



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN **MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 23 September 2022

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: Non-Committee Members and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the 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/KsemG8tUKFM>

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council’s control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent 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 enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, 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, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and 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 in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, 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.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Peter Dennis (Chairman)	David Cornish (Vice-Chairman)	Shirley Boyt
Norman Jorgensen	Laura Blumenthal	Chris Johnson
Pauline Jorgensen	Gregor Murray	Alistair Neal

Substitutes

Chris Bowring	Anne Chadwick	Gary Cowan
Andy Croy	Michael Firmager	Abdul Loyes
Adrian Mather	Beth Rowland	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
30.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
31.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022.	5 - 12
32.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
33.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
34.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.	
35.	None Specific	HOMELESSNESS UPDATE To consider an update on homelessness within the Borough, including ongoing measures to support individuals.	13 - 32

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|------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| 36. | None Specific | MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023-26 -
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW
To consider the initial strategic overview for the draft
Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023-26. | 33 - 52 |
| 37. | None Specific | WORK PROGRAMME
To consider the Committee's Work Programme. | 53 - 58 |

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 5 SEPTEMBER 2022 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.56 PM

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Peter Dennis (Chairman), David Cornish (Vice-Chairman), Shirley Boyt, Norman Jorgensen, Laura Blumenthal, Pauline Jorgensen and Alistair Neal, Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey (Substitute) and Michael Firmager (Substitute)

Officers Present

Callum Wernham (Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist), Neil Carr (Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist) and Ed Shaylor (Head of Enforcement and Safety)

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Chris Johnson and Gregor Murray.

Councillors Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey and Michael Firmager attended the meeting as substitutes.

22. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following comments and minor amendment.

- Page 11 to be corrected as follows – “Why were enforcement penalty notices more expensive in Reading compared to ~~Reading~~ **Wokingham**?”
- It be ascertained what levels enforcement penalty notices were set at in some of our neighbouring Boroughs, and the reason for any differences.

23. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

25. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

26. ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee considered a report, set out in agenda pages 15 to 22, which gave an update on the new Enforcement and Safety Service.

The report provided progress updates in a number of areas, including number of licences issues, environmental health works (inspections and service requests), private sector housing complaints, environmental protection and antisocial behaviour. A total of 611 antisocial behaviour cases had been dealt with by the new service, whilst a number of general enquiries (including advice) had also been dealt with.

Ed Shaylor, Head of Enforcement and Safety, attended the meeting to answer member queries.

During the ensuing discussion, members raised the following points and queries:

- Were figures available with regards to the number of antisocial behaviour cases dealt with prior to the service being taken in-house, and had overall satisfaction levels and response times seen an increase? Officer response – This was a difficult area to provide comparisons, however the types of behaviours being reported and dealt with could be compared. There was a desire to request the figures for previous service requests from the Public Protection Partnership, however due to time constraints this had not been undertaken yet. In general, the more a service such as this was publicised the more service requests would be generated.
- Were there plans to capture satisfaction data? Officer response – This was a definite aspiration of the service, however the specific method had not been decided. There was an option to send feedback via emails, however it was worth noting that residents who sent in antisocial behaviour service requests tended to base their feedback on the original antisocial behaviour issue rather than the service received.
- Were staff fully engaged and at capacity? Officer response – The service was very busy during the summer, whilst private sector housing issues were common during the winter. The service was experiencing additional work as they were dealing with issues within the 'grey area' between the police and the antisocial behaviour officers. It was crucial that officers had a consistent workload throughout the year, and intervened on appropriate issues.
- It was noted that where officers were engaging with issues which were not necessarily fully within their remit, they should help see the issue through to the finish rather than disengaging midway through the process. Officers were encouraged to never say that there was nothing that they could do, but instead say that there 'might' be something that could be done, even if that was just advice or signposting.
- What percentage of antisocial behaviour requests were deemed as valid? Officer response – Officers often spoke of some cases which they felt were not necessarily an issue, however it would be difficult to put a figure on this.
- Had there been improvement in the areas of car meets and residential drugs? Officer response – Officers have been in close liaison with the Police, and the number of car meets within the Borough had seen a reduction since April, although it was accepted that these may have spilt over into neighbouring Boroughs as a result. Fixed penalty notices were issued based on number plate registration details, which helped keep officers safe. With regards to drugs in residential properties, this depended on the tenure, and it was expected that Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) owned properties would have a standard line in their contract against this. It was too dangerous for officers to intervene with drug cases on the street, and these issues were reported to and dealt with by the police.
- Was the process of setting the new service up a success, and had recruitment gone to plan? Officer response – The planning stage had gone very well, with 6 project work streams each with a lead officer. In general, the planning and transition phase was very well resourced and superbly organised. In terms of recruitment, 8 staff had moved over from West Berkshire, whilst new officers had been recruited from outside the original Public Protection Partnership. Recruitment was challenging as there were not enough candidates to fill roles across the country. There had been some turnover

within the antisocial behaviour team as some staff had not found the shift rota (including shifts up to 2am on Friday and Saturday) to work for their lifestyles. Eight out of ten staff for the antisocial behaviour team were in post, subject to appointment of two new staff in the coming week where interviews had been organised.

- What was the protocol if officers found themselves in danger? Officer response – Antisocial behaviour officers tended to work in pairs during the evenings and at weekends, whilst they usually worked alone at other times. Whilst many visits involved environmental nuisance reports, some situations could prove to be very hostile. Officers were instructed to always inform others of their scheduled visit locations, whilst an app-based solution was available on their phones that sent out an SoS message and recorded sounds when the power button was pressed a number of times. Officer safety was a top priority for the service.
- What challenges could the service meet if they had additional resources? Officer response – Issues such as pest and vermin reports occurred at a high volume and were difficult to deal with, whilst fly tipping was a regular occurrence and officers did not have time to fully investigate reports where evidence of the perpetrator was unlikely to be found, and instead payment for clearance was made. With additional resources, these two areas could be more thoroughly dealt with. In addition, the Borough only had one (hard working) animal warden.
- Was there a regular cycle for food hygiene inspections? Officer response – Premises graded between 0 and 2 were inspected every 6 months, whilst those graded at 3 were inspected every 12 months. Those premises graded 4 or 5 were inspected every 18 months, or where so low risk (pre-packaged food for example) on a questionnaire basis.
- Air quality was an issue that arose regularly at Planning Committee, was data available to give a sense of the scale of this issue? Officer response - The Public Protection Partnership were commissioned to carry out monitoring, whilst regular zones including Peach Street were monitored regularly. There were air quality management areas including Wokingham Town Centre, Twyford Town Centre and the M4 corridor, whilst the M4 corridor was mostly managed by the Highways Agency. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee was receiving an item on air quality management in the coming months, whilst 14 schools were to receive air quality monitoring.
- How were the 14 schools identified for air quality management? Officer response – This information would come forward within the upcoming air quality item at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
- Could residents receive feedback on cases that they reported, for example fly tipping reports? Officer response – Whilst this was partly a capacity issue, this was also a training and development matter whereby officers needed to remember to check if the person reporting the issue would like a progress update.
- There were still instances of car meets in the Borough which were occurring away from residential development, but were affecting businesses. What was being done to address these car meets? Officer response – Areas where there were more reports tended to attract more resourcing as it appeared to affect more people, however recurring issues which caused distress did still require intervention from WBC.

- What steps could be taken if landlords were not dealing with important issues, for example asbestos removal, in a timely manner? Officer response – During an ongoing situation, officers would inform the landlord to carry out the repairs and agree suitable timescales. If repairs were not carried out, officers could use powers under the Housing Act 2004, whereby failure to comply could involve a trail in the magistrate's court. Each case would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and if the landlord provided reasonable excuses, then allowances could be made, however the tenant paying rent was entitled to use of the property free from health hazards.
- Were any other services coming back in-house, and were improvements due to be made to the service's webpages? Officer response – No additional services were planned to be taken back in house, as services such as trading standards made sense to operate on a larger scale. The corporate WBC website was due for an upgrade in the next 12 to 18 months which would benefit the service.
- Were noise levels measured when officers visited sites where noise nuisance was reported? Officer response – Officers relied on objective assessments tests, for example could neighbours reasonably watch a television programme without having to turn the sound up excessively loud. Noise was measured at commercial premises, however for residential premises, asking residents to measure noise levels tended to raise expectations.
- What happened to dogs collected by the animal warden? Officer response – Dogs were sent to kennels where they were checked for a microchip. Where dogs did not have a microchip, they were kept for a period of time in case of a claim. Dogs that were not claimed were then transferred to rescue centres. For more exotic animals, there was an arrangement in place with the city of London who provided a very good service.
- Were the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service informed of large bonfires? Officer response – Yes, this was a joint concern and officers were in regular liaison when required.
- Were the workplace injuries and accidents mainly occurring at building sites? Officer response – These instances were more likely to occur at construction sites and on agriculture facilities within the Borough.
- With current staffing levels, what difficulties had been faced in terms of casework? Officer response – Local Authorities had many powers, and in the vast majority of cases officers could assist residents in some way when they reported an issue, it was just a matter of capacity. The antisocial behaviour team had struck a very good balance in terms of staff workload to output. Environmental health officers had proved tricky to recruit to, and in future more junior staff could be recruited and subsequently trained up. With more capacity, it was likely that more work could be undertaken within the housing sector.
- Was there a customer relationship management system in place? Officer response – The 'netcall' system for phones was very sophisticated, whilst email users had the option to leave feedback as well. More could be done to send surveys out via email, which could help identify why people may be feeling aggrieved.

- Was additional staffing in place for special events and holidays, such as Halloween? Officer response - Four officers worked over the busy bank holiday weekends, and this would likely be replicated for Halloween. Enforcement of fireworks was a police matter, where fireworks were required to cease at 11pm except for special days including New Year's Eve and Diwali.
- What could be done to tackle unoccupied homes? Officer response – Empty dwellings were a constant blight, and this was an area of work where more could be done with additional resourcing. Properties could be cleared and remedied with costs recharged back to the owner, however it could take years for costs to be recovered. The property could also be enforced if it was in arrears for Council Tax. It was requested that officers ascertain if WBC had punitive Council Tax rates for empty dwellings. Whilst compulsory purchase orders could be an option, WBC would need to demonstrate a specific need for the property and the process could take over a year.
- Did dog wardens have the power to require aggressive dogs to be muzzled? Officer response – Police had powers under the dangerous dogs' act to act if a dog had attacked a person or an assistance dog, or if a dangerous dog was out of control the owner could be charged.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Ed Shaylor be thanked for attending the meeting;
- 2) A further update be considered during the next municipal year;
- 3) Officers continue to explore options to capture customer feedback and service performance;
- 4) Officers explore any training and development opportunities to further keep residents informed of any action taken as a result of an issue they reported;
- 5) Officers ascertain if WBC had punitive Council Tax rates for empty dwellings.

27. PREFERRED REGISTERED PROVIDERS TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE

The Committee considered a report, set out in agenda pages 23 to 28, which gave an update on the initial work of the Preferred Registered Providers Task and Finish Group.

Shirley Boyt (Chair of the Task and Finish Group) gave a further verbal update. The core aim of the Task and Finish Group was to strive for a parity of quality regardless of whether residents were housed with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) or a housing association. The contract for our preferred registered providers was up for renewal next year, which would give the group an opportunity to strengthen the requirements therein. Housemark had been invited to a meeting of the group, and it had been alluded to that some of WBC's preferred partners were not providing a fantastic level of service. A further meeting was due to be held with Steve Bowers, Chair of the Tenant Landlord Improvement Panel, whilst further outreach to residents and housing associations was also to be undertaken by the group. It was important that the task and finish group could have real input and impact into this issue.

During the ensuing discussion, members raised the following points and queries:

- It was noted that the group was hoping to report in 5 months' time.
- It was noted that the membership of the group was Shirley Boyt (Chair), Chris Johnson (Vice Chair), Laura Blumenthal, Rebecca Margetts and Andy Croy.
- It was requested that the Committee be sent copies of the notes of the task and finish group meetings;
- It was noted that WBC currently had 8 preferred partners, with some being very large companies. In addition, there were a multitude of other registered providers who were not on the preferred list. It was requested that members inform the group of housing association properties and any associated complaints within their wards;
- Would housing associations be invited to talk to the group? Response – Yes, however anecdotal evidence was first being gathered to be able to challenge the housing associations.
- It was requested that the current contract be circulated to the Committee. In addition, it was noted that the existing contract was not particularly robust.
- What outputs did the group hope to achieve? Response – A series of recommendations would be presented alongside a report to the Executive. The core aim was to improve the service received by residents regardless of who operated their social housing.
- It was requested that officers ascertain whether it was possible for Loddon Homes (WBC's housing company) to deliver the majority of new social housing with loans from the public works loan board, to be paid off by rental income.
- It was noted that the Chair of the Task and Finish Group would be writing to all members to seek feedback from social housing issues within their wards.
- The issue of property guardians was raised. This issue may be required to be looked at separately, as it was outside of the scope of this group.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The members of the task and finish group be thanked for their ongoing work on this matter;
- 2) Notes of meetings of the group be circulated to the Committee alongside the existing contract;
- 3) Officers ascertain whether it was possible for Loddon Homes (WBC's housing company) to deliver the majority of new social housing with loans from the public works loan board, to be paid off by rental income;
- 4) Members contact the group with any known social housing issues within their wards.

28. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered their work programme, set out in agenda pages 29 to 34.

It was noted that where the relevant Executive member was unable to attend a meeting of the Committee to present their item, the Chair liaise with them with a view to defer that item (if timescales allowed).

Members requested that officers include information within the upcoming item on the Local Plan Update including our current position, challenged faced, how over delivery in the past might be accounted for, interim measures to help combat legal appeals in relation to 5-year housing land supply, and the progress on lobbying for a reduction in housing numbers.

It was agreed that the Arts and Culture item be moved to the December meeting of the Committee.

It was requested that an item be considered on the issue of the pressure on the voluntary sector in relation to the cost-of-living crisis, with a particular focus on Citizen's Advice Wokingham. Officers were tasked to liaise with the Hardship Alliance on this matter.

RESOLVED That the above actions be noted.

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TITLE – Homelessness Update

FOR CONSIDERATION BY – Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny on Monday 3 October 2022

WARD – None Specific;

LEAD OFFICER – Zulfiqar Mulak/Steve Moore

LEAD MEMBER – Stephen Conway – Executive Member for Housing

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

To provide an update on the levels of homelessness within the Borough and the planned/ongoing actions to help address the situation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the information contained within this report and offer comment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reducing homelessness remains a key priority for the Council, given the devastating impacts this can have on families and individuals in terms of their health, employment and education. In recent years, Wokingham has seen fluctuating levels of homelessness, for example, presentations stood at 298 in Q2 2021 and fell slightly to 239 in Q1 2022. The main reasons for homelessness presentations continue to be the end of ASTs (Assured Shorthold Tenancies) via section 21 notices, family and relationship breakdowns.

In line with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, there are a number of strategic directives to address homelessness including ensuring the Council maximises affordable housing delivery where possible, increasing the provision of temporary accommodation, engagement with the private rental sector via a newly established landlord forum, as well as taking early intervention and prevention wherever possible.

Other incentives are also helping residents and the reducing the demand for temporary accommodation. For example, new staff have been recruited within the Housing Service to ensure full compliance with the Homelessness Reduction Act. Similarly, a new Young Person's Homelessness Prevention Officer is now in post to work exclusively with young people under the age of 25 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The Council's new Allocations Policy is reducing imported demand to the Borough and includes incentive for households to make their own temporary accommodation arrangements to avoid use of emergency and temporary accommodation.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, Wokingham has seen fluctuating levels of homelessness, for example, presentations stood at 298 in Q2 2021 and fell slightly to 239 in Q1 2022. The main reasons for homelessness presentations continue to be the end of ASTs (Assured Shorthold Tenancies) via section 21 notices, family and relationship breakdowns.

At the current time there are 323 open homelessness cases, 195 of which the Council owe a statutory homelessness duty to. Homelessness Prevention Officers are on average holding a caseload of approximately 50 applicants.

Historically the Council has relied heavily on temporary accommodation. There are currently 37 households in emergency nightly let accommodation and 75 households in temporary accommodation. The current demand for temporary accommodation stands at 34 families and 41 single applicants. Homelessness demand is forecasted to continue to increase year on year, with interventions needed to manage the demand and reduce spend on emergency accommodation. There are a number of strategic directives to address homelessness including ensuring the Council maximises affordable housing delivery where possible, increasing the provision of temporary accommodation, engagement with the private rental sector via a newly established landlord forum, as well as taking early intervention and prevention wherever possible.

Whilst the Council continues to look at options of increasing the provision of temporary accommodation, the construction of 46 new units of temporary accommodation at both Crown House and Grovelands has led to a decrease of £97,924 in Bed and Breakfast running costs for the Council from 2021-2022 with forecast spend for 2022/23 on budget at £680,000.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- Adoption and delivery of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy and new allocations policy.
- Delivery of additional temporary accommodation has reduced the use of private Bed and Breakfast accommodation, with important sites at Crown House (24 units) and Grovelands Park (22 units) bringing the use of more temporary accommodation within the Council's control.
- Significant reduction in temporary accommodation expenditure has decreased the Council's financial reliance on Bed and Breakfast accommodation resulting in a saving of £97,924 from Q2 2021 to Q2 2022.
- Engagement with the private rental sector via a newly established landlord forum will hopefully improve standards and stability for private sector residents
- Working collaboratively across the Council to ensure that opportunities to secure more temporary accommodation (and affordable accommodation) are maximised, via use of Council land and assets, planning policy as well as open market purchasing.

ONGOING ACTIONS

- The continued assessment of opportunities within the Council's own land and assets against the demands of the Housing Register (as well as the priority of needs from other Council services) to ensure the homes provided target the most pressing need.
- Maximising the delivery of affordable housing delivery on developer led sites, ensuring that affordable housing delivery meets need and those residents waiting on the Council's Housing Register are prioritised.
- Continue to upstream efforts to reduce homelessness with early prevention strategies and consider the various needs of our residents with the increased provision of specialist and accessible housing units.
- Strategically assess the impact to residents and the Council from national policy changes and ensure that WBC has an input into national consultations.

PLANNED ACTIONS

- Develop a Young Peoples Housing Strategy with clear housing pathways for vulnerable young people, helping to avoid housing crises. Reviewing the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy and accompanying action plan in light of social and economic changes.
- A new preferred Registered Provider partnership will be in place from April 2023. A revised agreement will help to try and secure more temporary accommodation through the partnership, as well as working together to address the key causes of housing crises.
- Maximising funding opportunities via the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy and Homes England grant programmes
- Further development of the Rent Guarantee Scheme for Private landlords and Letting Agents supported by a regular Landlord Forum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	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

Spend for B&B accommodation is currently forecasted at £680k in 22/23, which is on budget. The budget is the same for 2023/24. The Council is looking to move some of those residents currently in B&Bs into Temporary Accommodation which will reduce B&B usage. Ultimately our aim is to reduce our reliance on B&B with other cheaper accommodation.

Developing more early prevention measures will help to reduce homelessness presentations and ultimately will reduce the demand for temporary accommodation and reduce the pressure on Council end-point support provision.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

This report has been compiled by both strategic and operational housing, based on the latest information and evidence available.

Further stakeholder engagement will be undertaken when the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan is reviewed. This will include consultation with key internal and external partners, as well as input from all relevant Council service areas.

Public Sector Equality Duty

A full equalities assessment accompanied the Council's Housing strategy which showed there was no adverse impact against protected groups. All actions being undertaken to address the homelessness situation fall under the priorities and actions of the strategy.

Climate Emergency - This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

Any building related actions developed as part of the Council’s strategic response to homelessness will help address achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 by factoring in carbon neutral solutions where feasible. One of the key priorities of the Council’s Housing Strategy (under which the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sits) is around improving the quality, sustainability and management of the Borough’s housing stock, ensuring that the Council helps to improve carbon efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty.

List of Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny – Homelessness Update Presentation

Contact Zulfiqar Mulak	Service Place and Growth
Telephone 07902 402006	Email zulfiqar.mulak@wokingham.gov.uk

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Tackling Homelessness in Wokingham

19
Zulfiqar Mulak MBE

Interim AD /Housing Specialist

2022



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Current homelessness demand

Number of homelessness approaches January to April 2022 – Q1: 239

Self-referrals – 199

Referral by an agency that is a public body subject to the Duty to Refer - 45

Referral by an agency that is not a public body subject to the Duty to Refer- 24

Local connection referrals from other authorities – 1

	December	January	February	March	Q1 (22/23)
Approaches	56	82	78	87	239
Homeless	30	46	51	30	23
Threatened with Homelessness: Due to S21:	21	32	34	19	6
	5	3	3	5	1
Successful Preventions	8	10	11	2	13
Successful Reliefs	7	14	15	3	16
Full duty decisions	1	8	11	0	14

20

Current homelessness demand

Current number of open cases – 323

128 households are in approach – households have been referred and are in the process of being assessed

51 cases in Prevention

83 cases in Relief

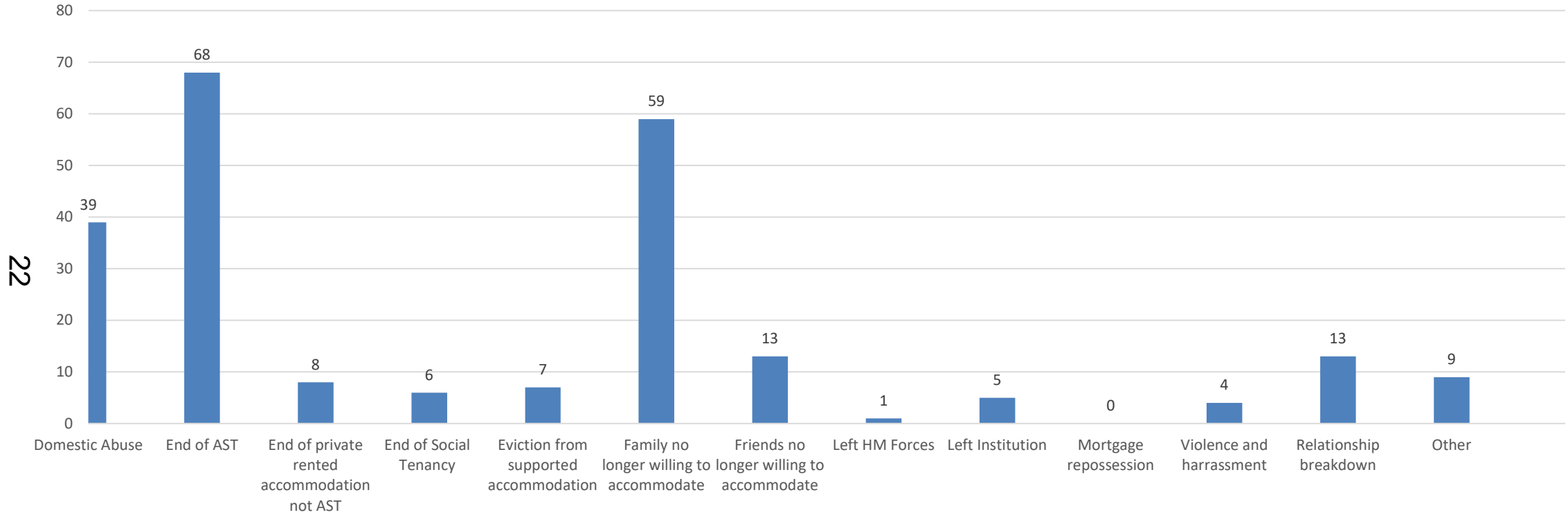
61 main duty accept cases

Homelessness Prevention Officers on average are holding a caseload of approximately 50 applicants

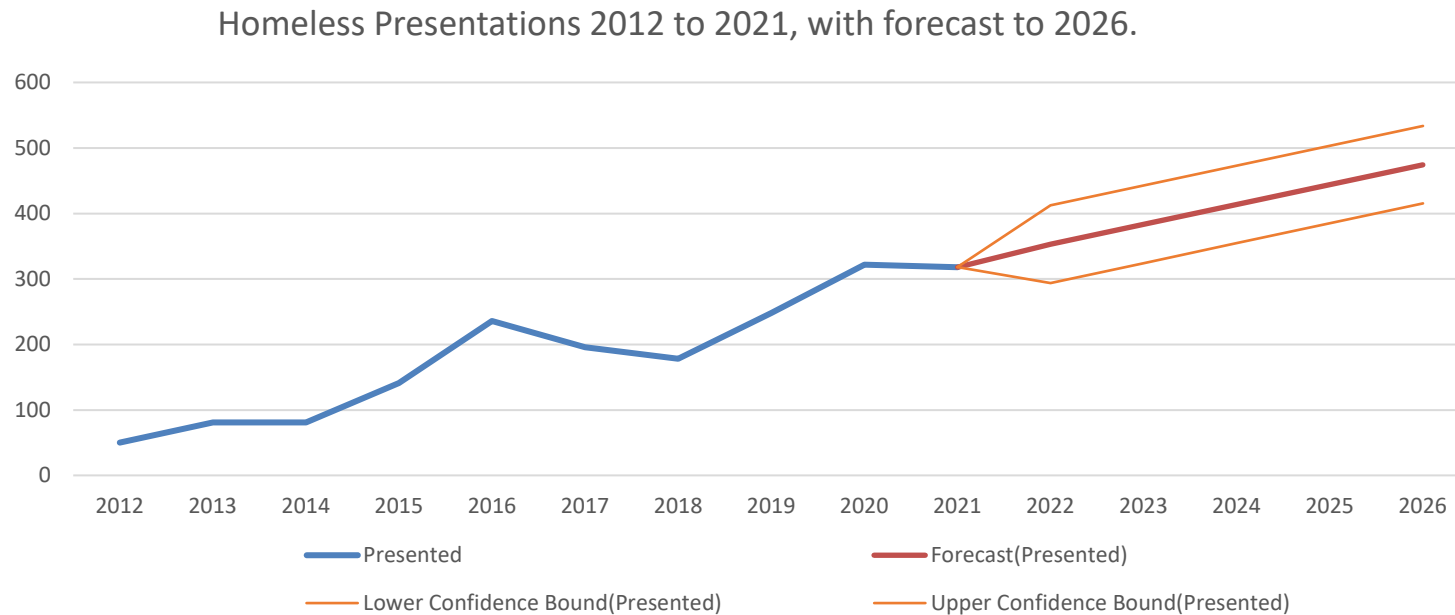


Current homelessness demand

Reasons for Homelessness Presentations January 2022 to End of August 2022



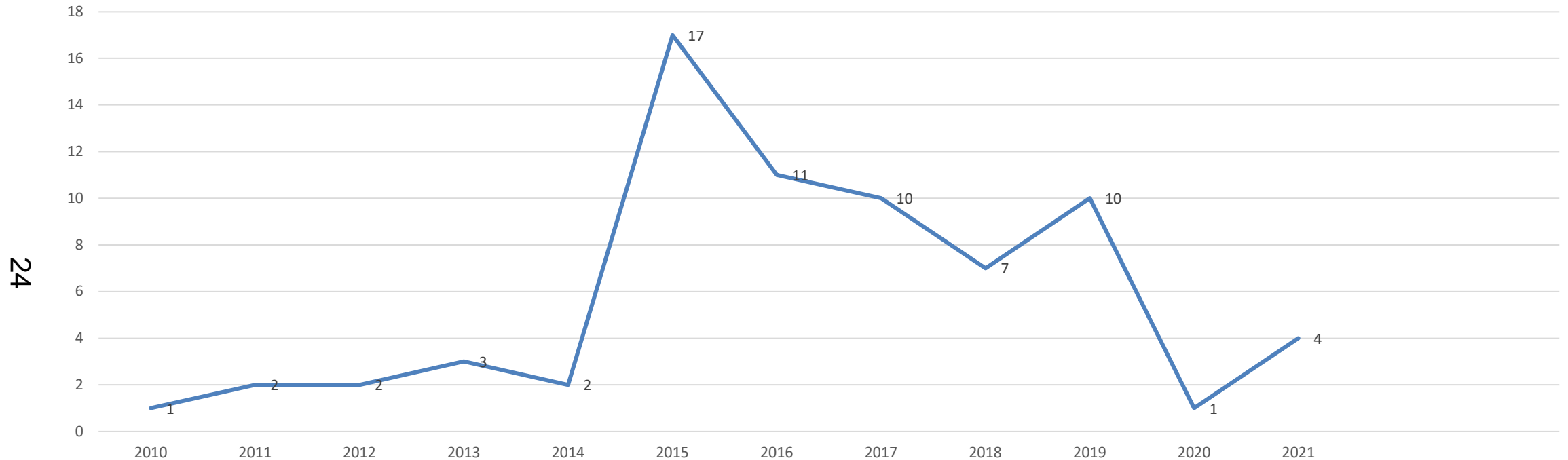
Current homelessness demand



- Homelessness demand is forecasted to continue to increase year on year, interventions need to made now to manage the demand and reduce spend on emergency accommodation

Current homelessness demand

Annual Rough Sleeper Count



- Rough Sleeper Initiative has seen a 90% reduction in rough sleeper count numbers and through the Next Steps Accommodation programme we have accommodated 90 rough sleepers or those at imminent risk of rough sleeping in response to everyone in

Current demand for emergency accommodation

Total number of households in B&B: 37 plus 19 Crown House placements

Total number of families: 19 plus 3 in Crown House

Total number of families in self-contained: 15 plus 3 in Crown House

Total number of families in shared: 3

Average length of time in B&B families: 16.2 weeks

²⁵
Total number of single applicants: 16 plus 19 in Crown House

Of which under Section 188 (legal duty to accommodate): 23

Of which under discretionary powers/ Section 1 (Localism Act): 11

Of which SWEP: 1

Average length of time in B&B single applicants: 19.8 weeks

Longest length of time in emergency accommodation: 78 weeks



Current demand for emergency accommodation

Placement locations

In borough: 19

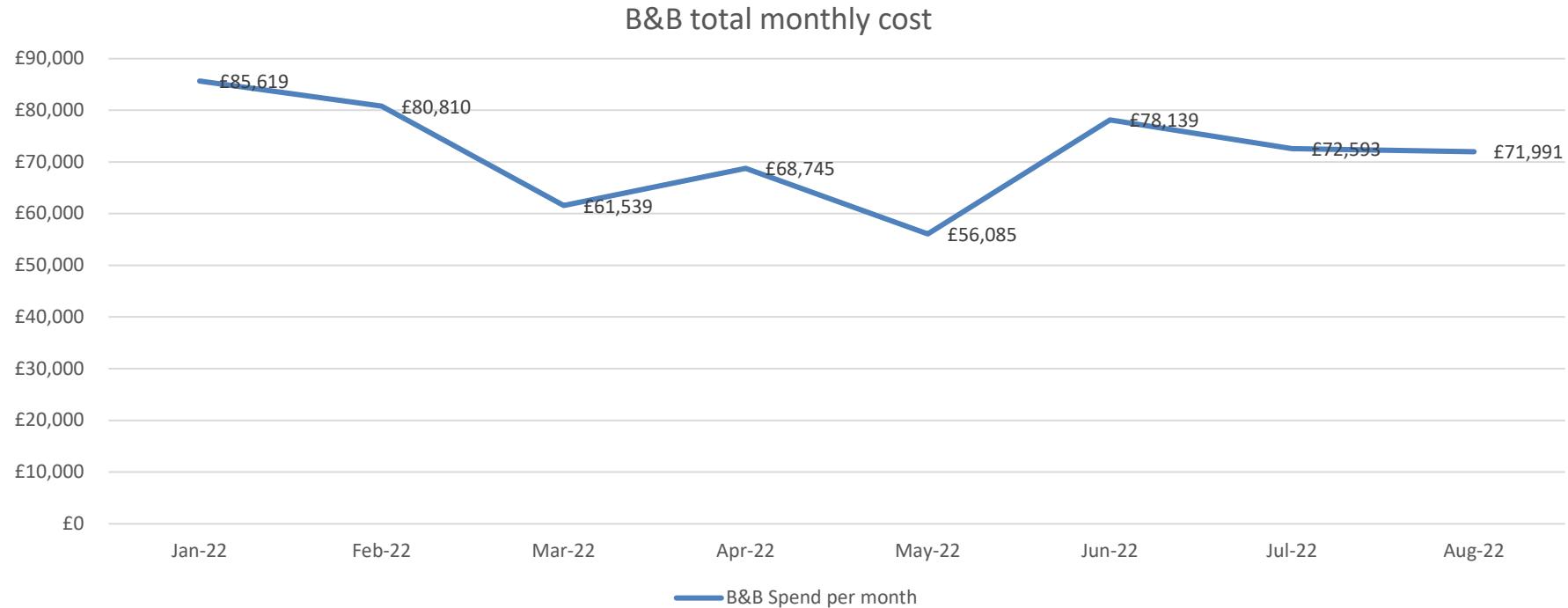
Out of borough: 27

Current weekly cost for nightly let accommodation: £2,204 per night; 15,428 per week.

Number of new placements per month 21/22 & 22/23:

April	17	September	13	February	11	July	22
May	10	October	13	March	14	August	17
June	19	November	20	April	22		
July	14	December	20	May	22		
August	12	January	24	June	19		

Demand and costs arising



27

- Total spent on B&B this financial year is **£575,521**

Current demand for Temporary accommodation

Total number of households in temporary accommodation: 75 (including own HRA stock)

Average length of time in temporary accommodation: 23.6 weeks

Total number of families: 34

Total number of single applicants: 41

Of which under Section 188 (legal duty to accommodate): 68

Of which under discretionary powers: 7

Longest length of time in temporary accommodation: 21st August 2017 – 5 bed need



Funding 2022 - 2023

Homelessness Prevention Grant
£471,788 for 2022/23 Financial Year

Grant to be used to fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing actively to prevent single homelessness.

²⁰
This grant covers:

- Staffing costs and service costs
- Emergency accommodation/ B&B costs
- Homelessness Prevention – internal homelessness prevention fund where residents do not need to pay grant back which has been awarded to prevent homelessness
- Rent deposit and rent in advance scheme
- Temporary accommodation costs which are not met by HRA
- Storage costs for households in emergency and temporary accommodation



Funding 2022 - 2023

Rough Sleeper Initiative Year 5 funding
193,028 for 2022/23 Financial Year

Grant to be used to eradicate rough sleeping in the borough.

Grant will be used to cover existing RSI interventions:

Two Saints (commissioned in-reach and out-reach services)

Continuation of Homelessness Early Intervention Officer role

Continuation of Rough Sleeper Coordinator

WBC had committed to ending Rough Sleeping by the end of Parliament; we have agreed a target of no more than 5 rough sleepers this year and zero rough sleepers in two years.

WBC remains committed to offering pathways to all eligible persons who find themselves rough sleeping in Wokingham.



Solutions

- New staff recruited to ensure the service fully complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act : 2 x Homelessness Prevention Officers, Housing Needs Triage Officer, Deputy Homelessness and Housing Needs Manager to support Senior Manager, Homelessness Early Intervention Officer (fixed term funded post by RSI)
- Housing and Domestic Abuse Specialist funded through grant awarded to deliver new duties of Domestic Abuse Act – ω to ensure service is complaint to new duties and improves outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse.
- Young Person's Homelessness Prevention Officer now in post to work exclusively with young people under the age of 25 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, to reduce the amount of care leavers presenting as homeless and to upstream homelessness prevention more effectively
- New Allocations Policy which will reduce imported demand to the borough and includes incentive for households to make their own temporary accommodation arrangements to avoid use of emergency and temporary accommodation
- Grovelands regeneration project – this will increase the council's temporary accommodation stock and reduce B&B spend

Solutions

- Increased use of private sector leases as an alternative to nightly let emergency accommodation; introduction of a Rent Guarantee Scheme, Landlord Forum and x2 Resettlement Officers to help with B&B and Temp accommodation move on.
- Develop Localism Act Private Rented Sector discharge policy to increase the use of private sector discharges to bring to an end the Prevention, Relief and Main Duties which will reduce the use of emergency and temporary accommodation; include in policy discharging duties out side of the borough as and when required
- Housing First – 4 properties let to entrenched rough sleepers and work with individuals under Housing First principles to prevent returning to rough sleeping and meeting support needs; aspirations to expand the number of properties available as Housing First offers
- Work with Registered Providers to increase supply
- Use planning framework to increase supply

TITLE	Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd October 2022
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

- 1) To note the unprecedented financial challenges faced nationally by Local Government and the subsequent impact on Wokingham Borough Council together with the particular challenges for Wokingham; and
- 2) To recognise the imperative for responsible financial management; and
- 3) To consider the report, challenge proposals and identify further ideas to address the financial shortfall.

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.

The Council along with other Local Authorities across the country face unprecedented challenges in setting the budget for 2023/24. There are inflationary rises, often at double digits in; utilities, construction, pay, contracts for services amongst many other rising costs linked to a CPI in excess of 10%. However, the Council's primary source of income, Council Tax, is capped at 1.99% and other key lines of income such as car parking and leisure have fallen starkly as a result of the impact of COVID 19. Furthermore, there are also extreme pressures on statutory services as a result of numerous issues, including; the longer term impact of COVID-19, refuges, a requirement supply increasing homes under the Planning Framework, the cost of living crisis and a particularly local incidence of rising SEND need. These issues will inevitably manifest into growth bids that will be presented to this Committee for consideration.

Considerable work has been undertaken already by budget managers, senior officers and Corporate Leadership Team working with Executive Members in arriving at proposals for this Committee to consider. Some proposals may be seen as challenging or even contentious. This is inevitable given the severe financial pressures faced by the Council's requirement to set a safe and balanced budget and is imperative in responsible financial management. The Committee are asked to receive these proposals in this context and are

invited to challenge and consider alternative and additional ideas to bridge the revenue budget gap of £4m and capital funding gap of £14m.

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 2022.

Previous 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 the key considerable risks faced by the Council. The Council along with other Local Authorities across the country face unprecedented challenges in setting the budget for 2023/24. There are inflationary rises, often at double digits in; utilities, construction, pay, contracts for services amongst many other rising costs linked to a CPI in excess of 10%. However, the Council's primary source of income, Council Tax, is capped at 1.99% and other key lines of income such as car parking and leisure have fallen starkly as a result of the impact of COVID 19. Furthermore, there are also extreme pressures on statutory services as a result of numerous issues, including; the longer term impact of COVID-19, refugees, a requirement supply increasing homes under the Planning Framework, the cost of living crisis and a particularly local incidence of rising SEND need. These issues will inevitably manifest into growth bids that will be presented to this Committee for consideration.

Considerable work has been taken already by budget managers, senior officers and Corporate Leadership Team working with Executive Members in arriving at proposals for this Committee to consider. Some proposals may be seen as challenging or even contentious. This is inevitable given the severe financial pressures faced by the Council's requirement to set a safe and balanced budget and is imperative in responsible financial management. The Committee are asked to receive these proposals in this context and are invited to challenge and consider alternative and additional ideas to bridge the revenue budget gap of £4m and capital funding gap of £14m as shown on the respective summaries.

As a Unitary Authority a considerable element of budget is considered to be statutory which makes it more challenging to reduce expenditure and cost reduction solutions are often longer term. The Council's net Revenue Account budget requirement is approximately £150m and at least 80% of this is allocated to the provision of statutory services or the prevention in the escalation of statutory demand. Approximately £60m is for Adult Social Care and an illustration of the impact of this is that every 2% increase in prices in the care sector equates to a 1% increase in Council Tax.

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 three financial years. A summary of the special items (“one off spend”) has also been included. In addition a capital summary has been provided for the next three years outlining the latest capital expenditure plans aswell as the capital funding plans.

As previously referenced the Year 1 2023/24 budget position for revenue shows a funding shortfall of £4m. This is of course subject to the outcome of the Local Government Finance settlement which is unlikely to be announced until December 2022. 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 Government funding settlement as early as possible, to enable effective budget planning and that it covers a duration of more than one year. Key budget risks are set out in Appendix A which will provide a vital context to the budget setting process.

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 will focus on the largest (financially) 10 schemes for each department. 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 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)	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 Tel: 0118 974 6557	Email graham.ebers@wokingham.gov.uk

MTFP 2023-26

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 October 2022

Strategic Summary

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Strategic Context

- Lowest funded Unitary Authority per head of population
- Council tax increases capped at 1.99% V CPI in excess of 10%
- Ongoing impact of COVID-19
- Health and Social Care reform
- Children Services – “getting to good”
- Rising demand;
 - Housing supply Refugees
 - Cost of living crisis
 - Rising SEND need

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





Revenue



MTFP Summary

Budget Submissions by Directorate 2023/24 – 2025/26

	Yr 1 - 23/24	Yr 2 - 24/25	Yr 3 - 25/26
	Net	Net	Net
Adult Social Care	£469	£1,079	£2,129
Chief Executive	(£345)	£515	£515
Children's Services	£2,565	£2,983	£3,263
Place and Growth	(£1,190)	(£3,699)	(£4,045)
Resources & Assets	(£509)	(£755)	(£1,285)
Total	£990	£123	£577

40

Net income/reduced spend is shown in brackets
 Figures are cumulative - each year includes previous year impact



WOKINGHAM
 BOROUGH COUNCIL

MTFP Summary

Corporate items including Council Tax income

	Yr 1 2023/24	Yr 2 2024/25	Yr 3 2025/26
2022/23 MTFP Budget Gap	£2,272	£2,272	£2,272
Net growth / savings (from above)	£990	£123	£577
Inflation (pay award + contractual inflation)	£8,931	£15,472	£22,043
Council Tax - 1.99% Increase	(£2,489)	(£5,090)	(£7,670)
Council Tax - 1.00% ASC Precept	(£1,251)	(£2,557)	(£3,863)
Additional Council Tax Base (1.5% / 1% / 1%)	(£1,886)	(£3,144)	(£4,402)
Social Care Grant	(£500)	(£500)	(£500)
Adult Social Care Reform	£3,130	£6,130	£9,770
Adult Social Care Reform – Income	(£3,130)	(£6,130)	(£9,770)
Children's Education Reform	£360	£360	£360
Children's Education Reform – Income	(£360)	(£360)	(£360)
Foundation Savings	(£2,000)	(£3,283)	(£4,253)
Revised Budget Gap	£4,068	£3,292	£4,203

£4m budget gap 2023/24 – Further savings options required to maintain key reserve levels

Net income/reduced spend is shown in brackets

Figures are cumulative – ie year 2 includes impact from year 1 and year 3 includes sums from year 1 and 2



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

MTFP Summary Special Items

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care	300	200	500
Chief Executive	1,407	404	0
Children's Services	1,395	845	250
Place and Growth	1,217	319	69
Resources and Assets	370	130	0
Total	4,689	1,898	819

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Net income/reduced spend is shown in brackets
Figures are **not** cumulative



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Capital



Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26 – Summary

	Year 1 - 2023/24			Year 2 - 2024/25			Year 3 - 2025/26			Total Three Years £m
	Reprofile from 2022/23 £m	MTFP / New Bid £m	Total £m	Reprofile from 2022/23 £m	MTFP / New Bid £m	Total £m	Reprofile from 2022/23 £m	MTFP / New Bid £m	Total £m	
	Adult Social Care	3	6	10	7	3	10	0	2	
Children's Services	0	12	12	0	37	37	0	24	24	73
Chief Executive's Office	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	6
Place and Growth	30	30	60	40	16	56	15	28	43	159
Resources & Assets	75	39	115	2	16	18	5	10	15	147
Total Capital Expenditure	109	90	199	48	74	122	20	65	85	406
44 Funded by;										
Developer Contributions			(24)			(47)			(10)	(81)
Capital Grants			(17)			(34)			(22)	(74)
Capital Receipts			(5)			(4)			(0)	(9)
Supported Borrowing			(123)			(28)			(29)	(180)
General Fund Borrowing			(14)			(6)			(5)	(25)
Total Capital Funding			(185)			(119)			(66)	(369)
Funding (Surplus) / Gap			14			3			20	37

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

Income/funding is shown in brackets

Annual figures are **not** cumulative (cumulative figures in col on far right)



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Risks & Challenges

- Council Tax and Business Rates collection rate of 99% assumed
- Expectation that ongoing impacts of COVID reduce/end
- LGFS 23/24 unknown
- 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

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

Revenue Budget Setting 2023/24 to 2025/26

Directorate

Business Case Details

Bid Type	#N/A
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 / Options for mitigations	
Additional comments	

Finance Information

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Amount needed per year	Expenditure	£0	£0	£0
	Income	£0	£0	£0
<i>Cumulative movement from 22/23 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

Ref

New Capital Bid Template 2023 to 2026

Details

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

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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" *

Green



Timetable



<u>Budget Consideration</u>	<u>CCO</u>	<u>Executive</u>	<u>Council</u>
Strategic Overview	3 rd Oct 22		
Revenue and Capital: Places & Growth	26 th Oct 22		
Revenue and Capital: Corporate	3 rd Nov 22		
Revenue and Capital: Adults & Children's	29 th Nov 22		
Revenue and Capital: Final items/confirmation	13 th Dec 22	Feb 23	Feb 23

48



Revenue Budget Setting 2023/24 to 2025/26

Directorate

Business Case Details

Bid Type	#N/A
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 / Options for mitigations	
Additional comments	

Finance Information

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Amount needed per year	Expenditure	£0	£0	£0
	Income	£0	£0	£0
<i>Cumulative movement from 22/23 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
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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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Ref

New Capital Bid Template 2023 to 2026

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" *	Green

Comments regarding RAG Status

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the bid *

MTFP Category	
MTFP Sub Category	

Outline Business Case

Equality Impact Considerations

Budget Requested in £'000

Total of scheme approval

0

Budget Phasing *

Capital Scheme	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
0							0

equals cell g75

Project Total (Info only) £'000

0

Funding Identified *

Funding identified?

No

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
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	0	0	0		
Funding Shortfall	0	0	0		

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

Revenue Implications

£'000

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) *

0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing - Invest to save schemes only (either increased income / or reductions in cost)		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

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Additional Details *

Additional Information

Links to other useful documents (e.g. business cases)

Link	Comments
	51

1
2
3

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COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
PROVISIONAL EXTRAORDINARY 17 Oct 2022	Local Plan Update	To receive a progress update on the development of the Local Plan Update.	Committee Request	Ian Bellinger
	Fraud Prevention Update	To consider examples of how instances of Fraud are tackled within the Borough	Committee Request	Narinder Brar
	Voluntary Sector Update/Cost of Living	To consider an update on how the voluntary sector (including the hardship alliance) are working alongside WBC to support residents.	Committee Request	Sally Watkins
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2022-23	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
EXTRAORDINARY 26 Oct 2022	MTFP	To receive a strategic overview of the draft MTFP	Work programme	Graham Ebers
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2022-23	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
3 Nov 2022	MTFP	To receive proposed capital and revenue bids within the MTFP	Work programme	Graham Ebers
	Domestic Abuse Update	To receive an update on the anti-abuse charter, KPIs relating to the Domestic Abuse service and to receive an updated breakdown of instances of domestic abuse from within the Borough.	Committee request	Narinder Brar
	Violence Against Women and Girls	To receive an update on the strategy to end Violence Against Women and Girls in the Borough.	Committee request	Narinder Brar
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2022-23	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
EXTRAORDINARY 29 Nov 2022	MTFP	To receive a strategic overview of the draft MTFP	Work programme	Graham Ebers
	Bus Service Update	To receive an update on bus services within the Borough	Committee Request	Rebecca Brooks
	LCWIP Update	To receive an update on the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.	Committee Request	Chris Easton
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2022-23	Standing Item	Democratic Services

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	CONTACT OFFICER
19 Dec 2022	MTFP	To receive a strategic overview of the draft MTFP	Work programme	Graham Ebers
	Arts & Culture Strategy Update	To receive an update on the Arts & Culture Strategy, including how every effort is being made to include as many groups and communities as possible	Work programme	Rhian Hayes
	Work Programme	To consider the work programme for the Committee for 2022-23	Standing Item	Democratic Services

Task & Finish Group - To investigate the differences between Council managed social housing provision and preferred housing association managed homes. Members are concerned that there is a two-tier system, with good services offered by WBC managed homes compared to that offered by housing associations.

Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.	Scrutinising the development of the Council's Budget for 2023/24
2.	Reviewing the work of the Community Safety Partnership, the effectiveness of local policing and fire and rescue services
3.	Exercising the Council's flood risk management responsibilities by monitoring flood risk activities and partnership working with Towns and Parishes
4.	Reviewing the Assets Review Programme
5.	Scrutinising the Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy
6.	Scrutinising burial capacity across the Borough and the Council's plans to ensure adequate future capacity
7.	Scrutinising the Council's Localities service and measures to develop closer working relationships with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector
8.	Scrutinising service and policy developments relating to the Council's public facing services and its in-house support services
9.	Reviewing highways and transport issues including highways contracts, customer service, car parking, Bus Strategy and cycling infrastructure
10.	Scrutinising the Council's Arts and Culture Strategy
11.	Scrutinising the implementation of the in-house enforcement and safety service
12.	Scrutinising the Council's Housing Services to ensure that the needs of local residents and communities are being met
13.	Scrutinising the operation and performance of the Council-owned companies and shared service arrangements
14.	Scrutinising the footpath network, including plans to make them more accessible
15.	Appointing Task and Finish Groups as appropriate

Other Items for consideration

Borough Wide Parking Management Strategy

Further Meeting Dates & Provisional Items

9 Jan 2023: MTFP

6 Mar 2023: Police & Fire Services update, Flood Risk Management Update, Anti-Abuse Charter Update