## **Public Document Pack**



An Extraordinary Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022** AT **6.30 PM** 

Susan Parsonage

**Chief Executive** 

Published on 14 March 2022

**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: <a href="https://youtu.be/vcxK5rurBn4">https://youtu.be/vcxK5rurBn4</a>

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#### **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 vou.
- 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 EXECUTIVE

John Halsall Leader of the Council

John Kaiser Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Housing

Parry Batth Environment and Leisure
Graham Howe Children's Services
Pauline Jorgensen Highways and Transport

Charles Margetts Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services Stuart Munro Business and Economic Development

Gregor Murray Resident Services, Communications and Emissions

Wayne Smith Planning and Enforcement

Bill Soane Neighbourhoods and Communities

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
117.		APOLOGIES  To receive any apologies for absence	
118.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest	
119.		STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF COUNCIL To receive a statement from the Leader of Council	
120.		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 items on this agenda only.	
		Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to the items which are 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 <a href="https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
121.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any Member questions	
		A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to	

ask questions submitted under Notice relating to the

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will

items on this agenda only.

be dealt with in a written reply

#### **Matters for Consideration**

122.	None Specific	WOKINGHAM BOROUGH POST 16 EDUCATION OPTIONS	5 - 30
123.	None Specific	PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER	31 - 38

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

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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# Agenda Item 122.

TITLE Wokingham Borough Post 16 Education Options

FOR CONSIDERATION BY The Executive on Tuesday, 22 March 2022

WARD None specific

**LEAD OFFICER** Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

**LEAD MEMBER** Executive Member for Children's Services - Graham

Howe

## PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

Members are invited to consider a range of options related to Post 16 education.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Resources and Assets and the Lead Member for Children's Services to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Bohunt Education Trust for a joint project to create a new sixth form at the Bohunt School Wokingham.

That the delegated authority and agreement are subject to the following conditions:

- I. the expansion and change of age range is approved by the Secretary of State;
- II. in the period of the 5 years after the approval of this option the school delivers a <u>flexible package</u> of additional school places to include: an additional 30 Y7 places in September 2022; up to an additional 30 Y7 places if needed when acceptance offers are known (including to independent schools); additional Y8 & Y9 places to meet increasing demand through in-year applications, especially for girls;
- III. that SEND provision is strengthened over time to ensure appropriate 11-18 education pathways for Bohunt pupils with SEND;
- IV. that the final agreement includes key parts of the business case presented to the council in February 2022, including undertakings related to the management of admissions to the sixth form;
- V. agreed conditions in a funding agreement that shall include matters such as cost sharing, funding profiles, timetable, risk, overspends, procurement strategy;
- VI. that Bohunt Educational Trust contributes at least £2million to the scheme;
- VII. that £1.5m is vired from the Basic Needs Capital Programme in 22/23 which will be vired back from the Post 16 Capital Programme in future years and
- VIII. any other conditions that the Director of Resources or Director of Childrens Service deems necessary as set down in a funding contract between Bohunt and the Council.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is written to help inform the Council's decision in relation to a proposal from the Bohunt School & Education Trust to establish a new sixth form, to be delivered through a cost sharing partnership, in the context of adopted policy, post 16 need and alternative courses of action.

The Bohunt School & Education Trust has submitted a proposal for additional sixth form places with related proposals for additional Year 7 places (which can help enable girls with out of borough allocations for September 2022 secure Wokingham school offers). The related proposal is directly aligned to Wokingham education policy priorities, provided it can be realised in partnership with the borough.

Delivering the sixth form would demonstrate that the Council was continuing to deliver essential infrastructure for the new Strategic Development Location communities in the south of the borough in line with commitments in the adopted 2010 Core Strategy. This helps maintain confidence in the development strategy and delivery and in doing so acts as a defence against the alternative of large-scale uncoordinated development with inadequate infrastructure provision. It is also consistent with the Councils intention for an 11 to 18 school when the new school project was initiated through an Executive decision in 2014.

The proposed 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision at the Bohunt School is strongly supported by the local community. Creating new sixth form provision here would enable students to travel to their education by sustainable means (walking or cycling), rather than by car, coach or bus.

Given the size of the school and the school's Good Ofsted rating, it is likely that a new sixth form would be successful, enabling more young people to be educated in the Borough.

The number of students requiring post-16 places is projected to increase throughout the next decade. Levels of international migration including British National (Overseas) (Hong Kong) and potentially Ukrainian refugees are unpredictable, but it is prudent to plan for significant numbers of arrivals, in addition to current projected need. Current projections indicate that provided students who prefer out of borough provision continue to be admitted to these schools and colleges, current capacity should be sufficient until the late 2020s. Should the ability of Wokingham students to attend out of borough provision be adversely affected by rising demand closer to these schools and colleges. then there is likely to be a need for additional provision locally. Whilst there is a strong likelihood that Further Education College provision can be increased, local sixth form colleges may not be able to grow to match both population growth in the areas they were set up to support, and to continue to allow Wokingham students access. Mitigating this risk through the provision of additional sixth form capacity minimises the risk of urgent and possibly less effective action being required at a later date. Moreover, the capital programme is constrained. Higher priorities have been identified including the need for additional Year 7 places and new SEND provision.

The identified alternatives, "do nothing" and "invest in established sixth forms", enable limited resources to be refocused on high priority issues and create greater resilience in current provision respectively. All three options have merits and risk, so the judgement is balanced, but in favour of the new sixth form.

Executive is therefore recommended to approve the sixth form proposal, with conditions.

#### **Background**

This report is written to help inform the Council's decision in relation to a proposal from the Bohunt School & Education Trust to build a new sixth form centre, to be delivered through a cost sharing partnership and operational 2023-24. It sets out what the proposal can bring to the borough, in the context of changing need. It also sets out alternative courses of action that could be taken. Further contextual information is provided in Appendix A "Post 16 background data" and the key aspects of the Bohunt proposal are set out in Appendix B "Bohunt Wokingham Proposals".

The Bohunt School & Education Trust has submitted a proposal for additional sixth form places with related proposals for additional Year 7 places. These related proposals are directly aligned to Wokingham education policy priorities, provided they can be realised in partnership with the borough.

#### **Wokingham policy commitments**

The Council's intention from inception has been that what is now the Bohunt Wokingham School would be an 11 to 18 school. This was set out in the council's Core Strategy (the council's plan for development until 2026) adopted in 2010 (in paragraph 2.27), where the need for a secondary school in Arborfield was established. In July 2014 the council's Executive agreed to the school delivery project as an 11 to 18 1,200 place school, with an option to grow to offer 1,500 places. On opening in 2016 the school opened as a 1,200 place 11 to 16 school. The current proposal enables the school roll to reach (and exceed) 1,500 places and offer sixth form provision. This is particularly important in the south as all other areas are served by 11 to 18 schools, while both secondary schools in the south are 11 to 16.

This proposal therefore fulfils a core commitment made by the council when it determined its development strategy in 2010. The delivery of these commitments gives all partners further confidence that the full range of commitments made as part of the Core Strategy and subsequent statutory planning documents will be met. This is important because the adopted strategy focuses development into four large scale developments (SDLs), two to the north and south of Wokingham town, and two in the south (in Shinfield and around the former garrison site). These areas, particularly the two in the south did not benefit from existing infrastructure (roads, leisure facilities, schools etc) to meet the needs of the new community and so significant investment was planned into the development strategy. Therefore, the delivery of these facilities is essential for both the future sustainability of these communities and public confidence in the strategy itself. Should the strategy be perceived to have failed, housing delivery in the southern SDLs may slow and the risk of uncoordinated development outside designated development areas is increased, with risks of increased traffic congestion, and inadequate local education and leisure provision.

## **Community support**

It is known that the sixth form project is supported by communities around the south. The Bohunt School has conducted a consultation exercise that clearly demonstrated that local communities (including residents in long established and new communities) would value a sixth form. The council's own consultation in 2021 on the 11 to 16 education strategy also recorded significant support for both schools with sixth forms and a new sixth form in the south (despite the latter being outside of scope).

#### Traffic congestion and net carbon zero strategy

A new sixth form that would be accessible for most students by walking or cycling (sustainable modes of travel) would support the council's net carbon zero strategy (and reduce traffic congestion) by reducing the need for trips by car, bus and coach to alternative provision.

#### Viability and sustainability

The sixth form is expected to be popular, successful and sustainable, with a focus on Level 3 (e.g., A and T level) provision. The school is oversubscribed in the 11 to 16 age groups, so the future Year 11 (the year before sixth form) cohorts are expected to be sustained at a minimum roll of 240 for the foreseeable future. This would point to a sixth form of up to 300 pupils (based on 60% transfer to the on-site sixth form). Some Wokingham town schools see a loss to sixth form colleges and if this was replicated here, the sixth form might be slightly smaller. Either way, the sixth form roll is expected to exceed the DfE's minimum planned size for new sixth forms of 200 places.

#### Impact on other Wokingham Sixth forms

A reasonable concern is that the new sixth form might undermine achievement at existing Wokingham sixth forms. There are two issues here, the potential role of former Bohunt students in creating sustainable, successful sixth forms at other schools and the potential for the new sixth form to take students who would otherwise attend local sixth forms. The former refers to a potential future benefit, as recent history is that very few (less than 15 last year) students who formerly studied at one of the south's two 11 to 16 schools have gone onto Wokingham sixth forms. The immediate impact is therefore minimal. The second issue is covered by two factors. The proposal includes a commitment by the Bohunt School to limit external admissions to 15 students for the first three years. In the longer term, the physical limits on capacity are likely to limit future external student recruitment.

#### **Future need**

While the borough has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient post 16 places, there is significant surplus capacity in the borough's sixth forms, so there is no current need for a sixth form at the Bohunt School. However, the 17- and 18-year-old population is projected to increase in Wokingham and surrounding boroughs. This means that the current surplus will decrease, and (if current trends are maintained) there will be little surplus capacity by the late 2020s. However, if the rising population in neighbouring boroughs is not matched by increased provision there is a risk that south Wokingham residents will be unable to secure places at some preferred out of borough schools and colleges. In this event they may need places at Wokingham school sixth forms. This has the potential to create a shortfall in provision in the mid to late 2020s. This may not arise - out of borough schools and colleges may increase the number of places available but a new sixth form at the Bohunt School would mitigate this risk. Mitigating this risk through the provision of additional sixth form capacity therefore minimises the risk of urgent, and possibly less effective, action being required at a later date. International migration (noting that significant numbers of British Nationals (Overseas) (Hong Kong) are currently arriving and Ukrainian refugees may arrive soon) is unpredictable, but it would be prudent to plan for additional need from this cause.

#### Year 7 support

The current major pressure on school places is at Year 7. The Bohunt School proposal would give a potential Year 7 to Year 11 roll of 150 pupils. Although the school's preference would be for a single class per year expansion, the Council's need is for flexible provision, to ensure that sufficient places are available to deal with periods of peak demand.

Places would be allocated from the school's waiting list, releasing places in other Wokingham schools that would be available for allocation to girls currently allocated places in out of borough schools (and would help mitigate the risk of this situation arising in future).

#### **SEND**

The additional capacity will help enable children with SEND (particularly those without an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)) secure a place at a borough school. Schools are required in law to admit children with an EHCP (a statutory plan) designating that school.

#### **Cost sharing and partnership arrangements**

A material consideration is the offer by the school and Trust to share costs, with the Trust contributing £2m to project costs. Given that delivery of the sixth form is a council commitment, the Bohunt Education Trust's offer means that part of the cost, which would be incurred at some point in the next decade, is defrayed, enabling released funds to be committed to other projects.

The formal partnership agreements will be negotiated with the Trust, with support from the council's legal services team. This will ensure that appropriate safeguards for Wokingham's investment will be in place, to ensure in particular that Year 7 provision matches WBC requirements.

#### Financial issues

There is no national capital funding stream available to the council to fund sixth form expansions. The council can draw on capital funding from developers in the form of S106 payments (if post 16 is within the scope of an agreement) and Community Infrastructure Levy (subject to prior commitments to the many other competing priorities for this funding stream), capital grants made for other purposes, proceeds of asset sales and prudential borrowing. A one off DfE post 16 capacity fund to fund additional places was established for 2021/22, but the Council would not have been eligible to apply for this.

The Council has arrangements to support revenue costs associated with additional Year 7 to 11 places through the Dedicated Schools Grant Growth Fund. Management of this budget is in partnership with the schools forum and final arrangements are intended to be agreed within available resources.

Post 16 revenue start-up costs would be a matter for the Bohunt School to address (the Growth Fund is for statutory school age growth).

#### Other Post 16 needs

A quarter of Wokingham's Year 11 pupils go on to become students at a Further Education college (nearly all to one of the three colleges in adjoining boroughs), mainly to study vocational and Level 2 (sub-A level) courses. Accelerate Learning (who run two of the three colleges) report that they have both capacity to offer additional places and capacity to expand provision, subject to demand. On this basis there are no proposals for additional Level 2 / vocational course capacity.

#### **Alternatives**

The two identified alternatives are:

- To do nothing
- To invest in other Wokingham Sixth Forms

"Do nothing" reflects the fact that there is no immediate education provision case for additional post 16 capacity. It would mean that the additional benefits (Year 7) would need to be made up on other sites. It would free up the £5.4M in the MTFP for other high priority needs.

"Investment in other Wokingham Sixth forms" would enable the council to make existing provision more resilient by addressing some long-standing provision deficits and making them a more attractive proposition for students, reducing the number of students travelling outside the borough. Some are very small and must be considered borderline viable. It is possible that some provision will be lost (which could create a future shortfall in provision) because they are not currently viable.

These options are set out in more detail below:

#### **Options for action**

#### **Option 1: Do nothing**

#### **Advantages**

- Retains budget allocated to post-16 in the MTFP for higher priority needs.
- Ensures investment in post 16 capacity is made at a point where there is a clear statutory need.
- National funding for post-16 may become available in the future as post 16 numbers start to rise.

#### **Disadvantages**

- Does not meet priorities identified by south Wokingham communities.
- Does not contribute a flexible solution to meet Y7 demand.
- Does not offer opportunity to increase post-16 SEND provision to meet identified need.
- Does not reduce traffic congestion / school run traffic.

# Option 2: Refocus on expansion of existing sixth forms, when necessary, with SEND focus.

#### **Advantages**

- Could lead to larger more effective sixth forms in the borough (with a potential target of making all sixth forms able to offer at least 300 places).
- Reduces the risk of sixth form failure as schools focus resources on 11 to 16 provision.
- Would ensure that all sixth form spend also targets the council's key priority groups amongst children with high levels of Special Education Need or Disabilities (SEND).

#### **Disadvantages**

- Does not meet priorities identified by south Wokingham communities.
- Does not offer a flexible solution to meet Y7 demand
- Does not reduce traffic congestion / school run traffic.

# Option 3: Enter into an agreement with the Bohunt Education Trust for a joint project to create a new sixth form at the Bohunt School Wokingham.

#### **Advantages**

- Meets long standing development strategy objectives.
- Meets South Wokingham residents' priority of a local school sixth form option for their area
- Provides a jointly agreed flexible package of Y7 expansion to meet increasing demand for Wokingham school places (condition of partnership funding agreement)
- Would help reduce the volume of traffic movement associated with journeys to post 16 education.
- Strong likelihood of this being a successful sixth form significantly above the DfE's minimum size threshold.
- Mitigates a risk of access to out of borough provision being lost as local populations rise.
- Makes use of a financial contribution that will not be available in future.

#### **Disadvantages**

- There is a risk (after the initial 3-year protection period) of the new sixth form causing other school sixth forms to diminish in size – potentially to a point at which they can no longer provide an efficient or even viable sixth form within budget constraints.
- There is no immediate statutory need for these places and there are competing needs (Year 7 and SEND provision in particular) that need to be funded at a time when council capital budgets are tightly constrained. This is mitigated, however, by the condition to provide a flexible package of Y7 expansion to meet increased demand for 3 years.

- There is no dedicated funding source for this expansion. As post 16 rolls begin to rise generally, it is likely that DfE funding programmes will be identified. It is possible that future iterations of the DfE's Post 16 Capacity Funding programme could be accessed directly by the school, without WBC support.
- Risks associated with population growth in adjoining and nearby areas may be mitigated by expansion of existing colleges, so the long-term risks may be managed in other ways.

#### Recommendation

There are competing arguments here.

The benefits include fulfilling long standing policy objectives, mitigating future risks (particularly to other schools), meeting community aspirations and the likelihood that the new provision will be successful. The financial contribution is a material issue too.

Against which, the case for a new sixth form has limited strength on place sufficiency grounds (noting that an important risk is that out of borough provision will cease to be available to Wokingham resident students). Furthermore, the Council has other pressing statutory priorities, including new SEND provision, that also require access to limited financial resources.

There is an improved case if the council's support for the new facility is conditioned on the provision of flexible Year 7 capacity in accordance with council identified priorities. In time this Year 7 capacity will become a 30 place per annum expansion of the school, but the immediate need is for places that can be used flexibly (i.e.in multiples of 30) to meet Borough needs.

In view of the wide range of potential benefits, limited adverse impact on other schools, mitigation of future place supply risks and financial contribution to the project, option 3 is recommended for approval.

#### 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	Capital
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£1.5M	Yes	Capital
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£2.2M	Yes	Capital

#### **Other Financial Information**

Bohunt Wokingham have established that they can contribute £2m towards a project cost of £5.7M, leaving Wokingham to fund £3.7M.

The current agreed sixth form expansion capital budget is £5.4M. This is not committed elsewhere.

Note that current costs are estimates, and it is likely that final out turn figures will require further spend from within the agreed budget £5.4 M budget for post 16 investment.

The annual split in spend is estimated.

#### Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

Statutory consultation on the sixth form proposal is the responsibility of the Bohunt Education Trust.

## Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment is attached

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

If Option 3 is chosen there will be a positive impact through reduced travel to post 16 education options.

List of Background Papers	
None	

Contact Piers Brunning	Service Learning Achievement and
-	Partnerships
<b>Telephone</b> Tel: 0118 974 6084	Email piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk

## Appendix A: Post 16 background data

## Organisation of post 16 provision for Wokingham

Wokingham resident mainstream students can broadly be placed in one of two camps. Those that are going on post 16 to study for Level 3 qualifications (A levels and new T levels) and those studying Level 2 vocational qualifications. Level 3 qualifications are taught in schools with sixth forms and in sixth form colleges. Local Further Education colleges also offer Level 3 A level and T level courses, but they have a more significant role as the predominant provider of Level 2 vocational courses.

Wokingham has 10 secondary schools, 8 of which have sixth forms, and 2 (Bohunt and Oakbank) in the south-west of the borough do not. These schools serve the areas (Arborfield and Shinfield) where the greatest increase in student numbers is expected, because of the ongoing residential development in the Arborfield Garrison and Shinfield SDL areas.

The greatest proportion (over 45%) of Wokingham Level 3 students attend Wokingham school sixth forms (with a further 15% attending sixth forms in other areas). Local sixth form colleges account for over 10% of the student body. The Bohunt School provides over 30% of the Wokingham student body attending sixth form colleges.

All vocational / Level 2 provision (25% of the Wokingham post 16 population) is made in neighbouring boroughs, largely at Reading and Bracknell and Wokingham Colleges and at the Berkshire College of Agriculture near Maidenhead.

Both the Bohunt School and Oakbank School leavers go on to settings that are largely outside the borough, using local colleges (sixth form and FE) and (in the case of Bohunt) significant numbers also attending sixth forms in another council's area.

Year 12 and 13 Wokingham School rolls October 2021

	Year Groups	Y12	Y13	Total 6th form
4001	Bohunt*	0	0	0
4051	Bulmershe	115	87	202
4049	Emmbrook*	77	90	167
4050	Forest*	52	57	109
4047	Holt*	134	137	271
4053	Maiden Erlegh*	255	215	470
4000	Oakbank*	0	0	0
4505	Piggott Senior*	268	215	483
4048	St Crispin's*	126	126	252
4060	Waingels College*	98	106	204
SECONDAF ACADEMIE	RY, FREE SCHOOLS & S TOTALS	1125	1033	2158

#### Points to note

a) The DfE has no clear minimum size for mainstream school sixth forms. However, if a school intends to stablish a sixth form, the DfE have a minimum 200 student roll expectation (see page 20 "Making significant changes to an open academy Departmental guidance for all types of academy trust January 2022").

- b) It can be seen that Wokingham school sixth forms vary greatly in size. Two are significantly below the DfE minimum expectation of 200, two are just over 200, two are in the mid 200s and two are over 400.
- c) Larger sixth forms are likely to be able a greater range of courses, a greater range of course options, with a reduced risk of having small roll courses that need to be subsidised from funds generated by other courses or other funding held by schools.
- d) Sixth form rolls generally have fewer children than the corresponding Year 11 rolls, as schools focus on Level 3 (A level courses), and those students wishing to follow vocational courses (often at Level 2) are likely to go on to Further Education Colleges in Reading, Bracknell or Maidenhead.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form capacity

Area	School	Summer 2021 capacity	Actual Roll October 2021	Available places	Surplus	% +/- capacity	Less than DfE bench- mark of 200?	Less than 10% above 200 marker
South	The Holt	247	271	271	0	0%	N	N
South	St Crispins	230	252	252	0	0%	N	N
South	The Emm- brook	220	167	220	53	24%	Y	
South	The Forest	300	109	300	191	64%	Υ	
South Total		767	799	1043	244			
North	The Bul- mershe	312	202	312	110	35%	N	Υ
North	Maiden Erlegh	397	470	470	0	0%	N	N
North	Waingels	258	204	204	0	0%	N	Υ
North	The Piggott	380	483	483	0	0%	N	N
North Total		692	1359	1469	110			
Grand Total		1459	2158	2512	354			

#### Points to note

- a) There is no single measure of 6<sup>th</sup> form capacity. The DfE's advice in 2021 (Annex B to their "School Capacity (SCAP) Survey 2021 Guide for local authorities April 2021") sets out 5 possible ways in which sixth form capacity could be calculated. The table above uses funding agreements, net capacity assessments and actual rolls.
- b) Where actual rolls are used this does not imply the school concerned has adequate capacity for that roll.
- c) The table does indicate, though, that there are unfilled places, that could be used before new additional capacity in schools without sixth forms is required.

## Projected need

Academic year	12	13	Total	Current provision	Variance	Bohunt @60%	Variance (with Bohunt)	Oakbank @60%	Variance (with Bohunt & Oakbank)
2020/21	1091	900	1991	2512	521		521	134	387
2021/22	1009	1035	2044	2512	468	144	324	134	190
2022/23	1036	949	1985	2512	527	288	239	134	105
2023/24	1076	971	2047	2512	465	288	177	134	43
2024/25	1131	1007	2138	2512	374	288	86	134	-48
2025/26	1118	1059	2177	2512	335	288	47	134	-87
2026/27	1175	1046	2221	2512	291	288	3	134	-131
2027/28	1225	1099	2324	2512	188	288	-100	134	-234
2028/29	1258	1146	2404	2512	108	288	-180	134	-314

#### Points to note

- a) The "variance" column indicates there is a significant surplus, although this will be eroded over the coming decade.
- b) Currently few post 16 leavers from Bohunt and Oakbank Schools (the two Wokingham schools without sixth forms) take up Wokingham places.
- c) The Bohunt and Oakbank columns show how this surplus capacity would be eroded if 60% of Bohunt and Oakbank Year 11 students took up Wokingham School sixth form places Currently these young people largely take up provision outside the borough, and if this were to continue, there would be no borough level place sufficiency case for new provision.

## Origins and destinations

								Year 11	School							
	Year 11 origins and	Maiden Erlegh School	The Holt School	St Crispin's School	The Piggott School	Bohunt	_	Bulmershe School	The Emmbro ok School		Oakbank Secondary Free School	Addingto n School	Chiltern Way Academy Wokingh am	Other schools	Grand Total	%ge at each setting type
	Year 11 roll	232	194	173	171	159	154	114	109	77	31	. 11	. 3	428	1856	
	Maiden Erlegh School	167	3			3	3			3				12	188	
	The Holt School		125			3			3	3				3		
	St Crispin's School	3	8	79		6		3		3				7	107	
	The Piggott School		3	3	123	3	_	3	3	3				25	163	
	Waingels College	3		3			86							4	93	
	Bulmershe School	3						58						12	71	
	The Emmbrook School								60					6	66	
	The Forest School	3	3							30				0	33	
	Wokingham Schools	175	139	83	123	14	89	61	63	39	0			67	853	46%
	Other state schools	3	10	11	3	18	3	3		4	3			250	303	16%
	Farnborough 6th form colle	3	11	26	3	63	3	3	11	7	3			12	139	
12	Henley 6th Form College	8	3	3	18	12	8	3	3	7	3			6	77	
Year 1	6th form colleges	9	14	30	19	75	9	6	15	14	7			18	216	12%
٧e	Reading College Activate L	20	8	6	9	18	33	35	6	6	16	3	3	16	178	
	Bracknell & Wokingham Co	9	5	22		7	6	3	13	3	3			14	82	
	Berkshire College of Agricu	6	8	7	13	8	11	3	3	3	3		3	8	77	
	Farnborough College		7	4		12			3	3	3			6		
	Unknown OOC FE College (	3	3	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	5	33	
	UTC Reading	3		3		3	3	3		3				20	31	
	FE / UTC	41	29	48	25	52	53	43	30	20	23	4	3	71	442	24%
	Addington School											7		3	10	
	Special OOC School													3	3	
	Special											7		3	11	
	Others	3	3	3	3		3	3	3					18	31	
	Grand Total / Year 11	232	194	173	171	159	154	114	109	77	31	11	3	428	1856	
%ge scho	educated at a WBC	75%	72%	48%	72%	9%	58%	54%	58%	51%	0%					
"3" r	epresents a number between	1 and 5														

#### Points to note

- a) The origins and destination tables show how Wokingham resident pupils attending Wokingham Schools go on to attend a range of provision, often staying on at their original school, but also moving on to FE colleges, 6th form colleges and other school sixth forms.
- b) It can be seen that FE and Sixth form colleges are important provision.
- c) Activate Learning are responsible for Reading and Bracknell and Wokingham Colleges. Their colleges have the ability to increase provision (at both Level 2 and 3) using existing capacity and (should this be exhausted) through further development on their own campuses. In accordance with their strong vocational focus these colleges are actively developing new Level 3 T level courses, alongside their existing A level offer.
- d) Farnborough 6th form College is popular (with 139 Wokingham Year 11 students attending, including just over 60 from the Bohunt School) and offers a wide range of Level 3 courses at an Ofsted Outstanding institution. The college's Funding Agreement records a capacity of 4,250 places, and at the time of the last Ofsted (October 2021) the roll was 3,915. It is important to note:
  - a. The College is close to being full and has a single densely developed campus, with limited capacity for expansion.
  - b. The college's admission arrangements give priority to partner (Hampshire) and linked (specific schools in other areas) schools.
  - c. No Wokingham school is currently "linked" so students are only admitted because there are places left after the admission of partner and linked school students.
  - d. Expansion would require (a) capital expansion funding and (b) planning consent. Currently the College has, it is understood, no agreed expansion funding from DfE (in 2021, the DfE allocated funding for 39 expansion projects at FE and 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges, Academies and Free Schools and University Technology Colleges, not including this college) and no planning consent for an expansion project on the campus site.
  - e. Population growth in the area served by current partner and linked schools could therefore diminish the number of students admitted from schools that have not chosen or been successful in securing linked school status.

# 2018 Base Population change from 2021

Projected Post 16 population												
Growth from 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Bracknell Forest	37	261	474	635	697	689	701	613	501	423	398	348
Reading	216	416	600	649	554	575	632	706	625	473	467	433
West Berkshire	0	184	443	499	514	656	652	559	413	317	290	194
Windsor and Maidenhead	78	348	399	530	722	746	747	622	462	403	413	399
Wokingham	105	319	594	757	859	1,018	1,106	1,096	960	800	868	865
Hart	121	139	192	178	227	329	349	303	205	232	248	182
Rushmoor	88	59	39	21	50	85	90	84	10	2	9	-73
South Oxfordshire	214	346	412	394	424	644	711	576	440	456	475	403
Surrey Heath	44	116	130	156	178	247	313	186	99	127	154	90
Total growth	903	2,189	3,283	3,818	4,223	4,989	5,300	4,743	3,715	3,234	3,322	2,842
%ge change from 2021												
Bracknell Forest	1%	8%	15%	20%	22%	21%	22%	19%	16%	13%	12%	11%
Reading	6%	12%	18%	19%	16%	17%	19%	21%	18%	14%	14%	13%
West Berkshire	0%	5%	11%	12%	13%	16%	16%	14%	10%	8%	7%	5%
Windsor and Maidenhead	2%	8%	10%	13%	17%	18%	18%	15%	11%	10%	10%	10%
Wokingham	2%	<b>7</b> %	13%	17%	19%	23%	25%	25%	22%	18%	20%	19%
Hart	5%	6%	8%	7%	9%	14%	14%	13%	8%	10%	10%	8%
Rushmoor	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	-3%
South Oxfordshire	6%	10%	12%	12%	13%	19%	21%	17%	13%	14%	14%	12%
Surrey Heath	2%	5%	6%	7%	8%	11%	14%	8%	4%	6%	7%	4%
%ge change from 2021	3%	7%	11%	13%	14%	17%	18%	16%	13%	11%	11%	10%

#### Points to note

- a. With the extended local area 16+ population projected to peak at 18% / 5,300 young people above the 2021 level inn 2028 (with an increase of 11% as soon as 2024) it is reasonable to take the view that additional capacity will be required within this period.
- b. The Hart and Rushmore figures refer to the Hampshire districts that are closest to Farnborough College. The 2018 base projection points to a peak increase of over 400 young people in the two post 16 years. Many of these young people would be expected to take up level 2 / vocational courses at other settings (e.g. Farnborough College of Technology). This would point to a peak growth in demand for Farnborough 6<sup>th</sup> Form College in the order of 250 to 300 students (noting that Hampshire's current post 16 destinations are unknown).
- c. Population growth could therefore restrict the ability of some Wokingham students to secure places at Farnborough Sixth Form College (although this could be mitigated by expanded provision).

## Travel to provision

- a. Level 2 / vocational education is largely provided outside the borough in FE colleges in Reading, Bracknell and Windsor and Maidenhead.
- b. Level 3 / A level provision outside of schools with sixth forms, is made in these colleges, but also in sixth form colleges, in Farnborough and Henley.
- c. There is no current post 16 provision in the south of the borough, and the area is largely beyond statutory walking distance to schools with sixth forms.
- d. Young people living in the south of the borough therefore rely on public transport or dedicated school / college routes (e.g. the 406 to Farnborough Sixth Form College from Finchampstead).
- e. Travel time from some southwest communities can be less than an hour to specific settings. More normally travel will be in the 1 to 2 hours range.

## Public support for new sixth form provision

- a. The recent survey for the 11 to 16 strategy had over 800 responses. Within these there were 179 comments that new schools should include sixth forms and 88 that specifically identified the need for a Bohunt sixth form.
- b. The Bohunt school has carried out its own survey. This too has indicated significant support for a new sixth form at the Bohunt School.

## Summary and conclusions

Wokingham students make use of Wokingham sixth form capacity, sixth forms in out of borough schools, sixth form colleges and FE colleges for Level 3 courses. Level two provision is largely made outside the borough.

Young people leaving the two Wokingham Schools without sixth forms make little use of in-borough provision. These schools are in the south of the borough, an area without any post 16 provision. These students are likely to have a lengthy journey to post 16 provision.

Both Wokingham roll projections and ONS population projections indicate that post 16 numbers will increase significantly (up by nearly 20% in the late 2020s) with particularly strong growth in Wokingham.

While Reading College is known to have growth potential, it is not yet known whether or not the 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges could also expand. If Farnborough College cannot grow and admissions are at some point effectively limited to more local students this might lead to students from the two Wokingham 11 to 16 schools being more reliant on Wokingham sixth form provision, which could be under significant strain from as soon as 2024/25. However, as Oakbank students have tended towards Reading provision (where students are likely to continue to be able to find places) and Bohunt students use a range of provision, including out of borough school sixth forms, both Henley and Farnborough Sixth Form Colleges and a range of local FE colleges it is unlikely they will all be unable to access suitable Level 3 courses, even if Farnborough Sixth Form College does not expand and the its recruitment radius effectively diminishes to exclude Wokingham residents. This would point to a potential need for additional capacity in the late 2020s.

#### Appendix B: Summary of the Bohunt Wokingham Business proposals

The Trust has asked that the full version be kept confidential, as the document contains commercially sensitive financial information. A redacted version may be made available.

The Bohunt Education Trust have made the following proposal to the Council.

That a new sixth form building should be built on the school site.

They have a priced proposal (albeit the proposal is not set out in the form of a contract or detailed specification) for a new three storey modular block on the school site.

The cost of the project is given as £5.7M.

The Trust have proposed to contribute £2M to the scheme.

The scheme would allow the school to grow by 30 places per year, open a sixth form and provide SEND places.

There is little detail on the SEND offer.

They have proposed to limit admissions for the first three years of operation to the Bohunt Wokingham and Oakbank Schools (and thereafter to 15 external students).

They are proposing a broad and balanced Level 3 curriculum with 26 A levels, 6 vocational Level 3 courses and two T levels.

They would like to start as soon as possible, with a likely first 6<sup>th</sup> form class in September 2023.

They have completed their statutory consultation. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of their proposal.

DFE approval to the sixth form expansion would be required.





## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: the initial impact assessment

### 1. Process and guidance

The purpose of an EqIA is to make sure that the council is meeting the needs of all our residents by ensuring we consider how different groups of people may be affected by or experience a proposal in different ways.

The council has a two stage EqIA process:

- Stage 1 the initial impact assessment
- Stage 2 the full impact assessment.

This form is for use at Stage 1 of the process. This must be completed when undertaking a project, policy change, or service change. It can form part of a business case for change and must be completed and attached to a Project Initiation Document. The findings of the initial impact assessment will determine whether a full impact assessment is needed.

Guidance and tools for council officers can be accessed on the council's Tackling Inequality Together intranet pages.

Date started:	14/03/22
Completed by:	Piers Brunning
Service:	Childrens Services
Project or policy EqIA relates to:	Wokingham Borough Post 16 Options
Date EqIA discussed at service team meeting:	
Conclusion (is a full assessment needed?):	
Signed off by (AD):	
Sign off date:	



## 2. Summary of the policy, project, or service

This section should be used to summarise the project, policy, or service change (the proposal).

# What is the purpose of the proposal, what are the aims and expected outcomes, and how does it relate to service plans and the corporate plan?

The purpose of the proposal is to ensure there will be sufficient post 16 education places for its children and young people over the next decade.

To achieve this the primary focus is on a proposal to create a new sixth form at the Bohunt Wokingham School. This will educate children aged 16 to 18 year olds (Academic Years 12 and 13) providing a range of Level 3 (A and T level courses), largely for children on the roll of the school in Years 7 to 11.

The aims of the proposal are:

- To ensure that all young people in Years 12 and 13 have access to an appropriate Key Stage 5 curriculum.
- To increase the number of young people educated in the borough.
- To increase the number of students able to travel to post 16 education on foot or by bicycle (sustainable modes of transport).
- To provide flexible delivery of Year 7 places.
- To provide enhanced in-borough capacity to deliver education for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities

The project will support the following objectives set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan 2020 24:

#### **Enriching Lives**

- Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support and challenge all schools to provide the right environment for effective learning for all pupils.

#### **Keeping the Borough Moving**

- 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.



# How will the proposal be delivered, what governance arrangements are in place and who are the key internal stakeholders?

The proposals will be delivered through a partnership agreement between the Bohunt Education Trust (the Trust) and the council. At this stage the formal proposal is for an in principle agreement to the project. The partnership document will be drawn up, in collaboration with the Trust, if approval is given.

Key internal stakeholders are:

**Director of Childrens Services** 

**Director of Resources and Assets** 

**Director Place and Growth** 

Lead members for Childrens Services and Finance

Local ward members

## Who will be affected by the proposal? Think about who it is aimed at and who will deliver it.

Young people aged 16 to 18 living in the area served by the Bohunt School.

The education will be delivered by the Bohunt Education Trust.

#### 3. Data & Protected Characteristics

This section should be used to set out what data you have gathered to support the initial impact assessment.

The table below sets out the equality groups that need to be considered in the impact assessment. These comprise the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 and other priority areas defined by the council.

Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy/Maternity
Religious belief	Race	Sex	Sexual Orientation	Socio-economic disadvantage

What data and information will be used to help assess the impact of the proposal on different groups of people? A list of useful resources is available for officers on the Council's Tackling Inequality Together intranet pages.				



## 4. Assessing & Scoring Impact

This section should be used to assess the likely impact on each equality group, consider how significant any impacts could be and explain how the data gathered supports the conclusions made.

Scoring impact for equ	Scoring impact for equality groups		
Positive impact	The proposal promotes equality of opportunity by meeting needs or addressing existing barriers to participation and/or promotes good community relations		
Neutral or no impact	The proposal has no impact or no disproportionate impact.		
Low negative	The proposal is likely to negatively impact a small number of people, be of short duration and can easily be resolved.		
High negative	The proposal is likely to have a significant negative impact on many people or a severe impact on a smaller number of people.		

Referring to the Scoring table above, please give an impact score for each group, explain what the likely impact will be, and briefly set out how the data supports this conclusion.

Equality group	Impact score	Impact and supporting data
Age	Positive impact	
Disability	Positive impact	
Gender reassignment	Neutral or no	
	impact	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral or no	
ivial liage and civil Partileisinp	impact	



Pregnancy/Maternity	Neutral or no
Trebliancy, waterinty	impact
Religious belief	Neutral or no
	impact
Race	Neutral or no
Nace	impact
Sex	Neutral or no
Sex	impact
Sexual Orientation	Neutral or no
Sexual Offeritation	impact
Socio-economic disadvantage	Positive impact

## 5. Conclusion and next steps.

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment if you have identified any groups as having a low or high negative impact.

If no impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must include reference to the initial assessment in any associated reports, and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy, or service change.

# Agenda Item 123.

TITLE Public Spaces Protection Order

FOR CONSIDERATION BY The Executive on Tuesday, 22 March 2022

WARD None specific;

**LEAD OFFICER** Director, Place and Growth - Steve Moore

**LEAD MEMBER** Executive Member for Neighbourhood and

Communities - Bill Soane

## PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

A key decision is required to commence a public consultation about a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), and consider the results of the consultation, with a view to implementing a PSPO to reduce the harm caused by anti-social vehicle use in car parks and other public open spaces in the borough.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive agrees to authorise the Director for Place and Growth to:

- commence a public consultation about a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order, and
- 2) consider the results of the consultation, and
- 3) bring forward to the Executive a further report if it is considered appropriate, in the light of consultation, to proceed with the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A large number of complaints have been made to the Council about anti-social vehicle use in Council owned car parks, and also on privately owned land, such as supermarket car parks. The activity features engine revving, wheel spinning, aggressive driving, noise from horns and music equipment.

The number and regularity of incidents is sufficient to meet the statutory test that antisocial vehicle use in the borough has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, is persistent, is unreasonable and justifies the restrictions being imposed. Many incidents have occurred in the evenings or at night resulting in loss of sleep, and incidents regardless of time of day have resulted in alarm and distress to residents and visitors to the area.

The PSPO would be an additional power available to authorised local authority officers to use in appropriate circumstances, and a deterrent to the activity occurring.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. The activities proposed to be prohibited in the PSPO are in Appendix 1.
- 2. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") provides the legal framework within which PSPOs can be implemented. Orders can be introduced in a specific public area where the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the following conditions have been met:
  - The activity to be restricted has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that the activity will take place and will have a detrimental effect
  - The effect or likely effect of the activity is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature and is unreasonable and justifies the restrictions being imposed.
- 3. The Home Office statutory guidance issued in January 2021 states that proposed restrictions should focus on specific behaviours and be proportionate to the detrimental effect that the behaviour is causing or can cause, and are necessary to prevent it from continuing, occurring or recurring.
- 4. As a minimum, a PSPO must set out
  - what the detrimental activities are
  - what is being prohibited and/or required, including any exemptions
  - the area covered
  - the consequences for breach
  - the period for which it has effect.
- 5. The activity restricted by an Order must be carried out in a public place, which is defined in the legislation as 'any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission'.
- 6. Local authorities are obliged to consult with the local chief officer of police; the police and crime commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area where reasonably practicable, and appropriate community representatives. Parish and town councils that are in the proposed area covered by the PSPO must be notified.
- 7. "Community representatives" are defined broadly in the Act as "any individual or body appearing to the authority to represent the views of people who live in, work in or visit the restricted area". Those who will be directly affected by the Order, or groups representing their interests, should be directly approached.
- 8. A PSPO can last for up to three years, after which it must be reviewed and may be extended if an extension is necessary to prevent activity recurring, or there has been an increase in frequency or seriousness of the activity. Extensions can be repeated, with each lasting for a maximum of three years. Effective evaluation of a PSPO will be important when determining whether any extensions or variations would be appropriate.
- 9. PSPOs can be challenged on the grounds that the local authority did not have the power either to make it or include particular prohibitions or requirements, or that proper

processes had not been followed as prescribed by the legislation. Challenges must be made to the High Court within six weeks of the Order being made, and by an individual who lives in, regularly works in or visits the restricted area.

- 10. It is an offence under section 67 of the Act to fail to comply with a PSPO without a reasonable excuse.
- 11. Should it be alleged that such an offence has been committed, then prosecution can follow, and upon conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine, not exceeding level 3 (currently £1000).
- 12. Authorised officers have the power, pursuant to section 68 of the Act to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) of up to £100 to anyone they reasonably believe to have failed to comply. This is a direct alternative to prosecution.
- 13. The reasonable excuse defence would cater for any situation in which the behaviour prohibited or required in a PSPO would be regarded by an average person as legitimate.
- 14. Regulations set out additional requirements regarding the publication of PSPOs that have been made, varied or extended, stipulating that these must be:
  - published on the local authority's website
  - erected on or adjacent to the place the Order relates to, and is sufficient to draw attention to it, setting out the effect of the Order and whether it has been made, varied or extended.

#### **BUSINESS CASE**

- 15. The Borough has suffered significant nuisance from vehicles and people engaged in car cruising activities within the last two years, predominantly in relation to the Carnival Pool Car Park, Wellington Street, Mereoak Park and Ride and Thames Valley Business Park and the surrounding area. The activities included drag racing on the highway, drifting around the roundabouts and car parks. This is accompanied by the playing of loud music from the vehicles as they gathered to watch the activities. The attendance and activities described have resulted in several numbers of complaints from residents affected by the noise of car exhausts, tyres screeching and loud music.
- 16. There were also safety issues as people were very close to speeding vehicles being driven in a dangerous manner.
- 17. A summary of incidents reported to the Council and / or police is attached in Appendix 2. The number and regularity of incidents is sufficient to meet the statutory test that anti-social vehicle use in the borough has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, is persistent, is unreasonable and justifies the restrictions being imposed. Many incidents have occurred in the evenings or at night resulting in loss of sleep, and all incidents regardless of time of day have resulted in alarm and distress to residents and visitors to the area.
- 18. Consideration has been given to limiting the PSPO to locations where incidents have occurred. However, it is assessed that such limitation would be likely to have the effect of displacing the same activity to new locations, causing alarm and distress to a new

group of residents. To avoid this displacement effect, it is proposed to make the order applicable to all publicly accessible open spaces in the borough. This will include some privately owned land such as supermarket car parks, consequently the consultation will include those owners so that they can express their opinion whether they will such enforcement activity to occur on their land. The PSPO provision would not absolve private land owners of their duty to take preventative measures of their own accord.

- 19. The PSPO would not prevent enforcement action being taken against individual vehicle users or owners, such as road traffic laws and regulations enforced by the police, or noise abatement notices served by the Council. The PSPO would be an additional power available to authorised local authority officers to use in appropriate circumstances, and a deterrent to the activity occurring.
- 20. Subject to the results of consultation, it would be expected to implement the PSPO from September 2022.

#### 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)	£0	Yes	
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	

#### **Other Financial Information**

The costs of consultation, signage and publicity, and enforcement by authorised officers can be met from existing budgets within the Place Service.

#### **Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation**

Consultation with the public will be carried out using an online consultation platform, and with specific stakeholders by email and personal contact.

#### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty will be taken and an equalities impact assessment will be completed if it is decided to implement a PSPO. It is important for councils to consider carefully the potential impact of a PSPO on different sections of their communities. Proposals for a PSPO should therefore be reviewed to determine how they might target or impact on certain groups.

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

There would be limited impact on the Council's carbon neutral objective, except in as much as anti-social vehicle use may have a negative impact on air quality, so a reduction in such activity may have a beneficial environmental effect.

List of Background Papers	
None	

Contact Ed Shaylor	Service Place	
Telephone	Email ed.shaylor@wokingham.gov.uk	

#### The proposed activities to be prohibited in the PSPO

In the restricted areas (see below) a person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse he or she continues to carry out activities from which they are prohibited namely:

- 1. being the driver of or being carried in (or on) a motor vehicle in circumstances where the following activities ("the prohibited activities") take place
  - a. causing danger or risk of injury to road users (including pedestrians)
  - b. causing damage or risk of damage to property
  - c. aggressive acceleration or braking or racing
  - d. carrying out manoeuvres such as (but not limited to) skidding, handbrake turns, drifting
  - e. creating noise through excessive engine revving, sounding horns or playing music
  - f. using foul or abusive language
  - g. using threatening or intimidating behaviour
  - h. causing obstruction (whether moving or stationary).
- 2. promoting, organising or publicising (including but not limited to via email, the internet, social media, or via any publication or broadcast medium) any event where the prohibited activities take place
- 3. attending an event as defined in clause 2 above either as a vehicle owner or spectator where the prohibited activities take place

A person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with conditions above, commits an offence under section 67 of the Act and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000 or a fixed penalty notice of a maximum £100.

#### The restricted areas

All land owned, maintained or managed by the Council and any other place to which the public has access as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

#### General

An authorised officer means a local authority employee, a person designated by the local authority, a police officer or police community support officer.

#### A summary of incidents reported to the Council and / or police

In the period from January 2020 to January 2022 the following numbers of incidents have been reported at the following locations in the borough.

Carnival Pool Car Park	Thames Valley Business Park	Mereoak Park & Ride	Supermarket Car Parks	Other
35	3	18	22	4

The incidents referred to above, reported to the Council or police by members of the public and ward Councillors, involved some or all of the following behaviour - aggressive acceleration, braking or racing, skidding, handbrake turns, drifting and creating noise through excessive engine revving, sounding horns or playing music

