can support the Community Safety Partnerships priorities.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides a summary of the CSP's progress in delivering current Wokingham Community Safety Priorities.

The report also provides an update on the CSPs planned developments, future priorities and emerging issues.

Background

As part of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) statutory duty they must prepare and implement a partnership strategy that sets out how the CSP plans to work in partnership to reduce crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour (ASB) within their areas.

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (as amended by Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011) also requires that Community Safety strategies are informed by a strategic assessment which comprises of local data aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of crime and disorder related need in their area. Strategic assessments comprise of data and information from all the CSP partners including; Police, Local Authority, Public Health, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Services (NPS) and Fire and Rescue. There is also a duty for the partnership to mainstream actions to reduce crime within their local areas.

During 2019 the Wokingham CSP Board has undergone some key developments; The Board has a new Chair which is now the Local Police Area Commander Superintendent Felicity Parker. Following a period of interim arrangements the Board also has now appointed an experienced Community Safety Partnership Manager to implement and drive the work of the CSP. Lastly, there has also been a review of the membership of the Board resulting in it becoming more invigorated and more partners actively engaging.

This report assesses progress of the current CSP priorities which run from 2018/21. A strategic assessment is due to be undertaken during the course of 2020 this will inform a new Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan for 2021/22 and beyond.

Performance Summary

Crime Type	Jan-Dec 2018	Jan-Dec 2019	% Change	Change Actual
All Crime	6858	7504	+9%	+646
Residential Burglary	340	320	-6%	-20
Burglary – Sheds/Garages	177	140	-21%	-37
Violence with injury	592	644	+9%	+52
Drugs offences Possession*	128	191	+49%	+63
Criminal Damage	938	1016	+8%	+78
Anti-Social Behaviour (WBC housing only)	158	144	-9%	-14
Theft of Vehicle	141	208	+48%	+67
Theft from Vehicle	404	534	+32%	+130
Religiously or Racially Aggravated	68	83	+22%	+15
ASB (TVP) **	TBC	TBC	TBC	Verbal update

*Thames Valley Police in particular The Local Neighbourhood Policing Team are proactive tasked and directed by the inspector to carry out stop searches to deter drug use in the area, where applicable. The majority of the drug offences will be generated by police taking action to search potential offenders and also then finding the drugs. In

addition it should be noted that all drugs found on people in custody Loddon Valley Police Station are highlighted in the figures. **TVP ASB figures to be updated as part of the meeting.

Priority One: Addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority area for the partnership as the number of incidents risk both nationally and locally. As public awareness of domestic abuse increases together with training for front line staff both across Thames Valley Police and social care professionals, support for victims seeking help and advice is vital. For Wokingham this is provided in a number of ways:

Wokingham's main domestic abuse provider is Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA). BWA are funded to provide a range of services for people affected by domestic violence. This includes outreach, a family support programme, one to one support for victims, and a helpline and refuge provision. BWA work very closely with children's services to ensure that children who are identified as being at risk of domestic violence have the necessary support they require.

Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC)

The MATAC has replaced the DARIM in Wokingham where the medium and low risk repeat Domestic Abuse offenders are reviewed. The model has been adopted from Northumberland where they have seen a 60% reduction in repeat domestic abuse incidents by implementing the same model.

Identified perpetrators will be referred into the MATAC process where key partners will agree a bespoke set of interventions. This can include targeting and disrupting perpetrators and or supporting them to address their behaviour. Victims of DA will continue to receive the same support services including; specialist one to one support and advice, support for children living with domestic abuse delivered in schools, Choices group work which is a six week programme to provide women with a better understanding of domestic abuse.

A Police led MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), which ensures that high risk victims are identified supported and referred to appropriate support. So far this year Jan – Dec 2019 MARAC cases have totalled 107 compared with 59 for the same period last year, 27% of these were repeat cases. An increase is not viewed as a worsening picture, instead it is seen as a greater identification of risk. However the 27% repeat rate emphasises the need to ensure that we have the right local support services in place.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for undertaking DHR's where the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a relative, household member or someone he or she is in an intimate relationship with.

A review panel consisting of multi-agency members from statutory representatives and voluntary agencies led by an independent chair is commissioned to undertake the DHR. The panel reviews each agencies involvement in the case and makes recommendations

to improve responses in the future. It will also consider information's from the victims friends, family and work colleagues.

Wokingham has a DHR ongoing currently. This is the 4th DHR commissioned by Wokingham CSP since 2011. Actions and lessons from each respective DHR are currently being reviewed as part of the local domestic abuse needs assessment which is due to be concluded by April 2020.

Next steps and future developments

- To undertake an assessment of local needs to assist with a better understanding of the demand for services and the ability to monitor the impact of assistance programmes.
- Further development and roll out of training for front line staff to increase knowledge and awareness.
- A refresh of the local domestic abuse strategy and action plan.
- Further development and embedding of MATAAC.
- Review all recommendations from local Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure they are embedded into local practice.

Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime

These issues can often be interlinked and this priority is aimed at reducing the harm to individuals and the wider effect caused to communities. Since this priority was set anti-social behaviour and harmful/substance misuse remain priority issues for the Wokingham.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to be of concern across the Borough for 2019. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Thames Valley Police have been working together to address this and a secondment of a Thames Valley Police Community Support Officer to the Councils Community Safety Team has taken place. The CSP's Problem Solving Tasking and Anti-Social Behaviour Panel subgroups apply a multi-agency problem solving approach to tackling issues of concerns both at a geographical location and through a case management of individuals approach.

Nationally and locally, the rates of serious organised crime; specifically county line dealing is an emerging issue. Wokingham has low levels of these incidents compared to other areas within Thames Valley. However whilst numbers are low the police and the council are still working hard to make Wokingham Borough a hostile place for drug lines to infiltrate. Anti- social behaviour remains an area of high concern and one that all partners are committed to tackling when cases are identified.

Thames Valley Police have been proactively addressing cases involving county line drug dealing through local operations including 'Operation Odyssey' which aims to decrease the risk from organised crime by reducing vulnerabilities and criminal opportunities, Planned and focused weeks of action to target this crime in Wokingham have been undertaken including Operation Oedipus.

Operation Oedipus

Operation Oedipus was a neighbourhood operation into class A & B drug dealing in the Wokingham area. The neighbourhood team identified that there was a drug gang actively targeting children in the Wokingham area to deal drugs to. The team identified the ring

leaders and had some limited success in disrupting the group and obtaining successful prosecutions, however were unable to obtain substantial evidence against the gang's leaders.

The neighbourhood team successfully bid for the Forces surveillance teams. Using covert tactics we were able to obtain significant evidence of drug dealing by the leaders, identifying drug hides and seizing drugs and intercepting children who had been dealt drugs to. We are currently unable to update you further on this case as it is yet to go to court, however this has been a substantial piece of work by the Wokingham Neighbourhood team that has safeguarded children in the Wokingham area.

To further safeguard children from exploitation and anti-social behaviour the following initiatives have been commissioned.

KICKS PROJECT

The CSP funded the KICKS project, a project run by Reading Football Club; the aim of the work is to engage hard to reach young people aged 11-19years, all sessions are free. By giving young people information, raise participant's awareness about how to keep themselves safe within the community and try to help them make informed choices now and later in life.

Sessions are mainly football based and participant numbers for the latest quarter recorded that the project worked with 279 participants, 81 sessions were delivered across the borough totally 139 hours of work with young people on average each group reaches 31 young people. The majority of young people engaged were male; 253, 26 were female 36 of which were from BME communities. The CSP receive regular data report as to the numbers of children reached in Wokingham schools and the outcomes. A full performance report will be available as part of the CSP annual report.

POSITIVE PATHWAYS

This project is delivered to 5 Wokingham schools to work with students in years 6, 7 and 8 where children may be involved or at a higher risk of offending and risky behaviours. Schools provide baseline behaviour and the success is measured during and at the end of the project, behaviours will be measured at intervals and up to 12 months after completion with students scoring themselves. Schools refer children to the programme and only those children who will positively engage with the project are accepted.

Several other projects to increase awareness and understanding of issues have been undertaken including; Guns and Gangs Training from front line professionals social and schools professionals. The implementation of intensive mentoring for young people concentrating on those individuals most at risk of being come drawn into knife crime and other gang related activity. The Youth Offending Team are also planning an event targeting secondary school children to increase the awareness, dangers and penalties of knife crime related incidents. The Only Fools Carry Knives Event is to be held on 1st April.

Substance Misuse

Cannabis is the main substance of presentation for young people locally, followed by alcohol and tobacco. 40% of young people represented to treatment services and data shows that 45% of those in treatment were involved in self harm and anti-social behaviour.

During 18/19 the total number of adults treated for alcohol was 119, 77% of these people referred themselves for assistance and help with their drinking. 194 clients engaged in

treatment for drugs, 50 of those were opiate and or crack cocaine users. A needs assessment of substance misuse is currently underway to inform the new contract which is due for tender at the start of 2021.

Next Steps

- To review the joint CSP approach to anti-social behaviour and ensure that staffing levels are adequate to respond to concerns.
- To utilise all available powers including the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014 to tackle issues.
- To develop closer working with local housing associations and to continue to work closely with WBC Housing Team.
- To deliver training for key CSP officers with respect to the ASB crime and police act 2014.
- Work with schools to identify those children on the cusp of exclusion
- To provide additional support through diversionary activities and intensive mentoring for young people
- To undertake a needs assessment of substance misuse across the borough and undertake a tender procurement in line with the results.

Priority Three - Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) recognised that vulnerability of both victims and offenders has an impact on demand for police and other emergency services. Supporting victims, particularly repeat victims of crime will improve their resilience. Supporting vulnerable offenders will decrease their level of offending. This will have a positive impact on crime rates, but most importantly ensure people have access to services which will improve the quality of their lives.

Information about local victims tells us that victims in Wokingham are more likely to be younger, under 19 and there is a higher likelihood that they will be victims of violence, theft or harassment.

Vulnerable Offenders

Like victims, national figures show that offenders are more likely have greater support needs than the general population. Offenders have higher than average levels of substance misuse, physical and mental health need, and are more likely to have lower rates of engagement in education employment and training. Work with offenders through referral programmes linked to the National Probation Service and CRC as well as programmes for offenders linked to domestic abuse continues to take place locally.

EMRAC Case Conference

The CSP continues to be an active member of Wokingham EMRAC where children discussed are of concern and or at risk of being exploited either sexually or criminally. The aim of EMRAC work is to improve the multi-agency response when children are involved with or at risk of sexual/criminal exploitation, to ensure that timely, robust multi-agency plans are in place and that they are monitored and followed through to improve the life chances/experience for the child.

Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

The focus of this priority is the relationship with the wider Wokingham community. In addition to reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and anti- social behaviour. Central government guidance states community safety strategies should work to reduce the fear of crime, improve community cohesion, build the relationship with the voluntary and community sector and support community engagement.

The CSP have over the recent months reviewed how it engages with local neighbourhoods including its work with the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs). Regular updates on the priorities for each NAG will therefore be provided and considered at every problem solving tasking group to ensure that the concerns from across the borough are considered.

The CSP has a duty to convene a local Prevent Board in order to undertake the duties set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Wokingham's Board continues to meet every quarter to discuss strategic issues and ensure that the local action plan is on track. One of the meetings is now held jointly with Bracknell to discuss the local Counter Terrorism Local Profile. In addition there is also a Wokingham Channel Panel consisting of multi- agency operational partners who convene to discuss individual cases that require a safeguarding response.

Next steps:

- To ensure that concerns from localities and wards levels are considered in a more systematic way.
- To foster better community cohesion through increased engagement with the local community.
- To ensure that the Wokingham Prevent Board continues to deliver the local action plan.

Staffing

The CSP Managers post had been vacant for a period of approximately six months during Dec 18 – July 19. During this time the Local Safeguarding Children Board Manager covered the role on an interim basis. The role of the CSP's Manager was recruited to over the summer of 2019 with appointment taken up in September 2019.

Funding

The work of the Community Safety Partnership is funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

The Community Safety Partnership is funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and will retain the same funding for 2019/20 as 2018/19 £ 104,205 to develop interventions to reduce crime, substance misuse and ASB within the locality. This funding is monitored on a regular basis, to ensure that funds are spent in line with Home Office finance rules. The CSP will consider how to allocate funds when to ensure the best value for money and provide the best outcomes to the priority areas of work and evidence the impact of this work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications
None

Public Sector Equality Duty
Due regard has been given to WBC's duties under the Equality Act

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
Community Safety Strategy 2018-21

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**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Community Safety Strategy
2018-2021

Wokingham Community Safety
Partnership



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About the Community Safety Partnership Our Vision

The aim of the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership is to reduce crime, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, raising awareness and increasing reporting of hidden crime. This strategy will guide the partnership in delivering its vision during 2018 to 2021.

National Community Safety Policy Context

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (as amended by Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011) places a statutory duty on all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare and implement a partnership strategy to reduce crime, substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within their areas.

The 1998 Act also requires that Community Safety strategies are informed by a document called a strategic assessment which comprises of local data aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of crime and disorder related need in their area. Strategic assessments comprise of data and information from the Police, Local Authority, Public Health, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Services (NPS) etc.

This strategy was based on a strategic assessment carried out in late 2016, which was refreshed over the course of 2017. Wokingham CSP used this information to set priority areas and address them in order to reduce overall crime, support victims and build resilient communities.

Regional Community Safety Policy Context

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Antony Stansfield, was elected on the 16th November 2012. He oversees the Thames Valley Police which is the largest non – metropolitan force in the country. The PCC's responsibilities include holding the Chief Constable to account, engaging communities, setting the force budget and commissioning services, particularly services for victims of crime.

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner has a duty to produce a Plan to reduce crime and related disorder within their localities.

In line with this duty, in 2017 the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner published a Police and Crime Plan setting out his strategic priorities for the Thames Valley Region, these are set out below:

- **Vulnerability** - Managing demand on services through working together
- **Prevention and Early Intervention** - Improving safeguarding in physical and virtual space
- **Reducing Re-Offending** -Targeting and managing harm and risk
- **Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism** - Improving the local response
- **Police Ethics and Reform** - Increasing the pace of change

The Police and Crime Commissioner provides funding to the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership, and as such an effort has been made to ensure that where possible and most relevant, local priorities align with those identified within the Police and Crime Plan.

This should improve our ability to work with cross county partners and access cross county support services, whilst respecting local needs.

Wokingham Borough Policy Context

Under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, Statutory members of the CSP partnership have a legal obligation to mainstream actions to reduce crime within their local areas. This strategy aims to mainstream crime and community safety issues by integrating CSP priorities into wider Wokingham Borough Council and Partnership strategies and plans:

- **Wokingham Borough Health & Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020** - The Health and Wellbeing Board and CSP have developed good links over 2017/18. The Community Safety Strategy fits into 'the enabling and empowering resilient communities' theme.
- **Wokingham Council Plan 2014-2017** - The Community Safety Strategy aims to support the Local Authority Plan's underpinning principles to 'look after vulnerable people' and to improve 'health, wellbeing and quality of life'.
- **Wokingham Safeguarding Children's Board (WCSB) Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017/18** – the WCSB has expanded the strategies to include addressing the wider exploitation of children and young people such as financial, sexual, criminal etc. The Community Safety strategy will aim to identify and refer affected children and young people to support services in line with statutory safeguarding responsibilities.
- **Wokingham Borough Youth Justice Plan** - Young people are disproportionately represented as both offenders and victims. Reducing and preventing young people's offending can have a significant impact on overall levels of crime within a locality.
- **Public Protection Partnership (PPP)** – is the body responsible for delivering a number of services related to the improvement of the public realm across Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Wokingham such as taxi licensing, environmental health and trading standards.

The PPP aims to protect and support residents and legitimate business through the successful use of information and intelligence, delivering safe and healthy neighbourhoods. The PPP's cross cutting issues include Vulnerable Persons, Serious & Organised Crime, Modern Day Slavery and eCrime, which clearly link to CSP priorities.

- **21st Century Council Programme** – The 21st program aims to enable the Council to focus on the customer journey. Services will be focused on the following; customer enabling, customer self-service, focused customer case work, specialists and commissioning.
- **Children and Young People Strategic Plan 2018-21** – The Children and Young People's Partnership brings together partners from a wide range of agencies with a shared commitment to helping children and young people to be the best they can be.

Their priorities are: Early identification of Need, Early Help and Prevention; Improvement of Emotional Health and Wellbeing; and Increasing Physical Activity.

- **Wokingham Housing Strategy 2015 – 2018** The Housing Strategy aims to ensure that 'all residents can access well-designed, affordable and sustainable homes and effective support services in the Wokingham Borough'.

The Wokingham Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of the key organisations and statutory partners responsible for keeping the Borough safe. These statutory organisations are listed below:

- Thames Valley Police
- Wokingham Borough Council
- National Probation Service
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Berkshire Health Care Foundation Trust
- Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The key partners are:

- Public Health
- Magistrates Courts
- Involve
- SMART
- Berkshire Women's Aid
- Youth Offending Service

The CSP agrees the Borough's response to crime and anti-social behavior. It sets priorities to ensure partners are working together to create a safe place to live, work and visit. The partnership also funds specific projects that are targeted to meet its priorities.

The CSP is a high level strategic board, membership is at a senior level across the responsible respective organisations and the group meets on a regular basis in order to ensure the priorities of the Board are delivered. The four priorities are:

- Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime
- Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders
- Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

Our mechanism for meeting these priorities is;

- Ensuring the work of subgroups meet the agreed priorities and regularly feed back to the overarching Board.
- Regularly review priorities based on emerging data and local and national crime reduction policies.
- Ensure that partners meet their statutory responsibility to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse.
- Hold the Police service to account on their performance.

The CSP has strategic links to the following partnership bodies (Appendix A):

Health and Wellbeing Board - The Health and Wellbeing Board is set up to co-ordinate health and wellbeing activity in Wokingham. The CSP is responsible to the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the Council's oversight and governance structure.

Youth Offending Management Board - The Youth Offending Service (YOS) provides services to young people who come into conflict with the law or are at risk of displaying offending behavior.

Local Children Safeguarding Board – Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for ensuring that the relevant organisations in Wokingham cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Local Adults Safeguarding Board- The Wokingham Adult Safeguarding Board is responsible for safeguarding adults with safeguarding in line with the Care Act 2014 and other statutory guidance.

The CSP also has links to the following Thames Valley wide external partnership bodies focusing on key cross-county policy issues.

Thames Valley Modern Slavery Partnership – A cross county partnership which aims to reduce modern slavery within the area. This includes developing support services, and policies and procedures.

Thames Valley Domestic Abuse Coordinators - This meeting ensures a coordinated approach to addressing domestic abuse within the region.

Police and Crime Panel - The Panel's role is to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioners actions, including reviewing the Police and Crime Plan and annual report.

Community Safety Strategy Development

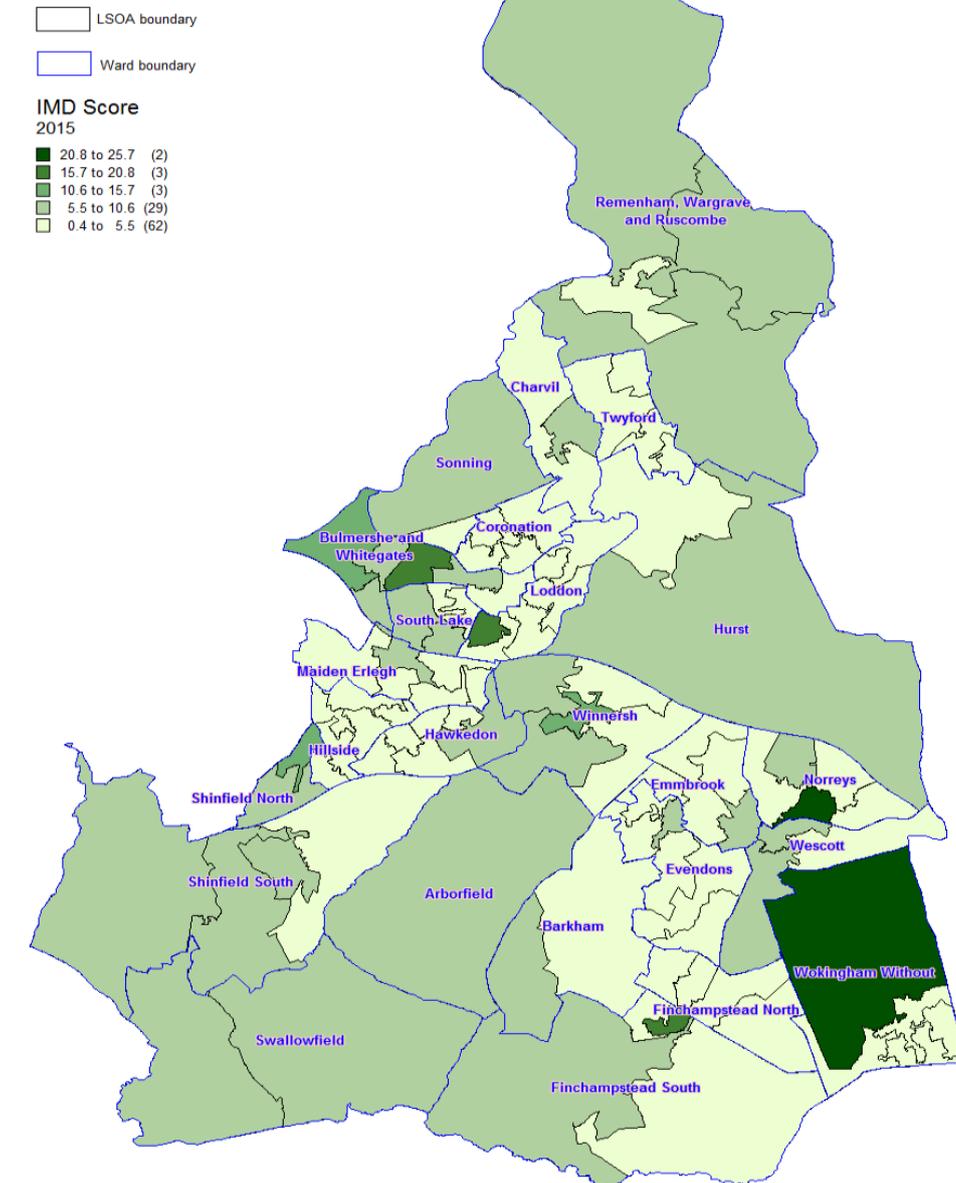
The 2018/21 Community Safety Strategy was developed based on the 2016 strategic assessment which was refreshed in early 2017 and 2018. It includes using:

- Key documents such as national and local crime strategies including:
 - the Police and Commissioner's Crime Plan
 - Recommendations from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) reports
 - the Thames Valley Police Local Cyber Strategy,
 - the Modern Slavery Strategy
 - National Strategy to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): 2016 to 2020
- Local, national and regional crime, community safety, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse related data
- Consultation with key partnership bodies such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Youth Offending Board.
- Consultation with neighbouring local authorities where relevant.
- Consultation with members of the Community Safety Partnership, its delivery groups, and partners.

- Surveys carried out to find out the views of the public, for example the schools 'fear of crime survey' carried out in 2016 as part of the development of the strategic assessment.

Part 2: Wokingham Demographic Context

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 by Lower Level Super Output Areas



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Map creator: WBC Public Health Intelligence
Date: November 2017

Wokingham is located in Berkshire, which is in South East England, West of London and is one of the Home Counties. It is part of the Thames Valley Police area which includes Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire as well as the unitary authorities of Milton Keynes, Slough and Reading.

Wokingham is located in the centre of Berkshire. In 2017 the total estimated resident population was 163,353 persons. The population is evenly divided between male and female. 11.8% of the population is from a black and ethnic minority group, and the largest

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) group is people from an Indian background. The demography of the area is changing and 26% of the school population is from a BME background. Wokingham's population continues to age with 17.4% of the population aged 65 and over in 2016, compared to 13.4% in 2006. This is similar to the England figure of 18.7%. The Wokingham population is increasing in line with national trends. The highest increase in numbers is estimated to be in people who age 10-14, 60-64 and 75-79 years old.

The Borough also has one hospital, 13 GP Practices, 24 pharmacies, 39 primary schools, 10 secondary schools and 5 Special Educational Needs schools. There is currently 1 Police Station within the locality. Wokingham does not have any prisons within its borders and main prisons that Wokingham residents are sent to include HMP Bullingdon, Woodhill and Springhill.

Wokingham is the least deprived Borough in Berkshire and ranks 325th out of 326 local authorities in the country. The main areas of deprivation score are in Norreys (including the Norreys estate) and Wokingham Without wards.

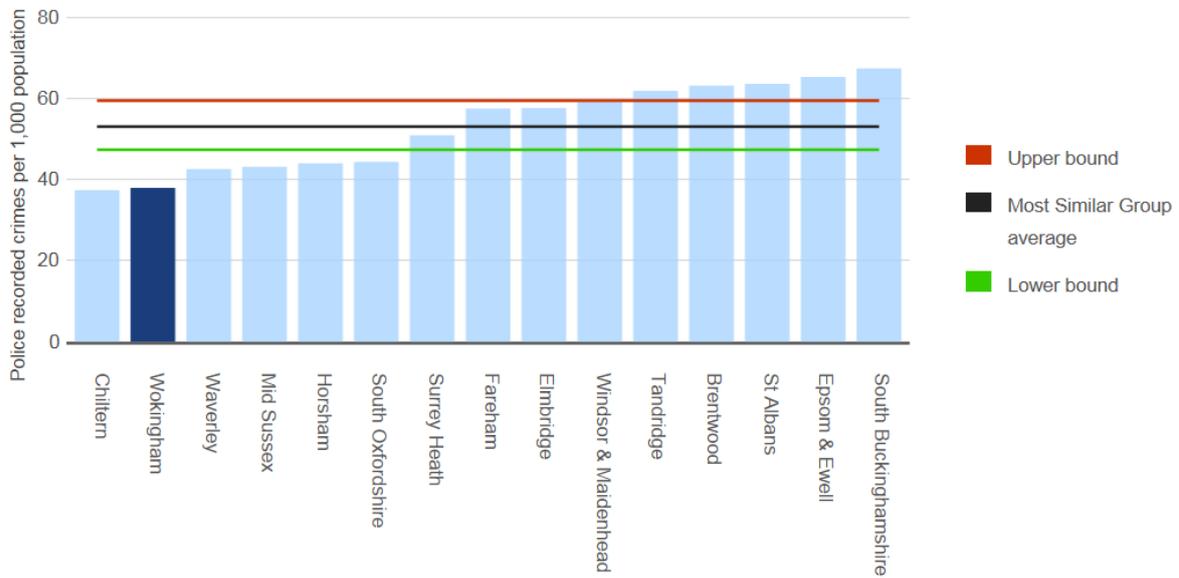
Whilst Wokingham is a prosperous place there can be pockets of deprivation within more wealthy areas and there are also communities which spread across Wokingham that suffer significant degrees of deprivation for example the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community.

Wokingham Crime and Community Safety Context

Wokingham is a low crime Borough, with one of the lowest crime rates within the Country and the Thames Valley Partnership areas. Wokingham is divided into 6 neighbourhood policing areas:

- Wokingham Town
- Wokingham Without (Finchampstead)
- Woodley
- Earley
- Twyford
- Fields (Arborfield, Swallowfield etc.)

In the year ending September 2017, the crime rate in Wokingham was lower than the average crime rate across similar areas.



Wokingham has lower rates of reported criminal activity than many other areas in the Thames Valley policing area; with Wokingham having 36 reported crimes per thousand resident population compared with the Thames Valley police area average of 59 reported crimes.

In addition to low crime rates, until recently Wokingham has good community safety outcomes with offenders having low reoffending rates, a reduction in the number of young people entering criminal justice systems, good retention of service users in drug and alcohol treatment.

However, this is changing. In common with other areas in the Country, Wokingham has seen an increase in its crime levels with a rise in reported crime in 2016/7, over 2015/6, of 6% compared to a Thames Valley average increase of 7%.

Wokingham Community Safety Partnership data - 2016/7 compared to 2015/6							
		Wokingham			TV	2016/7 Crime rate per 1,000 population or household *	
		2016/7	2015/6	% change	% change	Wokingham	TV
Total recorded crimes (excl fraud)		5753	5404	6	7	36	59
Victim based crimes							
	Violence against person	1118	1139	-2	8	7	13
	Homicide	1	1	-	-	0	0
	Violence with injury	438	471	-7	6	3	5
	Violence without injury	679	667	2	9	4	8
	Sexual offences	156	206	-24	3	1	2
	Robbery	25	25	-	7	0	0
	Theft Offences	3170	2809	13	8	20	30
	Burglary	683	634	8	9	4	5
	Domestic burglary	278	224	24	13		
	per 1,000 population					2	2
	per 1,000 households					4	5
	Non domestic burglary	405	410	-1	6	3	3
	Vehicle offences	533	468	14	10	3	6
	Theft from the person	117	89	31	0	1	2
	Bicycle theft	252	162	56	18	2	2
	Shoplifting	681	593	15	13	4	7
	All other theft offences	904	863	5	1	6	8
	Criminal damage and arson	825	789	5	6	5	8
		10265	9550				
Crimes against society							
	Drug offences	182	192	-5	-3	1	2
	Possession of weapons offences	31	23	-	18	0	0
	Public order offences	160	133	20	-2	1	5
	Miscellaneous crimes against society	86	88	-2	16	1	1
		459	436				
		10724	9986				
	crimes: total	1.9	1.8				
* 2015 mid year population 160,400 and households 63,000							

In some cases the crime types have had larger increases than other community safety areas within Thames Valley. Between 2015/6 and 2016/7 the following crimes saw increases:

- theft which has increased by 13% in Wokingham but has only increased by 8% within other areas.
- domestic burglary has increased by 24% in Wokingham but has only increased by 13% in other areas
- vehicle offences have increased by 14% in Wokingham but have only increased by 10% in other areas
- theft from the person has increased by 31% in Wokingham but has not increased in other areas.

- Bicycle theft has increased by 56% in Wokingham but has only increased by 18% in other areas
- Public Order offences have increased by 20% in Wokingham but have decreased by 2% in other areas.

This increase has been caused by a number of possible factors; more people are reporting crimes, there is increasing economic insecurity and an increase in County Line Dealing (See Priority 2). Patterns of crime are also changing, for example, Wokingham has seen a recent increase in violence offences and reports of historical sexual abuse.

In addition to the increase in crime, there are also indications that within the local area there is more social need. Over 2017/18 there has been an increase in the number of 'children and young people in need' being referred to children services, an increase in the number of young people being sanctioned for substance misuse (cannabis warnings) and increasing reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) by young people across the whole Borough.

Whilst this is concerning, this data must be seen in context. Wokingham Borough still has levels of crime, substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour well below national and regional averages, and in some instances increases could be interpreted as a measure of success, for example increasing reports of ASB can be often be seen as a measure of confidence i.e. members of the public report issues if they think that authorities will address them.

Community Safety Approach

The local area partnership has stretched resources and therefore has to consider how to prioritise actions. The strategy will therefore focus on the areas where the data shows:

- There is most demand on public services.
- The most harm is caused
- Where outcomes need to be improved, because we compare unfavourably to our statistical neighbours

We have not set specific volume crime priority¹ targets. However, 'volume crime' will be measured and addressed as part of the overall strategy. We believe this is of high importance and research tells us Wokingham's low crime rate is a key factor when considering moving and living in the area.

Therefore the reduction of volume crime will be included in 'Priority Four: Champion the resilience of local communities'.

Wokingham Community Safety Partnership have four key priorities for 2018-2021 and they are;

- Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime
- Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders
- Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

Priority One: Addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Community Safety Partnership decided to make domestic abuse, particularly hidden domestic abuse, one of its key priorities in the 2016 Strategic Assessment. To deliver this priority the CSP agreed a Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2017.

The Wokingham Domestic Abuse Strategy is designed to support children, adults and families within Wokingham Borough, by developing an understanding of the needs of both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. The strategy is designed to enable Wokingham Council to meet its statutory duties for example the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014. The main role of the CSP is to hold the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group in delivering the current domestic abuse strategy.

The Wokingham Domestic Abuse Strategy developed over 2016/17 is focussed on prevention, provision and risk reduction, and is implemented by annual action plans which are overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group;

- Prevention
- Provision

¹ Volume crime often includes priority crimes such as street robbery, burglary and vehicle-related criminality, but can also apply to criminal damage or assaults.

- Risk Reduction

Writing the 2018/21 Community Safety Strategy provided the opportunity to refresh a few actions in line with newly emerged priorities;

- In response to i) The increase in the number of reports of sexual assault which were up by 34% in 2016 from 2015, ii) the increasing vulnerability of girls involved in County Line Dealing iii) and a growing awareness of issues such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV), where the numbers affected are very low, but the harm caused can be serious, the Wokingham Domestic Abuse Strategic Group has become the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group. This is in line with government policy i.e. the Violence Against Women and Girls National Strategy.
 - The needs of men and boys (including trans, gay and bisexual men) affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence and related issues are acknowledged and included in the work of the CSP for example ensuring support for male victims of sexual assault, exploited boys etc. as part of Priority 3.
- The OPCC has recently commissioned a range of Thames Valley wide services to support domestic abuse victims and offenders including services for:
 - Black, and Asian Ethnic Minority and Refugee (BAMER) victims of VAWG,
 - Services for victims of sexual violence e.g. SARCs²., counselling and other support services
 - A service for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Wokingham has been affected by a higher than average number of domestic homicides and in response has developed a number of action plans to improve practice.

Objectives

- Implement the recommendations of the Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to ensure that lessons are learnt
- Take on the violence Against Women and Girls Agenda by:
 - Increasing the awareness of VAWG issues such as sexual violence, FGM and HBV amongst professionals, members of the public, victims and perpetrators.
 - Develop referral pathways to ensure that Wokingham residents have access to Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned VAWG services.
 - Addressing cyber related sexual offences and risk of victimisation such as underage sexting etc.
- Develop robust pathways to enable Wokingham residents to access newly commissioned Thames Valley wide VAWG provision.

² A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provides services to victims/survivors of rape or sexual assault regardless of whether the survivor/victim chooses to reports the offence to the police or not.

Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime.

These three issues can often be interlinked and this priority is aimed at reducing all and to prevent members of our community from exploitation and their risk and involvement in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and/or harmful misuse escalating to serious organised crime.

Instances of Anti-Social Behaviour have been of concern across the Borough during the start of 2018 and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Thames Valley Police have been working together to address this. This priority will aim to address the causes of ASB and the CSP Problem Solving Task Group will be tasked with managing geographical areas and individuals of concern on a multiagency level.

Nationally and locally, the rates of serious organised crime; specifically county line dealing are, as stated previously, part of the reason for the increased crime levels. According to the national crime agency 'County Line Dealing' (CLD) has a number of components:

- A group establishes a network between an urban hub and a county to enable the supply of drugs.
- The use of mobile phones to facilitate communications between 'group members.
- Exploitation of young and/or vulnerable people including using them to supply drugs.
- Travel between urban and county line locations.
- Propensity for high levels of violence and intimidation.
- Taking over a vulnerable persons property to use as a base for dealing and other crimes

The Police have been proactive in addressing county line dealing for example running successful operations such as 'Operation Stronghold' which aims to decrease the risk from organised crime by reducing vulnerabilities and criminal opportunities.

However nationally, regionally and locally not enough is known about patterns of organised crime. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Home Office has planned research to understand local patterns of CLD, which will better enable both local Community Safety Partnerships and Thames Valley Police to develop effective crime reduction strategies. The research will be conducted in April 2018 and will be used to inform the development of action plans in 2018/19.

In addition, as crime gangs can be very flexible and change their offending to adapt to policing tactics, a key aspect of our strategy will be to increase and improve the intelligence submitted to Thames Valley Police from both professional partners and community groups to better understand local patterns of crime.

Objectives

- Working with community groups to establish what youth provision there is across the Borough currently and supporting initiatives to address any gaps.
- To work with the Children and Young People's Partnership to ensure the needs of young people and families are clearly understood and that the Drug and Alcohol Strategy is effective at reducing the impact of alcohol and substance misuse on children and young people.
- Engaging and working with Partners including Neighbourhood Action Groups to analyse areas of concern and actions to be taken to reduce levels of ASB and harmful misuse.

- Support Police actions to prevent and reduce organised crime including:
 - schools programmes for at risk children
 - Using local policing as a deterrent
 - Use of civil powers where appropriate
- Raise awareness of the impact of County Line Dealing focusing on the impact on children, young and vulnerable people.
- Through Problem Solving Tasking Group, work with Police and other partners on combined operations, including review of actions and evaluation.
- Increase the range of intelligence about organised crime from community groups, partners and residents.
- Ensure that vulnerable people, identified during enforcement action have access to appropriate support.

Priority Three - Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) recognised that vulnerability of both victims and offenders has an impact on demand for police and other emergency services. Supporting victims, particularly repeat victims of crime will improve their resilience. Supporting vulnerable offenders will decrease their level of offending. This will have a positive impact on crime rates, but most importantly ensure people have access to services which will improve the quality of their lives.

Vulnerable Victims

National figures show that that victims, particularly repeat victims are more likely to have vulnerabilities (for example support needs such as homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill health) than the general population. In 2014, the PCC took over responsibility for commissioning services for victims from the Ministry of Justice, in order to ensure locally responsive services.

Locally the PCC has commissioned 'Victim First' to provide a Pan Thames Valley service to support all victims of crime within the area.

Data from that service has provided the CSP with information about local victims' needs, including for example Wokingham victims are more likely to be young under 19 and victims of violence, theft or harassment. A small number of victims have a disproportionate impact on public services and a number of repeat victims are known to other support services such as Local Authority, Police and Health Services.

Vulnerable Offenders

Like victims, national figures show that offenders are more likely have greater support needs than the general population. Offenders have higher than average levels of substance misuse, physical and mental health need, and are more likely to have lower rates of engagement in education employment and training.

In general, Wokingham has good outcomes for offenders:

- The Borough has lower levels of offending than statistical neighbours, fewer offenders reoffending and the types of offences tend to be less serious.
- The numbers of young people entering the criminal justice is reducing.
- Wokingham has an Integrated Offender Manager (IOM) service in place. There are low numbers of priority offenders and their level of offending is lower than national averages.
- Low numbers of people enter substance misuse treatment through the criminal justice system. However once they do engage they are likely complete treatment.

The current Wokingham Substance Misuse Strategy contains a number of actions to address the links between substance misuse and offending which will be supported by the wider CSP. The aim of the strategy therefore should be to ensure that vulnerable ex-offenders are supported, particularly when they are most vulnerable for example at the point of arrest, or prison release.

Youth Offending will be an area of focus during this strategy. Though numbers are still low, young people are showing some signs of increasingly being affected by crime. The number of young people involved with the Youth Offending Service is rising in 2017-18 and there has been an increase in the number of Youth Cannabis Warnings issued in 2017-18. In addition in 2017-18, there has been an increase in violent offences amongst girls and boys, the number for 2017-18 year to date is already higher than the whole of 2016-17.

Exploitation

There is an increasing understanding of the impact, risks and effects of exploitation. Exploitation can be financial, criminal and sexual and can include forced marriage, forced labour and modern slavery. An increasing number of people become victims of exploitation through cybercrime for example grooming, exploitation of romantic relationships and friendships.

Exploitation is a hidden crime therefore the data we have available is limited. However, the information we do have suggests that only a small percentage of crimes are reported and detected and only a very small number of victims are referred to support services.

Wokingham data shows that only 43 cybercrimes were reported to local Police in 2017, but regional figures show that there were around 50,000 cybercrimes in the Thames Valley region. In 2016, Police and other criminal justice system figures show there were around 533 Modern Slavery victims in the Thames Valley region. However, when more extensive research was undertaken (consultation with service providers etc.) figures suggest that the likely number was closer to 2500. The PCC's support service for victims of exploitation only saw around 143 people that year, which shows further attrition.

In response, the Thames Valley PCC has prioritised actions to prevent and reduce the exploitation of vulnerable people through a number of initiatives including; commissioning services to support those affected by exploitation, setting up partnerships to address exploitation and targeted enforcement. Therefore developing referral pathways to the newly funded Thames Valley wide provision will be key.

The CSP Strategy also aims to reduce and prevent the exploitation of children. Locally there is evidence that children are becoming increasingly vulnerable to exploitation; Schools, the Police and substance misuse services say that they are seeing more young people with substance misuse problems, there are increasing numbers of children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan and Child in Need. National evidence shows that missing children and runaways are particularly vulnerable to being exploited, and local data shows that in Wokingham there has been an increase by 14% in the number of children missing in

2017-18 compared with children missing in 2016-17. However, the number of children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has decreased from 19 to 17 during the same period and in addition, according to the same data the number of occasions children at risk of CSE have gone missing has reduced by close to 41%.

Objectives

- Ensure that all vulnerable offenders and victims are supported through robust case management processes.
- Ensure that Police and other enforcement agencies work closely with adults and children safeguarding policies, procedures and structures
- Increase the number of people entering mental health, substance misuse and other treatment throughout the criminal justice system.
- Participation in Thames Valley wide partnerships such as the Modern Slavery Partnership to ensure that the needs of Wokingham are considered in the development of cross county services.
- Ensure Channel Panel processes support and divert vulnerable people, children and young people from radicalisation.
- Implement public awareness campaigns to encourage reporting around modern slavery, cybercrime etc.

Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

The focus of this priority is the relationship with the wider Wokingham Community. In addition to reducing crime, substance misuse and disorder, central government guidance states Community Safety Strategies should work to reduce the fear of crime, improve community cohesion, build the relationship with the voluntary and community sector and support community engagement.

This theme is in line with the approach taken by wider Wokingham strategies such as the Wokingham Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and Policing Strategies which all champion the resilience of local communities, i.e. aiming to support communities and individuals to more proactively meet their own needs. Community groups within the CSP structure such as the Neighborhood Action Groups and Rural Crime Action Group, are enabling this approach, however governance and communication links between those groups and the CSP could be improved.

Wokingham is an attractive place to live as it has good schools, easily accessible to London and the M4 corridor, has good rail links and a wide range of amenities including restaurants and shops. Wokingham does not suffer from alcohol misuse associated with the night time economy. Wokingham is seeing a significant increase in population with around 10,000 new homes being built in the area. This new population will not have a significant impact on public services. Our aim should be ensure that they are encouraged to integrate with the wider community by contributing their social capital.

Prevent Strategy

The Prevent agenda comes under this heading. This agenda aims to address all potential forms of terrorism including right-wing and radical Islamic Terrorism. According to the Police

risk assessment, Wokingham is a very low risk area, none the less the Local Authority still has a requirement to implement a number of statutory responsibilities under the Prevent Duty³. This includes

- Developing a Prevent Action Plan
- Developing policies that ensure resources such as IT equipment is not used to promote radicalisation.
- Implementing staff training that is relevant and up to date.
- Raising the awareness of the Prevent Agenda across both public and private sectors and members of the public
- Supporting partners such as the Health Sector and Further Education Colleges to implement their Prevent related responsibilities

The Prevent Strategy subgroup of the CSP is responsible for the implementation of the Prevent Agenda locally through the delivery of a strategy and action plan, which includes community engagement, reducing hate crime, improving community cohesion and increasing public reassurance.

The Prevent Strategy and Action Plan 2018/19 works to address emerging issues including

- developing support systems for any possible families returning from warzones
- addressing the needs of unaccompanied child asylum seekers from high risk areas
- actions to impact rightwing terrorism
- tackling causes of radicalisation
- safeguarding and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention
- enabling those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Volume Crime Reduction

This theme will also address 'volume crime' and the reduction of other priority crime areas, using evidence based solutions and holding the Police to account.

Neighbourhood Crime priorities which the Police develop in partnership with the community will be included in this action to ensure that the CSP as far as possible meets the expectations of Wokingham residents.

This will reduce overall crime levels as well as fear of crime.

Fear of crime

Reducing the fear of crime has been adopted as an outcome measure by the Health and Wellbeing Board due to its impact on overall wellbeing.

In 2016, the Community Safety team carried out a local survey of 3,000 10 to 17 year-olds which found that just under four out of 10 (38 per cent) were worried about being the victim of crime or anti-social behavior.

This is in line with national averages however, Wokingham has much lower levels of crime than national averages, which means fear of crime levels are disproportionate to actual crime.

³ The **Prevent duty** is the **duty** in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to **prevent** people from being drawn into terrorism.

Objectives

- Work with Local Authority partners to engage with residents from new housing developments to ensure integrated cohesive communities.
- Implementation of Prevent Strategy including actions to address hate crime against excluded groups.
- Reduction of volume crime, including rural crime with a focus on the most deprived areas in the Borough.
- Use the Problem Solving Process, Police Tasking and other Local Authority Tasking Processes to more effectively address crime issues in the Borough, focussing on areas of highest need.
- Ensure that issues that disproportionately affect rural communities are addressed such as illegal encampments, poaching and fly tipping.
- Address the fear of crime through the development of a multi-agency communication and engagement group.

Part 4: Delivering the Strategy

Wokingham CSP's governance holds partners to account, scrutinises performance data and ensures operational delivery of its priorities, which enables it to fit into Wokingham Council's wider decision making structures.

Governance and Reporting lines (Appendix A&B)

The CSP Board reports to Wokingham Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, whose role is to receive regular updates from the CSP on progress in delivering its strategies and to hold the CSP to account.

The CSP is linked to the Council's wider political decision making structures through the attendance of two Councillors at CSP meetings, and the provision of regular reports to the Local Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

One of the Councillor representatives also sits on the Thames Valley wide Police and Crime Panel which holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.

Delivery and impact

The Community Safety Strategies are delivered by annual action plans which ensures that the objectives that the CSP sets for itself are achieved. Wokingham CSP will develop the action plans including performance measures during the first year of the Community Safety Strategy in 2018/19.

Delivery and working groups (Appendix B)

The CSP Board oversees a number of delivery subgroups who are responsible for the operational delivery of the CSP priorities. These groups report to the CSP on a regular basis. They are responsible for:

- Implementing the CSP's action plans
- Setting targets, managing performance and making recommendations to the CSP on how to address any areas of underperformance.
- Horizon-scanning to ensure that the CSP is able to identify emerging areas of need, changing local and national policy and ensuring that these are included in future strategy development.
- Collating data and intelligence from partner organisations in order to acquire as accurate a picture of crime, disorder and substance misuse in Wokingham as possible.

Delivery groups are also able to set up short term task and finish working groups to work on specific projects on behalf of the CSP.

To manage performance delivery groups will use two types of data a) performance data which shows how the CSP is meeting its targets and b) analytical data which will explain why the targets are not being met.

The remit of each delivery subgroup is outlined below. (See Appendix C)

- **Problem Solving Tasking Group (PSTG)** meet as a partnership on a monthly basis to address persistent crime and community safety related issues.

- **Rural Crime Group** – Community led group which aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour within the rural areas of Wokingham. The Rural Crime Group reports to the PSTG
- **Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group** – This group meets quarterly to oversee the effective implementation of the Wokingham Substance Misuse Strategy.
- **Domestic Abuse Strategic Group now the Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Group** - which oversees the Domestic Abuse Strategy and aims to reduce domestic abuse locally by taking enforcement action against perpetrators, raise awareness of the issues and ensure that vulnerable victims have access to appropriate support services.
 - Recently the group decided to change its remit to include the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda, which includes actions to address Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual violence, Honor Based Violence (HBV) etc.
 - The Police led Domestic Abuse Repeat Incident Meeting (DARIM) and A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) report to this group. The MARAC is a victim focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies where high risk cases are discussed. The DARIM manages repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse.
- **Integrated Offender Management Subgroup** meets on a monthly basis to case manage priority offenders identified by the police. The subgroup includes partners such as the Police, probation service, housing and substance misuse services to ensure that identified offenders have access to the support services which will enable them to reduce their offending. It reports to the Problem Solving Group and Strategic Substance Misuse Group.
- **Prevent Strategy Group** – This group meets on a quarterly basis, to oversee actions to prevent and reduce the threat from terrorism by improving community cohesion, and ensuring the Local Authority and other partners meet their statutory obligations under The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- **Channel Panel** – The channel panel is organised monthly and meets to case manage vulnerable adults, young people and children who are at risk of becoming radicalised. The Channel Panel reports to the Prevent Strategy Group.

As well as CSP Delivery Groups, the CSP also works closely with and is a member of partner safeguarding meetings including the Thames Valley Police Tasking Meetings. One outcome of this meeting is for early identification, intervention and intelligence sharing of potential perpetrators.

Cross cutting issues

These are areas of work to improve CSP functionality. They do not sit easily within the subgroup structure, so will be directly overseen by the CSP Board. The CSP lead officer will provide regular updates on progress at CSP meetings for review and action.

1) Closer Working with Neighbouring Boroughs

In 2018 Wokingham CSP is exploring the possibility of developing an approach to working more closely with Bracknell Council and other neighbouring local authorities on crime and

community safety issues in order to increase efficiency, share best practice and improve partnership arrangements

2) **Information sharing protocols**

Information sharing protocols should be reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis to ensure that all partners understand how they can legally share information to support the reduction of crime and disorder, and in addition to ensure they continue to be in line with relevant legal developments.

3) **Data and Intelligence**

Community Safety depends on robust data therefore the CSP should continue to prioritise actions to improve the range and quality of data available to the Community Safety partnership.

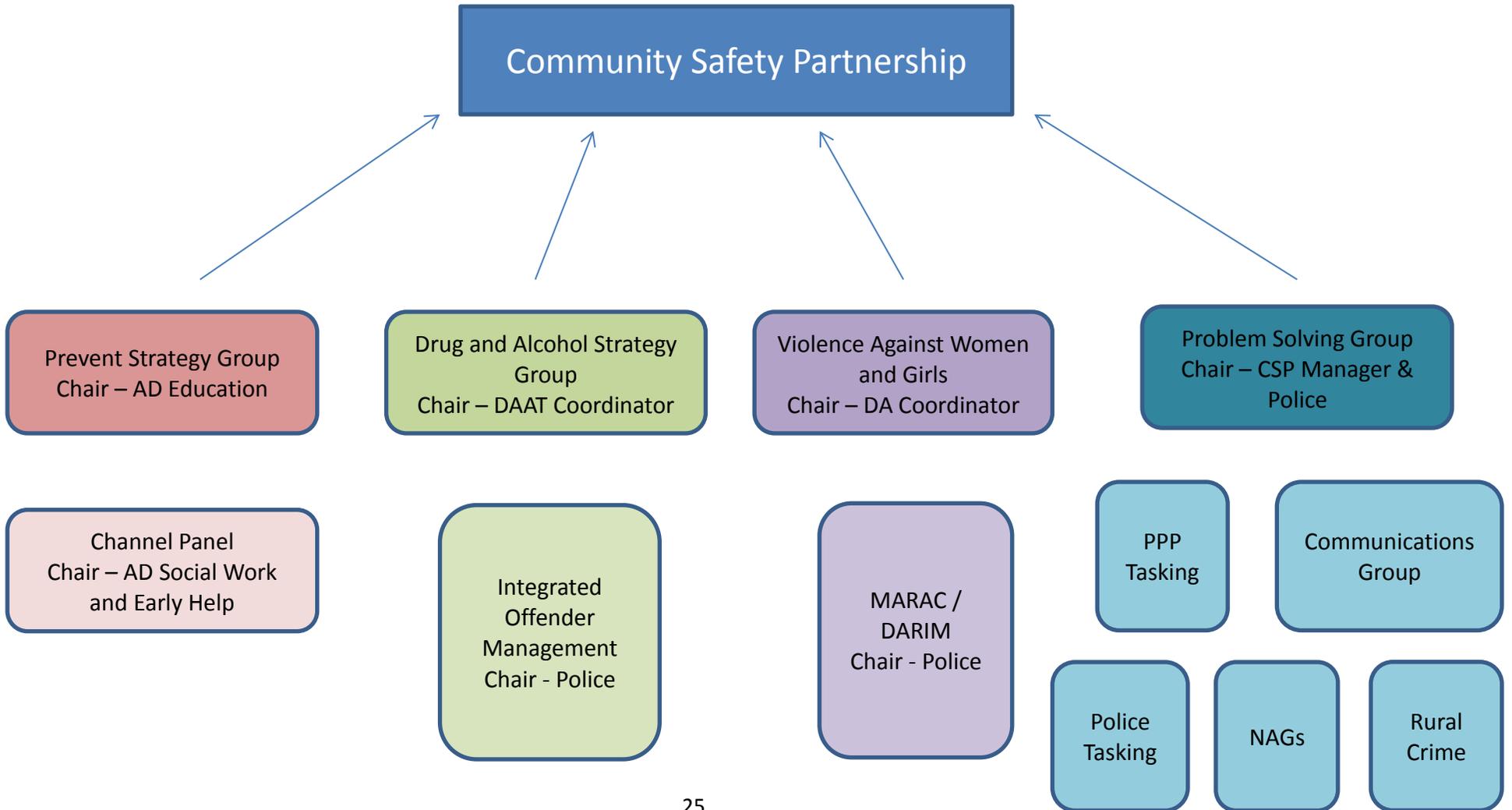
Next steps

Once the CSP Board approves the strategy, the CSP delivery groups will be tasked with setting measurable targets, performance measures and developing annual action plans to ensure that these targets and the objectives set out in this strategy are met. Each delivery group will also be required to submit their action plan to the CSP on a 6 monthly basis for overview and scrutiny.

Appendix A: Partnership Links



Appendix B: Governance and Reporting Lines



Appendix C: Delivery Groups

Delivery Group	CSP Priority	Performance Measure
Integrated Offender Management Subgroup	<p>Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime</p> <p>Priority Three: Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of offenders being re-arrested. Reduce number of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system
Problem Solving Tasking Group	<p>Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime</p> <p>Priority Three: Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders</p> <p>Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat cases referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Panel Number of Community Triggers Volume crime reduction e.g. dwelling burglary offences, theft of vehicle offences Reduction in Deliberate Primary Fires Reduction in Deliberate Secondary Fires
Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group	<p>Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime</p> <p>Priority Three: Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of drug treatment (adults) Successful completion of drug treatment (children)
Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Group.	<p>Priority One: Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls</p> <p>Priority Three: Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor number of cases reviewed by Wokingham Borough MARAC Monitor percentage of repeat cases reviewed by Wokingham Borough MARAC Reduce percentage of repeat reports of Domestic Abuse to Thames Valley Police Increase number of Domestic Incidents reported to Thames Valley Police
Prevent Strategy Group.	<p>Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Racially or Religiously Aggravated crime reported to Thames Valley Police Number of Racist incidents reported to Thames Valley Police Number of homophobic incidents reported to Thames Valley Police Number of transphobic incidents reported to Thames Valley Police number of disability hate incidents reported to Thames Valley Police
Channel Panel	<p>Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referrals to Channel Panel
Rural Crime Group	<p>Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime</p> <p>Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent Fly-Tipping from increasing to an unacceptable level Reduction in Rural related Theft Offences Reduction in Rural related Criminal Damage
Communications Group	<p>Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Fear of crime

Glossary

Acronym	Description
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BAMER	Black and Asian Ethnic Minority and Refugee
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CLD	County Lines Dealing
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DARIM	Domestic Abuse Repeat Incident Meeting
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GRT	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller
HBV	Honour Based Violence
IOM	Integrated Offender Manager
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NAGs	Neighbourhood Action Groups
NPS	National Probation Service
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PPP	Public Protection Partnership
PSTG	Problem Solving Task Group
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WSCB	Wokingham Safeguarding Children's Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service

TITLE	Work Programme 2020/21
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23 March 2020
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Assistant Director, Governance

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Effective Overview and Scrutiny helps to improve services, holds decision makers to account and engages with local communities. In so doing it helps to demonstrate that the Council and other public service providers are open and transparent and are delivering high quality, value for money services.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) review its Work Programme for 2019/20 (Annex A) and consider whether any items should not be carried over to the 2020/21 municipal year;
- 2) consider any other potential Scrutiny items for consideration during 2020/21.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Effective work programming is a Member-led process aimed at shortlisting and prioritising issues of community concern together with issues arising out of the Council Plan and major policy or service changes. It aims to:

- reflect local needs and concerns;
- prioritise topics for scrutiny which have the most impact or benefit;
- involve local residents and stakeholders;
- be flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.

Each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee approves work programmes for itself and the Council's three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

As this is the Committee's final meeting of the 2019/20 Municipal Year, the Committee is asked to suggest potential items for inclusion in the 2020/21 work programme. Annex A contains the work programme from 2019/20 for comparison.

Background

An effective Overview and Scrutiny function is underpinned by robust work programming. Effective work programming lays the foundations for targeted scrutiny of issues of local importance. It helps to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny adds value and makes a difference. Effective work programming helps to:

- prioritise issues for in-depth work where Overview and Scrutiny can make an impact and add value;
- reduce the need for “information only” reports;
- achieve a balance between pre-decision scrutiny, policy development and performance/budget monitoring;
- contribute at an earlier stage in the decision making process;
- increase public and stakeholder involvement in Overview and Scrutiny;
- retain flexibility in order to respond to urgent issues arising during the year.

The issues identified for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny should be of interest or concern for local residents and generate public interest and involvement in the Overview and Scrutiny process.

In order to generate ideas and involvement from local residents, community groups and stakeholders the Council’s website and social media are used to publicise the development of the work programme and to invite suggestions for items to be included.

Annex A to the report sets out items included in the Committee’s work programme for 2019/20. The Committee is requested to consider the list of items and to discuss any potential amendments and additions to this work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Members may also wish to add further items to the work programme and consider how each item will be addressed, e.g. through reports to the Committee or the establishment of time limited Task and Finish groups.

As part of the work programming process, residents, community groups and Town and parish Councils will be invited to identify issues to be considered in 2020/21.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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

List of Background Papers

None

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Date 13 March 2020	Version No. 1.0

Annex A

Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/20

1.	Reviewing the work of the Community Safety Partnership, the effectiveness of local policing and fire and rescue services
2.	Exercising the Council's flood risk management responsibilities by monitoring flood risk activities and partnership working with Towns and Parishes
3.	Scrutinising the Council's Budget development process and the draft Budget for 2020/21
4.	Scrutinising the Wokingham Town Centre regeneration programme, including the Safety and Financial Audits relating to the Market Place highways project
5.	Reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's partnerships with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector
6.	Scrutinising service and policy developments relating to the Council's public facing services and its in-house support services
7.	Reviewing highways and transport issues including the new highways contracts, customer service, car parking and cycling facilities
8.	Reviewing the Business Case supporting the development of the Coppid Beech Park and Ride site
9.	Scrutinising the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement across the Borough
10.	Scrutinising burial capacity across the Borough and the Council's plans to ensure future capacity
11.	Input into new policies through pre-decision scrutiny of draft proposals
12.	Appointing Task and Finish Groups as appropriate