



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN **WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 28 September 2021

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.

Note: Although non-Committee Members and members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting in person, space is very limited due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. You can however participate in this meeting virtually, in line with the Council’s Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:
<https://youtu.be/vg14f4Arqj8>



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)
Anne Chadwick
Clive Jones

Sam Akhtar
Phil Cunnington
Alison Swaddle (Vice-Chairman)

Shirley Boyt
Paul Fishwick

Substitutes

Rachel Burgess
Rebecca Margetts
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Pauline Helliar-Symons
Barrie Patman
Caroline Smith

Norman Jorgensen
Jackie Rance

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
32.		<p>APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
33.		<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2021</p>	5 - 14
34.		<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.</p>	
35.		<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions</p> <p>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.</p> <p>The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee.</p> <p>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</p>	
36.		<p>MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.</p>	
37.	None Specific	<p>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) 2022-2025 To begin the Overview & Scrutiny process of the draft 2022-25 MTFP</p>	15 - 38

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|------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| 38. | None Specific | LEISURE SERVICE PROVISION UPDATE
To consider an update regarding the provision of leisure services across the Borough, and action plan associated with the draft Leisure Strategy | 39 - 72 |
| 39. | None Specific | BRINGING THE PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE BACK IN-HOUSE
To consider a verbal update regarding bringing the Public Protection Service back in-house | 73 - 78 |
| 40. | None Specific | WORK PROGRAMME
To consider items scheduled for upcoming meetings of the Committee | 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 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.05 PM

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Guy Grandison (Chairman), Shirley Boyt, Anne Chadwick, Paul Fishwick, Clive Jones, Alison Swaddle (Vice-Chairman) and Norman Jorgensen (Substitute)

Executive Members Present

Councillors: Stuart Munro and Bill Soane

Audit Committee Members in Attendance

Councillors: Maria Gee and Ian Shenton

Officers Present

Callum Wernham (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist), Neil Carr (Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist), Rhian Hayes (Interim Assistant Director Housing and Place), Andrew Moulton (Assistant Director - Governance), Mark Redfearn (Head of Localities Service) and Grant Thornton (Category Manager Economic Prosperity & Place (Interim))

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Sam Akhtar and Phil Cunnington.

Norman Jorgensen attended the meeting as a substitute.

24. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 June, and the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 21 July 2021 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following minor amendments and comments, and signed by the Chairman.

21 June 2021:

The actions relating to the Community Safety Partnership item be chased, and subsequently circulated to the Committee.

An answer related to how Wokingham Borough Council protects itself from cyber ware and ransom attacks be provided to Committee Members.

21 July 2021:

Minute item 21, agenda page 17: "WBC had appreciated the partnership working over the years, however it was ~~not~~ felt that the residents of Wokingham would be better served by an in-house service."

Minute Item 21, agenda page 18: "The Interim Director (Place & growth) stated that there was ~~unilateral~~ **universal** thanks to the staff and the PPP as a whole for the work that they had done."

Correction to mark Councillor Alison Swaddle as present at the meeting.

25. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A personal declaration of interest was submitted from Councillor Alison Swaddle in relation to agenda item 28, on the grounds that she was a paid election agent for the recent local elections.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Chairman invited members of the public to submit questions to the appropriate Members.

26.1 Keith Malvern asked the Chairman of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following question:

Question

It has been interesting to read the document on library enhancement and relocations as it states clearly the libraries added value.

The recent consultation about Wokingham Library (ended 29th August) states that "the new library will have everything that the current library in Denmark Street has" but doesn't specifically mention how those libraries added things will be delivered. As an example how to counteract social isolation and poor mental health by coffee mornings etc, without a cafe and comfortable seating.

Recognising that the new library is due to open next August will this list of library added value be looked at to see how they can be provided?

Answer

The relocation of Wokingham Library, as with the relocation of Twyford Library and the new micro library within the new Shinfield Community Centre, have the central objective of improving services for our residents. These improvements are both within the core statutory elements of the library service, and the additional value provided through the wide range of events and activities provided by the library service.

The relocation of Wokingham library does not restrict or diminish the ability of the library service to provide added value to our residents. The new library has more usable space that is also more flexible and adaptable so that it can respond more easily to the changing demands of a modern library service. This is the central reason behind the recent engagement survey for Wokingham Library so that residents and local community groups have a direct opportunity to communicate their ambitions for using the library.

In response to the specific question about a café, the new Carnival Hub includes space for a café for all visitors to use that is larger than the one currently available within Wokingham Library.

Supplementary Question

I do find it a bit disappointing because clearly the detail of the new library has not really been defined in any clarity. And clearly, what one would want to feel comfortable about is that everything that the existing library does is going to continue to be. I hear mention of efficiency, and we have this list on your agenda and more things as well, that is page 55 and 56. What I would want is to be confident, and I am not, that these things are actually going to be provided in the way that they currently are provided. I agree that yes there might be a café, but is it going to be a café that will suit casual visitors to satisfy the point that I raised I raised earlier on, let alone all of the other things. I do think that it needs to be looked at again.

Supplementary Answer

I think that what you are referring to, and the detail of the offer of the existing offer, is actually what we are going to be talking about later tonight. We are looking at what will happen in the future with our library service, because a library and the library service is much more than what we traditionally see as a library in regards to books, facilities etcetera, there is much more that it can offer Wokingham from that point of view. So, it is a case of what is being offered now we need to basically try and mirror and basically enhance it going forward. That is the purpose of a lot of documentation in the agenda tonight and how we are going forward, but this is only the first stage as it needs to go forward. Bill, am I incorrect in that assumption?

Yes you are correct. The whole point is here that the new facility in the Carnival phase two offers a greater area to start with. At the moment we have 133m² in the library (café) and this will be increased to 285m², so a considerably larger area is given to the library than currently available. And with that, I can say that the current services offered by the library will be transferred over to the new library and I hope that there will be additional services as well. I can't say for sure but that is what I would hope to see given that there is more space.

27. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

28. UPDATE ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Committee considered a report, set out in agenda pages 23 to 30, which gave an update on the running of local elections within the Borough.

The report outlined the delivery of the combined elections held in May 2021 within the context of a complex backdrop of significant public health restrictions which presented complex new challenges for all those involved in the electoral process. The report outlined a number of actions derived from the analysis of learning from the running of the May 2021 elections. These actions included the undertaking of an interim polling places review of selected polling places to be reported to Council in January 2022, and planning to hold the verification and count for the May 2022 elections during the daytime on Friday 6th May 2022.

Andrew Moulton (Assistant Director – Governance) attended the meeting to answer Member questions.

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

- The Committee were unanimous in their thanks for the elections team and wider staff network for the successful running of the May 2021 elections under difficult conditions.
- Whilst being effective for the purposes of delivering a Covid-secure polling day, the reduction of polling places available to the residents of Norreys Ward to a single polling place would not be ideal going forwards. Was this planned to revert to multiple polling places for future elections? Officer response – This change was planned as a one-off change for those set of elections, and the change was planned to revert back to multiple polling places all being well.

- A number of Members commented that the daytime verification and count worked well, and they hoped that this could continue going forwards.
- How likely was it that for the elections due to be held in May 2022 that none of the polling places due to be used would be a school? Officer response – There were only four schools within the Borough which were used as polling stations, and a considerable amount of work had been done over previous years to reduce the Borough’s reliance on schools as polling places. The view was to speak with Ward Members and take a report to Council in early 2022. It had always been the intention to not disrupt the education of school children as a consequence of running elections wherever possible.
- Had marquees within the school grounds or playing fields been considered as an option instead of using the school building itself? Officer response – This had been an option considered for the May 2021 elections, however for a variety of reasons this did not work out on this occasion.
- It was commented that some school buildings were the most obvious public building within a Ward and therefore merited consideration for use as a polling place.
- There had been a large increase in the numbers of people choosing to vote by post for the elections held in May 2021, which was good to see. Some residents had become confused regarding the instructions for how to vote by post and it would be worthwhile to have a further look at the instructions issued.
- How many postal votes had arrived after polling day? Officer response – These figures would be circulated to Members of the Committee. On a related note, a significant number of people choose to hand deliver their postal vote to their polling station on polling day.
- What were the approximate percentage increases in the numbers of people choosing to vote by post, and how many of these were applications to permanently vote by post? Officer response – There had been an approximate increase of between thirty and forty percent of people choosing to vote by post. The numbers of people who registered to permanently vote by post would be sought and circulated to the Committee.
- Was there a significant percentage of spoilt ballot papers, or ballot papers that could not be counted, as they had not been correctly filled in as a result of the individual being confused by the postal vote instructions? Officer response – There had likely not been any marked increase, and the instructions were very prescribed which gave the returning officer very little room to edit the instructions. Most errors were likely due to an increase in people voting by post for the first time.
- With the Government proposing to require voters to produce identification documents at polling stations, what checks and balances were carried out for a postal voter? Officer response – All postal votes are subject to strict checks against their original postal vote application form.
- Relating to the final paragraph of agenda page 30, what was a digital imprint, what must be done with them, and what was organic material? Officer response – This was

centred around political campaigners specifically, but a more detailed written answer would be provided.

- It was agreed that the figures relating to the number of postal votes received after polling day would be sought and circulated to the Committee. In addition, the figures relating to the numbers of postal votes rejected would also be sought and circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Andrew Moulton be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) The figures relating to the number of postal votes received after polling day for the May 2021 elections be circulated to the Committee;
- 3) The figures relating to the number of postal votes rejected for the May 2021 elections be circulated to the Committee;
- 4) The figures relating to the number of individuals who registered to permanently vote by post in the period leading up to the May 2021 elections be circulated to the Committee;
- 5) A written answer be provided relating to the query about digital imprints and organic material;
- 6) An item regarding the implications of the proposed Elections Bill return to the Committee when the Bill was further progressed.

29. BROADBAND PROVISION

The Committee considered a report, set out in agenda pages 31 to 44, which gave an update on broadband provision within the Borough.

The report outlined the current position with regard to the existing Superfast Berkshire Broadband project, which would give broadband coverage with speeds of over 24Mbps to 98.64% of households in the Borough. The report added that a strategy was in place to increase full-fibre coverage in Berkshire to 95% by the end of 2025 from the current baseline of 13.86%. Achievement of this target would require actions to try and ensure that both commercial and subsidised provision was expedited and that investment in Berkshire's digital infrastructure did not lag behind other parts of the country.

Stuart Munro (Executive Member for Business and Economic Development), Grant Thornton (Category Manager Economic Prosperity & Place (Interim)), Rhian Hayes (Interim Assistant Director Housing and Place), and Lynne Wilson (Project and Program Manager for Digital Projects across Berkshire) attended the meeting to answer Member queries.

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

- How was Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) actively advertising the Gigabit voucher scheme to our rural communities and businesses? Officer response – Some residents and Town and Parish Councils had been directly written to in the past. There was a plan to promote the scheme more widely, and there was an aspiration to work with

Connecting Communities Berkshire to see how they might outreach and promote this directly with the Borough's more rural communities.

- Was there a plan to provide the Gorse Ride regeneration homes with ultrafast broadband provision, as one of the aspirations of the overall plan was to provide social housing with ultrafast broadband. Officer response – There was an ongoing conversation taking place with the Gorse Ride steering group and local residents, as this was seen as a great opportunity to provide top class broadband to a redeveloped estate. Conversations were ongoing with the appropriate contacts about making this a trial project.
- How much of the rollout may require public subsidy, how much might this cost, and what provisions were being made? Officer response – The primary source of finance was the Gigabit initiative from central Government. It was a Government objective, and it was down to the Government to issue the contracts which should deal with the vast majority of those people and businesses not connected commercially. Based on Government figures, 85% of properties are expected to have full fibre provision by 2025, with the further 15% to be looked at later. Berkshire's objective is set slightly higher, at 95% coverage by 2025.
- Members requested that information be provided when available relating to the level of grants expected and how much of a potential funding gap might need to be filled relating to full fibre rollout.
- Recent full fibre rollout in the Winnersh area had seen an 18 month delay between laying the infrastructure and users being able to take-up the service. What would change in the future to prevent delays in take-up in other areas of the Borough? Officer response – It was accepted that there had been issues in the early years with rollout by some providers, and officers were awaiting to see who would be awarded future contracts. As the technology had developed, there was now more passive infrastructure access as well as a variety of different providers competing to carry out the work whilst using lessons learned from early rollout.
- Was there ample provision of companies and core infrastructure across the whole country to deliver the suggested rollout to schedule? Officer response – This was an issue on the risk register, however there were now a number of providers competing for this work. The rollout was continuing to progress, but there was a risk that this issue could occur in the future.
- What was being done to mitigate the risk of a lack of personnel to carry out the infrastructure rollout? Office response – There was an apprentice programme in place to entice people to get involved in this industry. In addition, more than one contract or sub-contract could be issued to allow a switch to a different provider if necessary. Weekly meetings were being undertaken with suppliers to highlight any potential issues.
- There could be limitations regarding the no-dig option in addition to the available road space to lay infrastructure. Had these factors been considered? Officer response – These factors were being looked at, and work was being undertaken to try and get suppliers to share infrastructure and space. It was a priority to lay infrastructure when major roadworks were already being carried out, to reduce disruption and to streamline delivery.

- How many houses would not have superfast broadband provision as a minimum under current delivery plans? Officer response – The specific stats would be sought and circulated to the Committee. Those properties which were not reached were likely due to wayleave refusals, and trying to setup provision for these properties in another way would cost a very considerable amount of money.
- Was 5G being considered to ‘fill the gap’ for some properties going forwards? Officer response – 5G was being considered and looked in to. This was very new and had just been picked up, and there were a number of competing priorities. A leader in 5G would be addressing the Board in September, and it was hoped that this would assist in moving projects related to 5G forward.
- Were suppliers aware of the demand from consumers for these services? Officer response – The Board had regular contacts with suppliers and the wider market, which allowed for feedback relating some of the issues that were occurring. Conversations were also occurring to ask suppliers what best practices that they would like to see to make Berkshire a more attractive place for them to invest.
- What was the Berkshire ‘LoraWan’? Officer response – This was part of the smart city project, and related to the ‘internet of things’. For example, one local authority was using it to place sensors in bins to understand which bins needed more regular emptying to increase efficiencies.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Stuart Munro, Grant Thornton, Rhian Hayes, and Lynne Wilson be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) Information be provided when available relating to the level of grants expected and how much of a potential funding gap might need to be filled relating to full fibre rollout;
- 3) The specific statistics be provided relating to how many properties within the Borough would not be supplied with a minimum of superfast broadband.

30. LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report, set out in agenda pages 45 to 62, which gave an update on the Library Service within the Borough.

The report outlined a number of topics including the statutory requirements for library provision, an overview of the nine libraries which Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) operated across the Borough, and library enhancements and library relocations.

Bill Soane (Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Communities) and Mark Redfearn (Head of Localities Service) attended the meeting to answer Member queries.

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

- It was agreed that the slides relating to the new library offer be circulated to the Committee.

- Would the Executive Member be happy to set up a cross party working group to look at the future library offer, including making use of Members on the Arts and Culture working group? Executive Member response – This was a good idea which would be looked into to see if it could be accommodated. An update would be provided to Members regarding this.
- Were there any plans to have additional opening hours on Sundays, and could any future consultation take place during school term time? Officer response – When the library offer was consulted on five years ago the main goal was to be as inclusive as possible, and the more input from library users including students the better. Officers were always looking at when library users most wanted the service to be open, which had included less evening offerings and additional Saturday offerings. It would cost an additional approximate £35k per year to facilitate Sunday openings.
- Was the micro library in Shinfield of sufficient functionality for the population that it served? Officer response – This was part of the amenities within the wider SDL, with space for approximately 1500 books, a self-serving kiosk and intelligent shelving. The Parish Council were involved in coming up with ideas as to how best use the space for sessions, such as story time sessions.
- How well used were the smaller libraries in the Borough? Officer response – Figures relating to usage statistics for the smaller libraries could be circulated to the Committee. The Earley library was less well used than Woodley or Wokingham, but still better used than others.
- Did people tend to congregate in the larger facilities, or were they dispersed amongst the smaller facilities as well? Officer response – The smaller libraries remain well used whilst the larger sites of Woodley, Wokingham and to a lesser extent Lower Earley attracted a significant number of users. The libraries themselves were spaces within communities which were used as community hubs for activities and groups. It was important to have provision outside of the main hubs of Wokingham, Woodley and Earley.
- It was really important to incorporate the Arts Strategy into our library provision. What was planned in this regard? Officer response – Officers wanted libraries to be gateways to other things including culture and learning opportunities. Artwork from local artists was often displayed, and local authors were encouraged to come along for reading sessions. The new Wokingham library would follow suit, and there would be space for artistic exhibitions.
- Residents living in areas with a smaller library would be happy to hear the support from officers regarding the important roles that these spaces provided.
- Would it be possible to work with Optalis to put an Alzheimer's café in the new Carnival Pool hub? Executive Member and officer response – This could be looked at by the potential future working group, and this was a worthwhile idea to explore alongside the voluntary sector. The café was due to be operated by a 3rd party, and additional details would have to be worked out with them. The plan was to make the library and café as accessible as possible for all users.

- It was noted that libraries were more than just buildings and books. Libraries were community focussed areas, with learning opportunities, educational facilities and arts and culture sessions and exhibitions.
- Had conversations been had with the University of Reading Library and the British Museum relating to outreach of the Borough's Library Service? Officer response – Detailed talks had not been had with the University of Reading, but the door was always open for future talks. Contact had been made with the archives, and prior to the pandemic discussions had been ongoing relating to how the archives outreach service could align with the work of the Library Service and also schools. These conversations were ongoing and it was a key aim for the Service. In addition to this, conversations were always ongoing with schools and with Children's Services colleagues. A key success of engagement with schools included the author's in schools projects, which had received a fantastic attendance.
- It was good to see all of the work being done to improve the Woodley library, including the works to make the building energy efficient. Were officers open to the idea of displaying the figures as to how much energy the building had generated, as well as information explain how a heat pump worked? Officer response – This was a good idea and officers would look to incorporate this.
- The Committee gave their universal praise for the team behind the Library Service, and hoped that the team would continue to innovate going forwards.
- The Executive Member commented that it was WBC's duty to continue to support the residents using these services and improve upon them. The possible future working group would look at potential improvements to support residents.
- It was noted that officers within the Library Service worked tirelessly to improve and innovate the service.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Bill Soane and Mark Redfearn be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) The slides relating to the new library offer be circulated to the Committee;
- 3) It be recommended that the Executive Member explore the opportunity for the creation of a cross-party working group to look at the future offering of the Library Service, whilst looking to include Members from the Arts and Culture working group;
- 4) Figures relating to usage statistics for the smaller libraries be circulated to the Committee;
- 5) Officers consider the provision of an interactive sign in the Woodley library detailing how much energy the building had generated, how much carbon had been saved, and how other features such as a heat pumped worked;
- 6) The team behind the Library Service be thanked for their tireless work and innovations;

- 7) A future update regarding the new library offer return to the Committee when it has progressed.

31. UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee considered their work programme, set out in agenda pages 63 to 68.

The Committee were advised that an extraordinary meeting had been scheduled for 3 November 2021 in order to accommodate a thorough overview of the draft 2022-2025 Medium Term Financial Plan.

During the ensuing discussion, Members raised the following points:

- Relating to the item regarding overgrown pavements, Members wished to ensure that there was a follow-up process to pavements which had been attended to but required further works on a continual basis. In addition, Members wanted assurances that the public could report issues properly, and that footways were being cleared from the verge up to the boundary edge. Members added that they would like to know how pavements were categorised for clearance, to ensure a proactive strategy was in place. Members also wished to know whether highways inspectors were picking these issues up, and how footways were dealt with in autumn and winter when there was significant leaf fall.
- It was recommended that an additional update relating to the Council's exit from the Public Protection Partnership be scheduled for the Committee's January meeting;
- An update be sought regarding provision of a refuge for domestic abuse victims, with a briefing note to be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Callum Wernham be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) The extraordinary meeting scheduled for 3 November 2021 be agreed;
- 3) The point relating to the item regarding overgrown pavements be noted and passed on to officers;
- 4) An additional update relating to the Council's exit from the Public Protection Partnership be scheduled for the Committee's January 2022 meeting;
- 5) An update be sought regarding provision of a refuge for domestic abuse victims, with a briefing note to be circulated to Members.

Agenda Item 37.

TITLE	Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-25
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 th October 2021
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To deliver on the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan whilst maintaining a financially viable Council.

RECOMMENDATION

To consider the report and identify areas of productive exploration.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council annually undertakes a budget setting process to determine its investment priorities and spending reductions in arriving at a balanced budget. The strategic context, including the budget setting approach is the first consideration for Overview and Scrutiny in this year's process.

Background

The Council annually undertakes its budget setting process for all its financial activities including General Fund Revenue Account (funded by primarily by Council Tax), HRA (funded by tenants), Schools (funded by Government) and Capital (funded by various capital resources). An overview of these funds is provided in the MTFP, last approved by Full Council in February 2021.

Last year's budget setting process incorporated and benefited from considerable consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny committee. It is intended that a similar approach is adopted again for this year's budget cycle.

Analysis of Issues

The Budget Strategic Overview (Appendix A) focusses on the General Fund Revenue Account and sets out the national and local context in which the budget will be set. It also shows key risks faced by the Council, most notably the unknown full extent of the COVID-19 impact. To enhance the scrutiny process, all revenue items (growth, savings and special items) and capital have been included earlier in the process to allow members to have a better understanding of the interaction between bids and funding as well as revenue and capital links (e.g. capital investment to deliver revenue savings).

The figures presented in Appendix A provide the latest revenue summary position ("net") of growth pressures and savings by directorate, followed by corporate financing considerations for the next two financial years. Year three is being worked on and will be presented at a later meeting. A summary of the special items ("one off spend") has also been included with year three to follow at a later meeting. In addition and earlier than in previous years, a capital summary has been provided for the next three years outlining the latest capital expenditure plans as well as the capital funding plans.

It should be noted that the Year 1 2022/23 budget position for revenue would already balance (with a transfer from reserves), whilst leaving General Fund Balances at a sufficiently safe level. This is of course subject to the outcome of the Local Government Finance settlement which is unlikely to be announced until December 2021. Wokingham Borough Council remain the lowest funded Unitary Authority per head of population and the Council should do all it can to make representations for a fair settlement in December 2021 and more significantly a fair Government funding settlement which is expected to cover a three year period. Further risks are also set out in Appendix A which will need to be considered as part of the budget setting process.

Incorporated in the summary figures, is the considerable investment in priority services for the Council, in particular, an ambition to attain a stepped improvement in our Children's Services (a rating of Good by Ofsted). The details of specific budget investment proposals, and savings will be presented to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the timetable (Appendix A).

To allow the committee to have a greater focus on the budget submissions, business case templates will be presented where budget submissions are new and / or have changed significantly from what was approved in the last MTFP process. For revenue, this will focus on a threshold of over £50k and for capital, over £200k. The bid templates will accompany the budget proposals presented to this Committee, in the way they were last year. Appendix B and C are examples of the bid templates used.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

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

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications associated with the scrutiny process, however, the full MTFP, when submitted to Council in February 2022, will have to represent a balanced budget.

Cross-Council Implications

This is in respect of budgets across all Council services.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

Not at this stage of consideration but equality impact statements will be required before specific proposals are agreed and implemented.

List of Background Papers

MTFP 2021-24

Contact Graham Ebers	Service Resources & Assets
Telephone No 0118 974 6000	Email graham.ebers@wokingham.gov.uk

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MTFP 2022-25

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 October 2021

Strategic Summary

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Strategic Context

- The lowest funded Unitary Authority per head of population
- Awaiting local government finance settlement in December 2021
- Impact of COVID-19 beyond 2021/22 – balances, ongoing pressures, impact on income, impact on providers
- Building Back Better including plan for Health and Social Care
- Children Services – getting to good
- Housing Numbers - CIL/S106, future service pressures
- Budget position is currently ‘work in progress’ and subject to considerable change including; challenging growth, seeking additional efficiencies and the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement and Health & Social Care reforms

20





Revenue



MTFP Summary

Budget Submissions by Directorate 2022/23 – 2024/25 (cumulative)

	Yr 1 - 22/23 Net	Yr 2 - 23/24 Net	Yr 3 - 24/25 Net
Adult Social Care	£1,255	£2,024	tbc
Children's Services	£573	£248	tbc
Communities, Insight & Change	£1,207	£1,437	tbc
Place & Growth	(£330)	(£579)	tbc
Resources & Assets	(£1,501)	(£2,293)	tbc
Net Growth	£1,204	£837	tbc



MTFP Summary

Corporate items including Council Tax income (cumulative)

	Yr 1 - 22/23 Net	Yr 2 - 23/24 Net	Yr 3 - 24/25 Net
2021/22 MTFP budget gap / (surplus)	(£270)	(£270)	tbc
Net growth / savings (from previous table)	£1,204	£837	tbc
Contractual inflation (includes NJC pay award)	£6,050	£10,968	tbc
Council tax increase - 1.99% Core	(£2,363)	(£4,816)	tbc
Council tax increase - ASC Precept - 0% (took 3% 21/22)	£0	£0	tbc
Additional council tax base increase - Yr 1 2.25%, Yr 2 1.5%	(£2,725)	(£4,611)	tbc
Budget Gap / (Surplus)	£1,896	£2,108	tbc

£2m Challenge over two years – work in progress to manage this down



MTFP Summary Special Items

	Yr 1 – 22/23 £,000	Yr 2 – 23/24 £,000	Yr 3 – 24/25 £,000
Adult Social Care	890	690	tbc
Children’s Services	1,913	749	tbc
Communities, Insight & Change	1,832	1,431	tbc
Place and Growth	1,370	549	tbc
Resources & Assets	0	0	tbc
Total	6,005	3,419	tbc





Capital



Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 – Summary

	Year 1 - 2022/23			Year 2 - 2023/24			Year 3 - 2024/25	Three Year Total
	Reprofile from 2021/22	MTFP / New Bid	Total	Reprofile from 2021/22	MTFP / New Bid	Total	Total (MTFP / New Bids)	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Adult Social Care	6	2	8	0	9	9	1	18
Children's Services	5	4	9	1	10	11	11	31
Communities, Insight & Change	4	9	13	0	12	12	11	36
Place and Growth	49	75	124	8	26	34	14	172
Resources & Assets	59	33	92	3	38	41	16	149
Total Capital Expenditure	123	123	246	12	95	107	53	406
Funded by;								
Developer Contributions			(53)			(9)	(9)	(71)
Capital Grants			(19)			(12)	(8)	(39)
Capital Receipts			(6)			(3)	(4)	(13)
Supported Borrowing			(159)			(57)	(27)	(243)
General Fund Borrowing			(10)			(9)	(3)	(22)
Total Capital Funding			(247)			(90)	(51)	(388)
Funding (Surplus) / Gap			(1)			17	2	18

The funding gap will be addressed through reducing scheme costs, seeking additional income and reprofiling to later years

Risks – Revenue and Capital

- Council Tax and Business Rates collection rate of 99% assumed
- Assumption of no further COVID 19 lockdown or unfunded COVID 19 related responsibilities
- Furlough scheme ended on 30th September, impact on demand on Council resources is not yet known.
- LGFS 22/23 unknown and fundamental changes to an anticipated multi year settlement
- Impact of Brexit
- Inflation – materials, labour, utilities
- Public Health Grant, NHB, CIL/S106 face uncertain future
- Health and Social Care reform
- Significant saving targets built into budget assumptions



Example of Revenue Bid Template (Growth / Savings / Special Items) – See Appendix B for Full Template

R&A.1

Revenue Budget Setting 2022/23 to 2024/25

Directorate

Bid Details

Bid Type	Growth	Permanent increase in expenditure or reduction in income budget
Bid Name		
Summary of bid - for CLT slides		
Description of Bid Inc. (Reason for Bid i.e. Demand / Legislative / Discretionary)		
Supporting Evidence / Trend Analysis / Business Case ref		
Impact if bid not successful		

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Finance Information

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Amount needed per year	Expenditure	£0	£0	£0
	Income	£0	£0	£0
<i>Cumulative movement from 21/22 budget</i>		£0	£0	£0

RAG Status (Certainty around financial request and project delivery)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status"

Green

Example of Capital Bid Template – See Appendix C for Full Template

New Capital Bid Template 2022 / 2025

Details

Directorate *

Lead Member *

Assistant Director / Service *

Budget Manager *

Project Managed By *

Rolling Programme *

Project Title *

Project Description *

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab)

Date Consulted?

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Timetable



<u>Budget Consideration</u>	<u>CCOS</u>	<u>Executive</u>	<u>Council</u>
Strategic Overview	6 Oct 21		
Revenue and Capital: Adult Social Care, Children Services	3 Nov 21		
Revenue and Capital: Place and Growth, Community Insight and Change, Resources and Assets	24 Nov 21		
Revenue and Capital: Reserve meeting if needed	13 Dec 21		
Revenue and Capital: Reserve meeting if needed	5 Jan 22		
Capital and Revenue Final discussions	tbc	Feb 22	Feb 22



Revenue Budget Setting 2022/23 to 2024/25

Directorate	Resources and Assets
--------------------	----------------------

Bid Details

Bid Type	Growth	Permanent increase in expenditure or reduction in income budget
Bid Name		
Summary of bid - for CLT slides		
Description of Bid Inc. (Reason for Bid i.e. Demand / Legislative / Discretionary)		
Supporting Evidence / Trend Analysis / Business Case ref		
Impact if bid not successful		
Additional comments		

Finance Information

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Amount needed per year	Expenditure	£0	£0	£0
	Income	£0	£0	£0
<i>Cumulative movement from 21/22 budget</i>		£0	£0	£0

RAG Status (Certainty around financial request and project delivery)	Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
	Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
	Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status"	Green
----------------------------	-------

Comments regarding RAG Status	
--------------------------------------	--

Benchmarking

Supporting benchmarking information (Unit cost, demand stats, comparison to LAs, etc)	
--	--

Sign Off

Service Manager	
Assistant Director	
Director	
Lead Member	

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How to complete the Capital Bid Form

Please complete the appropriate coloured cells on the Capital Bid Form tab.

Details of how to complete the cells will appear when the cell is selected.

Other guidance to complete cells:-

For construction projects (non Highways) Operational Property should be consulted prior to submission of this bid so that assistance and oversight can be provided to ensure that capital budgets sought are realistic and inclusive of foreseeable known costs.

Outline Business Case - explain:

What is the project;

How it benefits the Council and aligns to the Council's strategy;

What are the do minimum / do nothing options;

What options have been considered and rejected;

What are the risks of the bid;

Completing this section does not remove the need for a full Business Case prior to project commencing if budget is agreed

Budget Request - please note the budget approval request will be for the amount in cell f70, the total scheme, from years 1 to year 5+ inclusive

Funding Identified - please note all funding will be verified by finance officers, please send through any evidence to prove funding is available (confirmed). Should the funding become unavailable, the bid may not be allowed

Actions needed once completed

- 1) Once completed please send to your Director for sign off.
- 2) Forward to Finance Business Partners to collate bids for the services.

If you require any financial support with completing the bid please speak to your Finance Business Partner, or either James Sandford ext. 6577, or Jenny Butler ext. 6120.

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Details

Directorate *		Lead Member *	
Assistant Director / Service *		Budget Manager *	
Project Managed By *		Rolling Programme *	
Project Title *			
Project Description *			

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab) Date Consulted?

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" *

Comments regarding RAG Status

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the bid *

MTFP Category

MTFP Sub Category

Outline Business Case

Budget Requested in £'000 **total of scheme approval**

Budget Phasing *	Year 1 2022/23 £'000	Year 2 2023/24 £'000	Year 3 2024/25 £'000	Year 4 2025/26 £'000	Year 5+ 2026/27 £'000	Total £'000
Capital Scheme	0					0

equals cell f70

Funding Identified *

No funding identified

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this bid? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total Funding Amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Invest to Save (secured borrowing)					
Please select available type(s) of funding:-					
Please select available type(s) of funding:-					
Please select available type(s) of funding:-					
Please select available type(s) of funding:-					
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	0	0	0		
Funding Shortfall	0	0	0		

If an Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) * **£'000**

Rev implications	Year 1 2022/23 £'000	Year 2 2023/24 £'000	Year 3 2024/25 £'000	Year 4 2025/26 £'000	Year 5+ 2026/27 £'000	Total £'000
Annual cost of financing (either increased income/ or reductions in cost)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs after financing						0
Annual on going revenue savings after financing						0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Additional Details *

Additional Information

Links to other useful documents (e.g. business cases)	
Link	Comments
1	
2	
3	

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Borrowing Calculator**£'000**

Value of the Loan	
Length of Loan required in years	
Interest rate to be charged is	0.00%

Interest rates

5 years 1.5%
 10 years 2%
 25 years 2.5%
 40 years 2.3%

	£'000
Annual interest charge	0
Annual principal repayment charge	0
Annual total financing cost	0

Affordability Calculator**£'000**

Annual Revenue Expenditure	
Income	
Sub Total	-
Less - Annual Financing Cost	-
Net Surplus / (Deficit)*	-

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TITLE	Reviewing whether Sports & Leisure facilities meet the needs of local residents
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 th October 21.
WARD	None specific
LEAD OFFICER	Leisure Service Manager – Beverley Thompson

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

A question has been raised to provide the committee with information on whether Sports & Leisure facilities meet the needs of local residents.

This report will provide a summary along with a PowerPoint presentation that will be delivered at the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report and action plan and offers comment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the sport and leisure team we are responsible for indoor and outdoor sports facilities, there are also wider teams within WBC that look after our other leisure pursuits, including:

- Country Parks (California and Dinton Country Park).
- Nature Reserves and suitable alternative natural greenspaces (SANGS) all with attractive green and blue spaces.
- Play Areas.
- Allotments.
- Extensive network of footpaths and cycle routes.

As per recently published data we have been recognised as the healthiest place in the country, according to the first official national health index (2021).

According to recent Public Health England Profiles (2019/20):

- Percentage of physically active children and young people – 44.9% (England) **47.5% (South East of England)**
- Percentage of physically active adults – 66.4% (England) **75.1% (Wokingham)**

These show that as a Borough we are exceeding the national average for adults and part of a collective for the above average southeast of England target.

We have invested heavily in our services across the leisure area within the Borough, recent projects include **(Totalling £52.9m)**:

- Bulmershe Leisure Centre - **£14.5m**
- Emmbrook 3G Football Pitch - **£800k**
- Ryiesh Green & Arborfield Leisure Facilities - **£4.9m**
- Parking and toilet facilities at California Country Park - **£2.1m**
- Network of "Greenways" inc attractive walking and cycling routes - **£320k (Cantley)**
- Loddon valley leisure centre refurbishment - **£2.2m**
- Cantley Park enhancement including play-area - **£2.2m**
- Arborfield primary school 3G football pitch - **£800k**
- Carnival Pool leisure centre (Aug 22) - **£23m**
- New activity centre building at Dinton Pastures – **£1.8m**
- New outdoor play facilities at California Country Park - **£300k**

Our services and programmes cover a wide range of activities and demographic, contributing to the needs of the residents in the Borough, these can be categorised into:

- Leisure centre facilities:
 - Gym, swim, group exercises
 - Racket sports
 - Swimming lessons
 - Outdoor facilities
 - Hire facilities for our sporting clubs such as martial arts, netball, gymnastics
 - Softplay
 - Dual use schools around the borough
 - Free swim sessions for those on free school meals
 - Family, junior and senior membership options
 - Free memberships for our Care Leavers, Children in Care, Foster Families and Young Offenders
 - Free use for those up and coming athletes in our Sports Sponsorship scheme, financial support (provided by WBC) we also provide free leisure centre use to help with training requirements.
- Boxfit Studio – (opening autumn 21 in peach place)
- Parks and Open Spaces
 - Tennis
 - 3G and grass pitches
 - Cricket, netball, hockey and archery
 - Greenways
 - Walking for health
 - Outdoor play areas and parks
- Prevention programmes (for those with health conditions)
 - Long term health condition gyms
 - Cardiac rehab
 - Falls prevention including 1:1 visits with under Moving with Confidence scheme
 - Exercise referral
 - Mindful health and wellbeing

- Escape Pain
- Active ageing and dementia friendly sessions
- Specialised Programmes
 - Over 60's programme (SHINE)
 - Wokingham active holiday camps for children including sport specific and free places for our housing tenant children.
 - Children and adults with additional needs.
 - Workplace health for WBC employees.

Current usage on some of our key programmes:

- 1.3m Fitness Attendances (Gym, group exercise, racket sports and outdoor facilities)
- 157k attending swimming lessons
- 24k SHINE attendances
- Over 7000 attendances on our health prevention programmes
- Over 4000 participants on our holiday clubs
- 1700 attendances for our walking for health
- Over 200 attendances for our dementia and active ageing sessions

*data from 2020

Equalities & Anti-Poverty

- Leisure contract
- Subsidies
- Prevention programmes
- Ageing Active
- Pupil Premium
- Tenant Services – Wokingham Active Kids
- Over 60s Free Swimming
- Free School Meals
- Young Offenders
- DDA compliant facilities
- All programmes open to all demographics
- Health & Wellbeing Partnership
- GBA Bid/Funding
- Mum Zone

We have revised our leisure strategy (2021 – 2025) and produced a draft, as well as input from ourselves we have worked with all areas across the council to ensure our strategy ties in with their own council priorities.

We conducted a consultation not only with face-to-face sessions with our residents in our Leisure Centres and town centres but also with our Sporting Clubs, existing users of all our facilities, Health and Wellbeing subgroup, Sports Council, Football Foundation, Get Berkshire Active, Volunteer groups and Town and Parish Councils.

We received 526 responses ranging from ages under 16's to 75+, we were able to gather feedback on our existing facilities but also any new areas.

The key results looked at the facilities residents visited, areas to encourage more activity, and key themes, which can be categorised as:

- Reduction in costs
- More outdoor options
- More cycle routes
- More bins and better parking
- Variety of classes
- More options for young people

To incorporate the feedback we propose to:

- Work with key teams to feedback improvements highlighted within their areas (My Journey, Carparks, Cleaner and Greener).
- Review pricing across all services.
- Review and introduce new programmes for young people and working with key services such as the youth council and community support.
- Introduce outdoor gym facilities.
- Review strategy against consultation results to ensure they are aligned to one another.
- Further consultations with young population.

A three-year action plan has been created aligning our seven priorities within the draft strategy, incorporating the actions raised within the consultation results and actions not only within the sport and leisure team but those key areas who also feed into the strategy priorities and actions.

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) 2020/21	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other Financial Information
n/a

Contact Beverley Thompson/Susan Bentley	Service Business Services
Telephone 0118 974 6000	Email beverley.thompson@wokingham.gov.uk/susan. bentley@wokingham.gov.uk

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Reviewing whether Sports & Leisure facilities meet the needs of local residents

Community and Corporate
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

6th October 2021.



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

How are we doing?

- As per recently published data we have been recognised as the healthiest place in the country, according to the first official national health index (2021).
- According to recent Public Health England Profiles (2019/20):
 - Percentage of physically active children and young people – 44.9% (England) **47.5% (South East of England)**
 - Percentage of physically active adults – 66.4% (England) **75.1% (Wokingham)**

The percentages show that as a Borough we are exceeding the national average for adults and part of a collective for the above average southeast of England target.



WBC Leisure Centres

Bulmershe
Leisure Centre

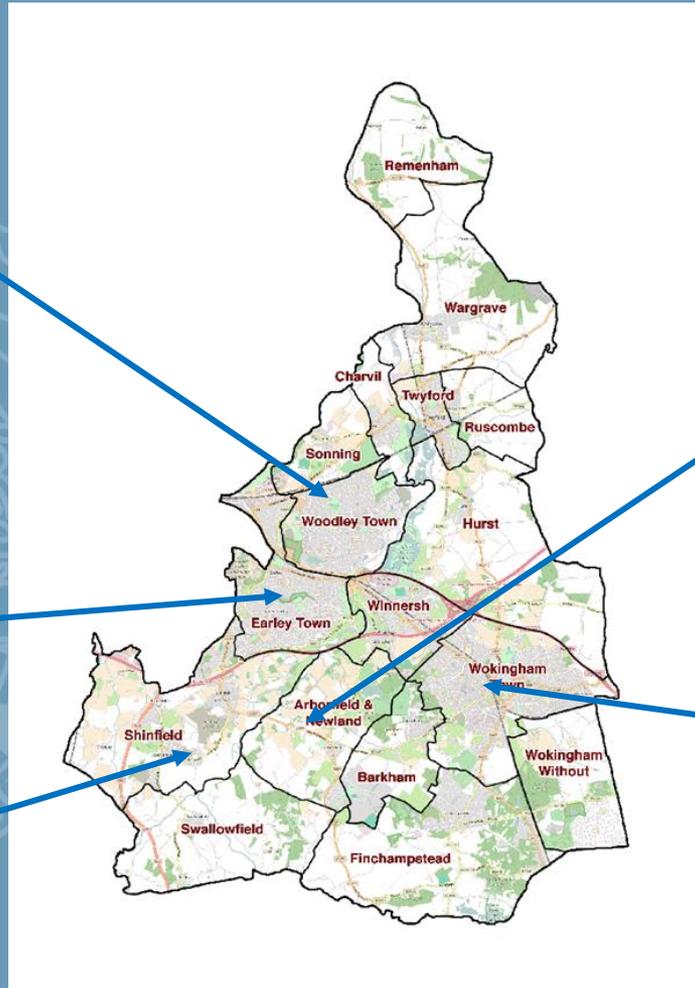
We also deliver programmes in multiple community settings across the whole of the Borough.

Arborfield Green
Leisure Centre

Loddon Valley
Leisure Centre

- BXGFIT
- Carnival Pool and Fitness Centre
- St. Crispin's Leisure Centre
- Cantley Park & Cafe

Ryeish Green
Sports Hub



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Leisure Facilities



The leisure facilities provide a variety of activities that are available to the local residents that include;

- Gym, swim, group exercises
- Racket sports
- Swimming lessons
- Outdoor facilities
- Hire facilities for our sporting clubs such as martial arts, netball, gymnastics
- Soft play
- Dual use schools around the borough
- Free swim sessions for those on free school meals
- Family, junior and senior membership options
- Free memberships for our Care Leavers, Children in Care, Foster Families and Young Offenders
- Free use for those up and coming athletes in our Sports Sponsorship scheme, financial support (provided by WBC) we also provide free leisure centre use to help with training requirements.



Leisure Contract

15 year contract – now in year .

FREE Leisure Centre memberships for:

- Carer Leavers (age up to 25)
- Carers & Siblings
- Children in Care
- Free gym and swim for foster children and siblings
- Free gym and swim for foster parents
- Free Swimming for children on Free School Meal during School Holidays
- Free swimming for Over 60s (up to 4/week)
- Free access to national sports people
- Livewell gyms x3

- Space

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**Places
Leisure**

Part of Places for People



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WBC Parks and Open Spaces

- Tennis – 12 floodlit courts (2 x tennis venues)
- 3G and grass pitches (7 x 3G pitches & 17 grass pitches)
- Cricket, netball, hockey and archery facilities.
- Greenways.
- Walking for health (multiple locations across the borough)
- Outdoor play areas and parks (Cantley, Dinton Pastures & California Country Park) and multiple play areas across the borough.



Health Prevention Programmes

Studies show that keeping active can help prevent future medical problems and help with existing conditions.

- Long term health condition gyms
- Cardiac rehab
- Falls prevention including 1:1 visits with under Moving with Confidence scheme
- Exercise referral
- Mindful health and wellbeing
- Active ageing and dementia friendly sessions



NEWS CENTRE
LATEST NEWS FROM WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Home / News / Council helps residents get back their confidence and get mobile

Council helps residents get back their confidence and get mobile

07 May 2021

Wokingham Borough Council's Moving with Confidence scheme helps residents who have been shielding or otherwise isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic get back their confidence and get mobile. The scheme started with a successful pilot in summer 2020 that helped 87 residents. In late February 2021, the council began a one-year programme, which has helped 89 individuals so far.



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Specialised Programmes

- Over 60's exercise programme (SHINE).
- Wokingham active holiday camps for children including sport specific and free places for our housing tenant children.
- Children and adults with additional needs.
- Workplace Health for WBC employees.



Cantley Park

We have invested £2.2m into Cantley Park enhancing current facilities with the additions of a new 3G pitch, greenways, play area and Café.



Events

We have several events upcoming for 2021-22 and beyond including:

- Wokingham Half Marathon (2022)
- Family fun day (2022)
- Celebrate Age (2022)
- Outdoor classes
- Boccia Tournament
- Winter event
 - Ice rink
 - Christmas market



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Investments



Our Investment in Leisure



COMPLETED

IN PROGRESS

BULMERSHE LEISURE CENTRE

£ 14.5m

PARKING AND TOILET FACILITIES AT CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

£ 2.1m

EMBROOK 3G FOOTBALL PITCH

£ 800k

ROSH GREEN & ARBORFIELD LEISURE FACILITIES

£ 4.9m

NETWORK OF "GREENWAYS" INC ATTRACTIVE WALKING & CYCLING ROUTES

£ 320k (Cantley)

LODDON VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

£ 2.2m

NEW ARBORFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL 3G FOOTBALL PITCH (JUNE 2021)

£ 800K

CANTLEY PARK ENHANCEMENT INC. PLAY-AREA

£ 2.2m

CARNIVAL POOL LEISURE CENTRE

£ 23m

NEW ACTIVITY CENTRE BUILDING AT DINTON PASTURES

£ 1.8m

NEW OUTDOOR PLAY FACILITIES AT CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

£ 300k

TOTAL £52.9m

KEY FIGURES

1.3m FITNESS ATTENDANCES

157k attending swim lessons

24k SHINE Attendances



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

New Developments

- New 3G pitch and parking facilities (Laurel Park (Autumn 2022))
- Arborfield Green (Autumn 2022)
- Boxfit Studio (£630K) – (Opening autumn 2021 in Peach Place)
- Reopening of Carnival Hub (Opening August 2022)
- Outdoor Gym (TBC)
- Arborfield Swimming Pool (TBC)



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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Leisure Statistics (2020)

- 1.3m Fitness Attendances (Gym, group exercise, racket sports and outdoor facilities)
- 157k attending swimming lessons
- 24k SHINE attendances
- Over 7000 attendances on our health prevention programmes
- Over 4000 participants on our holiday clubs
- 1700 attendances for our walking for health
- Over 200 attendances for our dementia and active ageing sessions

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Leisure Consultation

- We have revised a new leisure strategy (2021 – 2025).
- As part of the process of producing the final copy of the strategy we conducted a consultation with the following groups;
 - Face-to-face sessions with our residents in our Leisure Centres and town centres
 - Sporting Clubs
 - Existing users of all our facilities
 - Health and Wellbeing subgroup
 - 58 – Sports Council
 - National Governing Bodies
 - Get Berkshire Active
 - Volunteer groups and Town and Parish Councils.

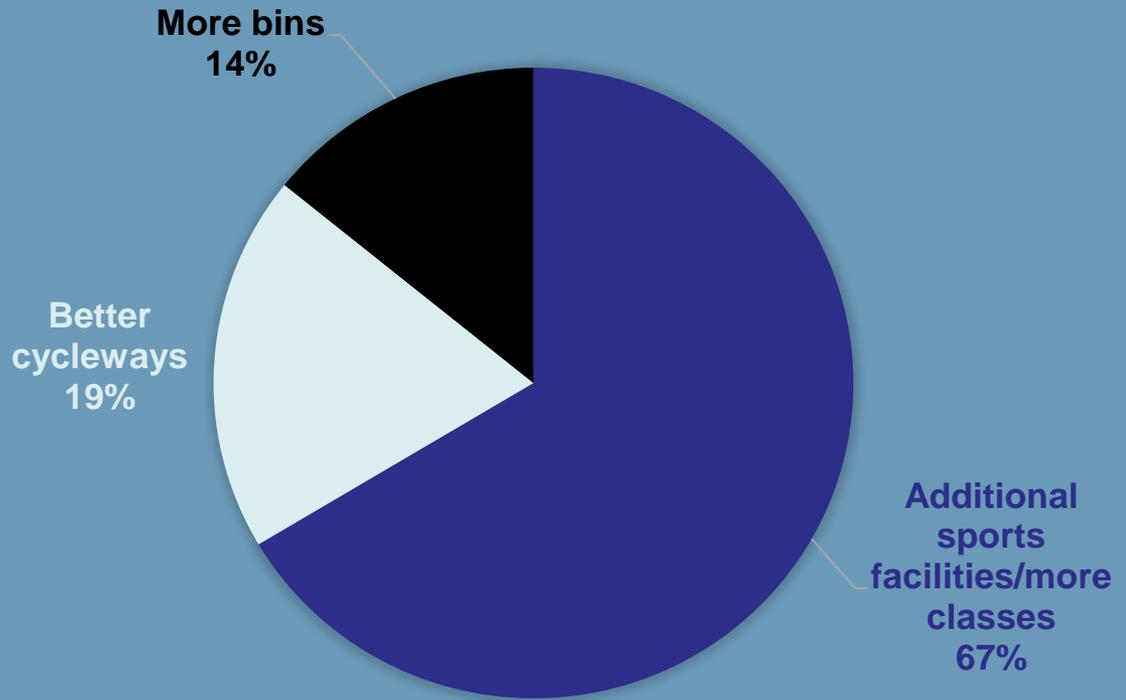
We received **526 responses** ranging from ages under 16's to 75+, we were able to gather feedback on our existing facilities but also any new areas.



Key results from the consultation

At the facilities you visit, is there anything you would like to see added?

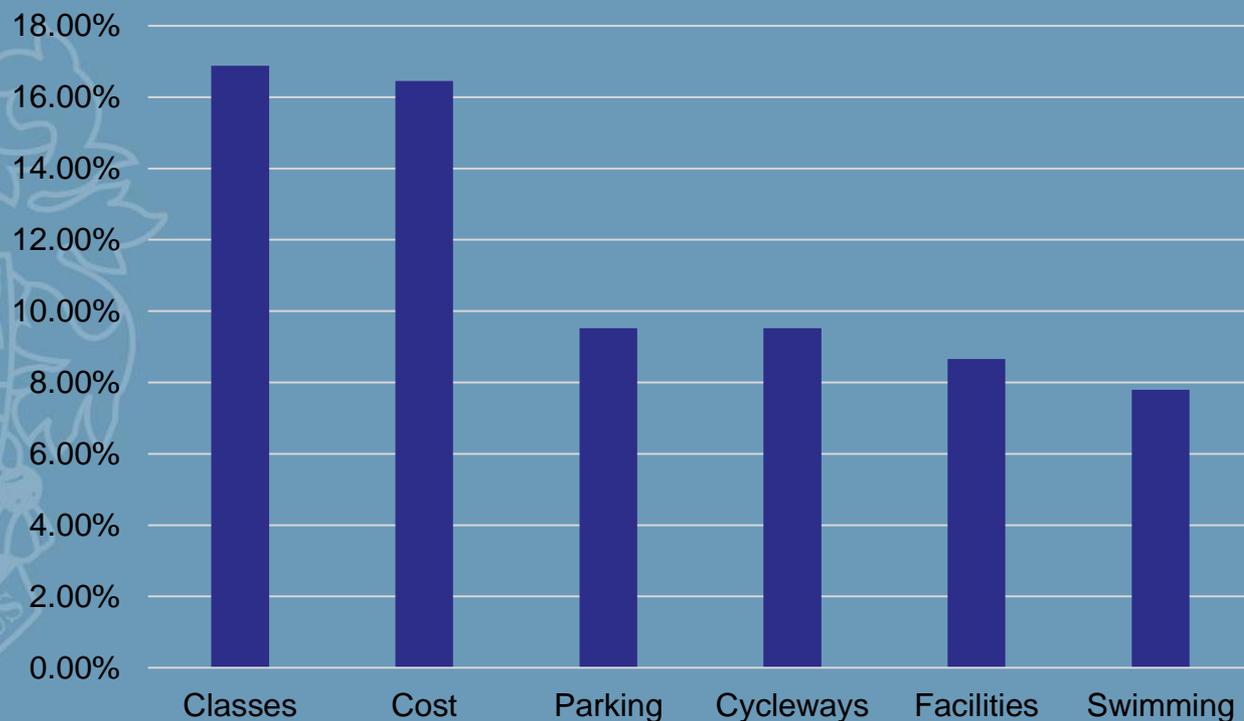
59



Key results from the consultation

What could we do to encourage you and/or your family to be more physically active?

69



■ % of What could we do to encourage you and/or your family to be more physically active?



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Key results from the consultation

Common themes within the feedback include:

More outdoor options

Reduce costs

More options available for young people

Wider variety of exercise classes

More cycle routes

Better parking facilities



Next Steps

- Work with key teams to feedback improvements highlighted within their areas (My Journey, Carparks, Cleaner and Greener) to look at cycleways, parking and a tidier Borough.
- Review pricing across all services.
- Review strategy against consultation results to ensure they are aligned to one another.
- Review and introduce new programmes for young people and working with key services such as the youth council and community support.
- Introduce outdoor gym facilities.
- Further consultations with young population

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Next Steps

Create a three year action plan aligning with the seven priorities of the leisure strategy and consultation feedback.

Priority One – Health and Wellbeing (General)

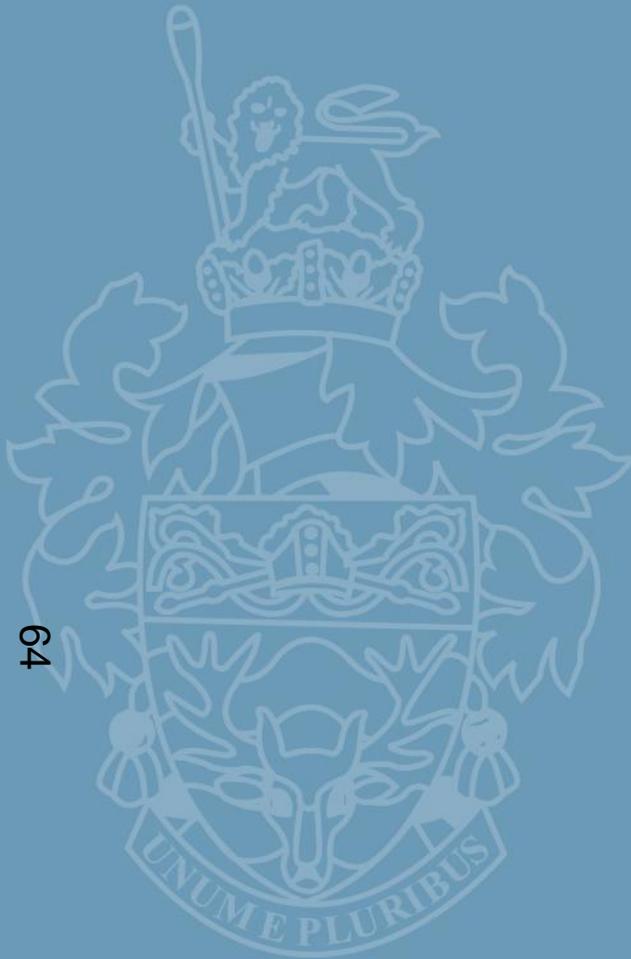
Increase	Decrease/Reduce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of more physically active adults meeting the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer (completing 150 mins exercise of moderate intensity or 75 mins of vigorous intensity/week). The activity levels for children and young people more broadly. Ensuring effective provision of facilities & open-space for new & existing communities through the planning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of adults physically inactive (completing <30 minutes of physical activity/week). The proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese The proportion of children and young people who are physical inactive The proportion of overweight & obese children and young people.

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
 Increase the number of active adults completing more than 30 mins of exercise/activity per week	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure
	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health
	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board
Reduction of overweight or obese adults	Support and help deliver with Public Health a targeted offering within our leisure setting (exercise/nutrition) targeting new and existing members.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure	Review of targeted offering in line with new Public Health commissioned healthy weight service/supporting and working alongside to promote any new or continued offering.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure	Continuation of healthy weight offering – supporting Public Health in the delivery and attendance.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure
Increase activity levels for children and young people	Review partnerships with schools for holiday clubs/before and after school clubs/PPA provisions/sport specific camps to increase offerings.	Sport and Leisure	Implement/continue with partnership working with schools.	Sport and Leisure	Implement/continue with partnership working with schools.	Sport and Leisure
	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children's/housing).	Sport and Leisure	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children's/housing).	Sport and Leisure	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children's/housing).	Sport and Leisure
	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and young people offering.	Sport and Leisure	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and young people	Sport and Leisure	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and	Sport and Leisure



Any Questions?

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Priority One – Health and Wellbeing (General)

Increase	Decrease/Reduce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of more physically active adults meeting the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer (completing 150 mins exercise of moderate intensity or 75 mins of vigorous intensity/week). • The activity levels for children and young people more broadly. • Ensuring effective provision of facilities & open-space for new & existing communities through the planning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of adults physically inactive (completing <30 minutes of physical activity/week). • The proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese • The proportion of children and young people who are physical inactive • The proportion of overweight & obese children and young people.

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
Increase the number of active adults completing more than 30 mins of exercise/activity per week	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure	Ensure actions are achieved under all the targeted priorities within the action plan.	Sport and Leisure
	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Monitor local activity levels – Public Health Indicators/Sport England.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health
	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board	Create and deliver action plans targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Sport and Leisure/Health and Wellbeing board
Reduction of overweight or obese adults	Support and help deliver with Public Health a targeted offering within our leisure setting (exercise/nutrition) targeting new and existing members.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure	Review of targeted offering in line with new Public Health commissioned healthy weight service/supporting and working alongside to promote any new or continued offering.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure	Continuation of healthy weight offering – supporting Public Health in the delivery and attendance.	Public Health/Sport and Leisure
65 Increase activity levels for children and young people	Review partnerships with schools for holiday clubs/before and after school clubs/PPA provisions/sport specific camps to increase offerings.	Sport and Leisure	Implement/continue with partnership working with schools.	Sport and Leisure	Implement/continue with partnership working with schools.	Sport and Leisure
	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children’s/housing).	Sport and Leisure	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children’s/housing).	Sport and Leisure	Increase attendance of holiday clubs and sport specific camps – linking with schools/increased marketing/key internal teams (children’s/housing).	Sport and Leisure
	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and young people offering.	Sport and Leisure	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and young people offering.	Sport and Leisure	All new facilities and programmes where possible to include a children and young people offering.	Sport and Leisure
	Continue with existing offerings - free school swim/care leavers/foster children/youth offenders/free holiday clubs places for those most in need for housing tenant children/swim school/family swim sessions/family and young people gym memberships.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Continue with existing offerings - free school swim/care leavers/foster children/youth offenders/free holiday clubs places for those most in need for housing tenant children/swim school/family swim sessions/family and young people gym memberships.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Continue with existing offerings - free school swim/care leavers/foster children/youth offenders/free holiday clubs places for those most in need for housing tenant children/swim school/family swim sessions/family and young people gym memberships.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider
	Work in collaboration with WBC School Games Organiser to support/promote and encourage attendance and participation by schools.	Sport and Leisure/Games Organiser	Work in collaboration with WBC School Games Organiser to support/promote and encourage attendance and participation by schools.	Sport and Leisure/Games Organiser	Work in collaboration with WBC School Games Organiser to support/promote and encourage attendance and participation by schools.	Sport and Leisure/Games Organiser
	Work with our youth council and community teams to develop new programmes/facilities to encourage increased attendance in young children/teenagers.	Sport and Leisure	Continue with existing offerings and review with our key teams to ensure still fit for purpose.	Sport and Leisure	Continue with existing offerings and review with our key teams to ensure still fit for purpose.	Sport and Leisure

KPI:

- A reduction in the number of adults physically inactive (completing less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week).
- A reduction in the number of adults classified as overweight or obese.
- An increase in the activity levels for children and young people.

Priority Two – Raising Participation and Reducing Levels of Inactivity (Targeted)

Increase	Expand	Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and the number of programmes that reduce social isolation. The availability and take-up of targeted sessions for those in ethnic minority communities. Engagement with & participation rates for all groups where current levels are below average and to reduce the health and wellbeing gap, including those experiencing poverty and other dimensions of deprivation. 	The range of mental health & emotional wellbeing programmes & the number of beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused initiatives to engage children in care and looked after children. Ensure appropriate provision to ensure accessible opportunities for people of all ages with disabilities. Use physical activity opportunities to help tackle local health inequalities

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year Two	Project Lead	Year Three	Project Lead
Increase the number of social isolation programmes.	Re-introduce 'Moving with Confidence' programme (targeting older residents that have deconditioned and identified from ASC/VS and offer 1:1 sessions with falls prevention exercises).	Sport and Leisure	Evaluation of 'Moving with confidence' with ASC to establish the future of the programme.	Sport and Leisure	A full review of all programmes against local need and attendance and outcomes of programmes.	Sport and Leisure
	Attend and contribute to Health and Wellbeing sub board – Social Isolation – ensuring programmes delivered meet the needs of the board.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Continue to attend and represent at the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Social Isolation.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health	Continue to attend and represent at the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Social Isolation.	Sport and Leisure/Public Health
	Review current programmes and work with key groups (PH/ASC/Care home/VS) for re-introduction post COVID shielding.	Sport and Leisure	Continue to grow and deliver programmes, utilising new developments such as Carnival Pool.	Sport and Leisure		
	Represent and work with the VS group to promote programmes and encourage joint working such as – friendship alliance social groups in our venues/referrals to and from both groups to encourage participation.	Sport and Leisure				
Targeted sessions for those in BAME community working with leisure provider. 9	Review current programme of activities and look to identify sessions/set targets that are popular with BAME communities working with the BAME lead and increased advertising.	Leisure Provider/Sport and Leisure	Review sessions offered and popularity/look to re-introduce active communities role/incorporating new developments such as Carnival Pool.	Leisure Provider/Sport and Leisure	Expand number of sessions delivered and explore delivering within BAME community settings.	Leisure Provider/Sport and Leisure
	Attendance at the Health and Wellbeing Board sub board – Physical Activity to identify need and activities with the BAME lead.	Leisure Provider	Continue to attend and represent at the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Leisure Provider	Continue to attend and represent at the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Leisure Provider
Promote and increase participants working jointly with housing, community development, adult social care, and children services to reduce health and wellbeing gap.	Have key groups attend Health and Wellbeing Board sub board – Physical Activity to ensure a good cross working relationship and all parties are aware of what is being delivered and that it is meeting the needs of the residents.	Sport and Leisure	Have key groups attend Health and Wellbeing Board sub board – Physical Activity to ensure a good cross working relationship and all parties are aware of what is being delivered and that it is meeting the needs of the residents.	Sport and Leisure	Have key groups attend Health and Wellbeing Board sub board – Physical Activity to ensure a good cross working relationship and all parties are aware of what is being delivered and that it is meeting the needs of the residents.	Sport and Leisure
	Sport and Leisure to represent at key boards and groups for each area to ensure targeted programmes/sessions are promoted and teams are aware of subsidised/reduced cost sessions.	Sport and Leisure	Sport and Leisure to represent at key boards and groups for each area to ensure targeted programmes/sessions are promoted and teams are aware of subsidised/reduced cost sessions.	Sport and Leisure	Sport and Leisure to represent at key boards and groups for each area to ensure targeted programmes/sessions are promoted and teams are aware of subsidised/reduced cost sessions.	Sport and Leisure
Develop relationships with medical professionals to increase awareness and resident participation.	Regular attendance at Wokingham Multi-disciplinary working group, operational working groups with re-enablement team to discuss programmes/referrals. Regular communication with health professionals that link with our programmes – Cardiac Nurses/Stroke association/Physios/GP's.	Sport and Leisure				
	Awareness sessions held in GP practices to promote programmes.	Sport and Leisure				

KPI:

- If there is an Increase in participation rates and satisfaction for all groups where current levels are below average and to reduce the health and wellbeing gap.

Priority Three – Indoor Leisure facilities

Increase/Maintain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality facilities maintained to a high standard. • Flexible new and established facilities that meet growing & changing demand over time. • Increasing footfall and levels of use. • Identify and address barriers to accessing activity

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year Two	Project Lead	Year Three	Project Lead
67	Ensure facilities remain to a good standard in line with the contract requirements and standards.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Re-opening of Carnival Pool including a new Long Term Health Gym.	Sport and Leisure/Operational Property services	Review of new facilities (Cantley Park/Boxing Fitness Hub) to ensure they are still meeting the proposed outcomes.	Sport and Leisure
	Set key targets to increase footfall in all facilities, to be reviewed quarterly.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Set key targets to increase footfall in all facilities, to be reviewed quarterly.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Set key targets to increase footfall in all facilities, to be reviewed quarterly.	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider
	Review attendance for targeted groups in line with the actions in 'raising participation levels for targeted groups'.	Sport and Leisure	Review attendance for targeted groups in line with the actions in 'raising participation levels for targeted groups'.	Sport and Leisure	Review attendance for targeted groups in line with the actions in 'raising participation levels for targeted groups'.	Sport and Leisure
	Review offerings by leisure provider and those programmes delivered by the sport and leisure, ensuring they still match with the services required (1:1 reviews with participants, surveys, APSE data, consultations with key groups and in house teams).	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Review offerings by leisure provider and those programmes delivered by the sport and leisure, ensuring they still match with the services required (1:1 reviews with participants, surveys, APSE data, consultations with key groups and in house teams).	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider	Review offerings by leisure provider and those programmes delivered by the sport and leisure, ensuring they still match with the services required (1:1 reviews with participants, surveys, APSE data, consultations with key groups and in house teams).	Sport and Leisure/Leisure Provider
	Re-development of Cantley Park Pavilion	Sport and Leisure			Complete full review of facilities around the Borough and identify any gaps or potential for new facilities.	Sport and Leisure
	Expand facilities – New boxing fitness hub.	Sport and Leisure				

KPI:

- Attendance levels are high within facilities and through feedback/consultation and monitoring ensure the facilities are meeting the growth and demand over time.

Priority Four – Outdoor Spaces

Grow and Develop	Increase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formal and informal use of a high quality interconnected network of outdoor spaces, including country parks, ‘greenways’ and children’s play facilities. • Develop and increase physical activity sessions offered in outdoor spaces and the associated numbers participating. • The number of organised outdoor public events and overall attendance. • Playing Pitch strategy to meet future demand and to secure investment. 	Increase the number of clubs accessing and utilising outdoor spaces.

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
Grow the number of organised outdoor public events and overall attendance.	Review existing events and identify gaps for events that can increase attendance – developed space for PT sessions, increased outdoor classes for sport and leisure programmes/school games.	Sport and Leisure	Review existing events and identify gaps for events that can increase attendance including expansion of PT area/ and increase of outdoor sessions/school games.	Sport and Leisure	Continue with existing offerings to ensure regular attendance.	Sport and Leisure
	Continue with existing offerings to ensure regular attendance.	Sport and Leisure	Continue with existing offerings to ensure regular attendance.	Sport and Leisure	Full review on services to ensure they still meet needs and demand.	Sport and Leisure
	Add a winter programme to Cantley Park to include an Ice rink for use by all ages.	Sport and Leisure	Review winter programme at Cantley Park to include an Ice rink for use by all ages to establish if event a success and repeat again.	Sport and Leisure		
Increase the number of clubs accessing and utilising outdoor spaces. 9 ∞	Maintain existing facilities in line with Football Foundation recommendations to ensure continued use.	Sport and Leisure	Maintain existing facilities in line with Football Foundation recommendations to ensure continued use.	Sport and Leisure	Maintain existing facilities in line with Football Foundation recommendations to ensure continued use.	Sport and Leisure
	Add 3G pitch at Arborfield Primary School.	Sport and Leisure	Sport Hub at Arborfield Green – Cricket wicket, football pitches, pavilion/tennis courts.	Sport and Leisure/Operational Property services	Refresh of the play and pitch strategy	Sport and Leisure
			Sports Hub – 3G pitches, football pitches, cricket wicket – Grays farm	Sport and Leisure/Operational Property services		
High quality interconnected network of outdoor spaces, including country parks, ‘greenways’ and children’s play facilities.	Redevelopment of Cantley Park – Pavilion/3G pitch/maintenance work on existing grass pitches/cricket wicket/new play park/additional parking.	Sport and Leisure/Operational Property services	Redevelopment of Cantley Park – Pavilion/3G pitch/maintenance work on existing grass pitches/cricket wicket/new play park/additional parking.	Sport and Leisure/Operational Property services	Full review on services to ensure they still meet needs and demand.	Sport and Leisure

KPI:

- An increase in the number of physical activity sessions offered in outdoor spaces and the associated numbers participating.

Priority Five – Sporting Excellence

Increase	Build	Promote
Increase the number of sport sponsorship participants performing at a high level (county and national standard).	A thriving and diverse network of sports clubs catering for all levels of ability and providing pathways from grassroots to elite.	Promoting and supporting volunteering to underpin widespread access to opportunities and progression pathways to all.

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
Increase the number of sport sponsorship participants performing at a high level (county and national standard).	Continue to offer sport sponsorship funding/parish council match funding to those eligible.	Sport and Leisure	Continue to offer sport sponsorship funding/parish council match funding to those eligible.	Sport and Leisure	Continue to offer sport sponsorship funding/parish council match funding to those eligible.	Sport and Leisure
	Targeted promotion/comnms for local sporting groups to help identify and encourage sponsorship applications.	Sport and Leisure	Targeted promotion/comnms for local sporting groups to help identify and encourage sponsorship applications.	Sport and Leisure	Targeted promotion/comnms for local sporting groups to help identify and encourage sponsorship applications.	Sport and Leisure
	Organisation and attendance of annual sport awards for WBC residents – showcase talent/networking and rewards presented.	Sport and Leisure	Organisation and attendance of annual sport awards for WBC residents – showcase talent/networking and rewards presented.	Sport and Leisure	Organisation and attendance of annual sport awards for WBC residents – showcase talent/networking and rewards presented.	Sport and Leisure
Working in partnership with sport clubs to secure a pathway for excellence. 6	Attendance/Member of Sports Council to work with local clubs in identifying individuals for sponsorship/free use of leisure centres for training.	Sport and Leisure/Sports Council	Attendance/Member of Sports Council to work with local clubs in identifying individuals for sponsorship/free use of leisure centres for training.	Sport and Leisure/Sports Council	Attendance/Member of Sports Council to work with local clubs in identifying individuals for sponsorship/free use of leisure centres for training.	Sport and Leisure/Sports Council

KPI:

- Achieve an increase in sport sponsorship participants.

Priority Six – Active Travel

Increase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of adults and young people walking for travel at least three days per week. • Increase the proportion of adults and young people cycling for travel at least three days a week

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
Increase the proportion of adults and young people walking for travel at least three days per week.	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure
	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage walking routes to leisure and sporting facilities.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage walking routes to leisure and sporting facilities.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage walking routes to leisure and sporting facilities.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure
Increase the proportion of adults and young people cycling for travel at least three days a week	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Support Schools and Transport Team to deliver key initiatives targeting increased activity within the Health and Wellbeing sub board – Physical Activity.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure
	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage cycle routes to leisure and sporting facilities/ensuring bike storage available.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage cycle routes to leisure and sporting facilities/ensuring bike storage available.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure	Represent and Input for into local development plans to encourage cycle routes to leisure and sporting facilities/ensuring bike storage available.	Active Travel/Sport and Leisure

KPI:

- Increased number of residents walking/cycling within the Borough.

Priority Seven – Financial Sustainability/ Commercialisation of facilities

Priorities	Grow and Develop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise income generated by and the viability of sports and leisure facilities • Maximise external funding from all potential sources, e.g. Sports England, national sports governing bodies, CIL. • Maximising income generation from country parks by increasing visitor numbers and spend per customer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop income generation programmes including sports, leisure and cultural activities. • Generating income from expanding the range of outdoor sports and outdoor events across country parks.

Actions	Year One	Project Lead	Year 2	Project Lead	Year 3	Project Lead
Maximise income generated by and the viability of sports and leisure facilities	Review pricing structures for programmes/ allowing improved services and increasing income.	Sport and Leisure	Expanding partnerships with schools for holiday clubs/before and after school clubs/PPA provisions/sport specific camps.	Sport and Leisure	Review all income generation programmes and facilities to ensure meeting targets and outcomes to identify any gaps.	Sport and Leisure
	Identify new programmes and events within existing facilities – 5 aside football, health and wellbeing sessions (general health/mental health/nutrition)	Sport and Leisure	Expanding SHINE programme to non-residents.	Sport and Leisure		
	Identify new trends and gaps in programmes currently delivered.	Sport and Leisure				
Maximise external funding from all potential sources, e.g. Sports England, national sports governing bodies, CIL.	Represent on governing bodies and internal teams (PH/CIL) where funding can be received, ensure all relevant bids are completed to ensure all potential funding is received.	Sport and Leisure	Represent on governing bodies and internal teams (PH/CIL) where funding can be received, ensure all relevant bids are completed to ensure all potential funding is received.	Sport and Leisure	Represent on governing bodies and internal teams (PH/CIL) where funding can be received, ensure all relevant bids are completed to ensure all potential funding is received.	Sport and Leisure
Maximising income generation from country parks by increasing visitor numbers and spend per customer.	Opening of new Cantley Café at Cantley Park.	Sport and Leisure	Look to expand outdoor sport to activities such as Athletics/cricket/outdoor basketball/touch rugby.	Sport and Leisure	Review all country parks income generation programmes and facilities to ensure meeting targets and outcomes to identify any gaps.	Sport and Leisure
	Identify sporting activities to expand outdoor sport activities and facilities.	Sport and Leisure	Expand Cantley Café – hiring to groups to use outdoor/indoor facilities.	Sport and Leisure		

KPI:

- A growth in the number of organised public events throughout the year.
- An increase in the number of sports clubs using our facilities.
- Income targets are reached.

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TITLE	Bringing the Public Protection Service back in-house
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 October 2021
WARD	None specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Steve Moore

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

It is a cornerstone of the Council's strategy to materially improve the delivery of customer services. The services falling under the auspices of the Public Protection Partnership are important to the residents of Wokingham. Full Council determined that these services can be more effectively and responsibly discharged through a directly employed in-house service. This included greater focus on what is termed 'low level ASB' incidents and will enable a greater integration with our directly employed Localities team. Furthermore, it will help overcome some of the inevitable confusions to the public arising from a front-line service which is run cross authority as opposed to one run solely by Wokingham Borough Council. The proposed in-house approach is about recognising the needs of Wokingham residents and embracing the opportunities of integration within the Council, particularly our Localities team, to enhance the effectiveness of the service and its impact on the community.

Full Council's recommendation to repatriate the services delivered by the Public Protection Partnership cited the following reasons:

1. **Integrated service delivery:** where pragmatic Wokingham will align and integrate services that transfer back with existing Council services on a local level. The benefits of that being the service can operate within conditions to better understand local issues and are then more effective and responsive (in a joined-up approach) to address local issues. (The service will be able to work with organisations on a local level such as the voluntary and community sectors and Town and Parish Councils.) The principal aim is to integrate Wokingham's services so that it is a single and simplified response to residents' concerns and issues.
2. **Control and influence:** It promotes Councillors, Officers and service users to have more democratic control over service provision. There will be greater flexibility on how services are delivered and how we respond to priorities. We want to encourage innovation in responding to local issues.
3. **Improved service delivery:** The Council will ensure that we continue to deliver our statutory responsibilities for public protection, and to exceed residents' expectations. Aligning our public protection to what matters most to Wokingham residents and to address the quality-of-life issues that are key to our Strategic Aims.

In summary, the Council wants to deliver service excellence to its residents, some of which is statutory, but tailoring it to the priorities of Wokingham residents. In taking the service in house, the Council has an opportunity to change the management, focus and delivery model to match these priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report, verbally explore the process and progress, and determine their recommendations.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The progress made in determining the future delivery of Wokingham regulatory services, future relationship with West Berks Council and arrangements to terminate the existing partnership and put in place a new agreement for the minority of regulatory services that are proposed to be delivered by West Berkshire Council from 1 April 2022.

Background

Prior to 2010, these services were delivered by directly Wokingham officers, after which they were delegated to a joint committee with West Berkshire and officers being employed by West Berkshire.

In 2017 Wokingham, West Berkshire and Bracknell established a three-borough shared service partnership (the Public Protection Partnership).

On 18 March 2021, Executive & full Council decided that the regulatory services currently provided by the three borough Public Protection Partnership – hosted by West Berkshire Council – should be brought back in-house.

The partnership operates under a contractually binding Inter Authority Agreement. This requires that a partner may leave under a no-fault basis, provided it gives 12-months written notice of their intention to terminate their participation in the partnership.

The Inter Authority Agreement further requires that if any local authority exercises its right to leave, that all partner authorities must use all reasonable endeavours to agree an Exit Plan, no later than 6-months after the date of any termination notice.

The Inter Authority Agreement requires that any Exit Plan should:

- ensure that continuation and quality of service delivery are paramount;
- minimise the costs to the Councils of exiting or terminating this agreement;
- identify critical timescales and issues as appropriate with proposals to address them;
- explore the option of transferring the entire workforce to a new host before deciding to split the partnership;
- include recommendations for the staffing structures to be considered by the Councils according to previous usage and future perceived need and where any staff cannot be placed with any Council then all Councils shall consider redeployment;
- include a pension scheme Exit Valuation to consider the pension implications of transferring staff;
- share liabilities relating to the services, in the absence of specific agreed alternatives or provision in the agreement, in accordance with the Agreed Percentages;
- deal with jointly-owned partnership assets.

The full Council meeting on 18 March 2021 resolution included the requirement that ...

“The Director of Place and Growth and Deputy Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Lead Member for Finance & Housing, are authorised to commence design of the new services structure and any resulting negotiations on an Exit Plan and to address timeframe (including earlier dates than stated in recommendation 1 and 2 if agreed by the Councils),

mitigation of risks and costs, key milestones, ongoing resources and staffing implications for a successful departure from the partnership”.

Analysis of Issues

Under rule 6.3.27 of the Constitution, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a right to call tier 1 or tier 2 officers to give account. However, this right relates only to matters or decisions that have already been made. It does not relate to matters which are subject to negotiation, in draft form or are exempt/confidential, as such as at the time of writing, in relation to the PPP services the proposal that from 1 April 2022:

1. the majority of regulatory services are brought back in house; and
2. a minority of services with more regional significance be provided by West Berkshire Council, namely: Trading Standards, Food Standards (not Food Hygiene), farm animal welfare, air quality, intelligence and case management (known as BuyBack).

In terms of Governance, the required process is (in chronological order):

1. 30 September 2021 Wokingham Executive approval of the proposed agreement for the BuyBack of a minority of services from 1 April from West Berkshire Council; and
2. Approval of the Exit Plan agreed with West Berkshire & Bracknell Councils as regards the arrangements to deliver termination of Wokingham’s participation in the Public Protection Partnership after 31 March 2022. This is a decision that has been delegated to officers, and will likely be completed after 8 October 2021.

After extensive discussions with West Berks Council. A final draft Exit Plan proposal is awaiting informal agreement by West Berkshire officers. This agreement is anticipated given the extensive joint work between partner councils to reach agreement on a draft Exit Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

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

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications arising from this scrutiny process.

Cross-Council Implications
There are no cross-council implications arising from this scrutiny process.

Public Sector Equality Duty
An Equalities Assessment as part of the approval that is being sought from the Executive Committee on 30 September 2021, and this has identified that the proposal has no anticipated adverse equality impacts, and in the case of race, gender, disabilities, age, pregnancy & maternity protected characteristics, will have a disproportionately positive benefit.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
There are no Part 2 issues arising from this scrutiny process.

List of Background Papers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 18 March 2021 Full Council resolution: https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3666&Ver=4 2. 2016 Inter Authority Agreement: http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/documents/s53463/Joint%20Public%20Protection%20Partnership%20Appendix%20B%20Draft%20Inter%20Authority%20Agreement.pdf 3. 30 September 2021 Executive Committee agenda papers: https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s50059/Provision%20of%20regulatory%20functions.pdf

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COMMUNITY & CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
3 Nov 2021 Extraordinary	Medium Term Financial Plan	To consider the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022-25	Work Programme	Graham Ebers
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2020/21	Standing Item	Democratic Services

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DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
24 Nov 2021	Medium Term Financial Plan	To consider the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022-25	Work Programme	Graham Ebers
	Overgrown Pavements Update	To consider how sections of overgrown pavements are managed	Work Programme	Richard Bisset/Emma Pilgrim
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2020/21	Standing Item	Democratic Services

Agenda Item 40.

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
13 Dec 2021	Medium Term Financial Plan	To consider the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022-25	Work Programme	Graham Ebers
	Arts & Culture Strategy Implementation Update	To consider an update on the implementation of the Arts & Culture Strategy	Work programme	Grant Thornton
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2020/21	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
5 Jan 2022	Medium Term Financial Plan	To consider the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022-25	Work Programme	Graham Ebers
	Borough Wide Parking Management Strategy Update	To consider the Borough Wide Parking Management Strategy	Work Programme	Andy Glencross
	In House & Public Facing Services Update (Including Building Control)	To consider an update on in-house public facing services	Work Programme	Steve Moore
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2020/21	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
28 March 2022	Flood Risk Management Update	To consider an update relating to flood risk management within the Borough	Work Programme	Francesca Hobson
	Police & Fire Update	To receive an update from the Local Police and Fire Services	Work Programme	Simon Price
	New Domestic Abuse Contract 6 Month Update	To consider the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse Contract	Committee Request	Narinder Brah
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2020/21	Standing Item	Democratic Services

NOTE

Items in the process of being scheduled: Bus Strategy, BME Forum Update, Burial Grounds capacity/Crematorium Update