

Agenda Item 17.

TITLE	Council Plan Performance Monitoring – Follow Up
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 12 July 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Performance monitoring against key indicators is an important element in the Council's drive for continuous improvement and better outcomes for residents of the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the follow-up performance management information set out in Annex A.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Committee considers the quarterly Council Plan Performance Monitoring report which sets out performance against key indicators. The Committee regularly requests additional information which is circulated outside the meeting. This report contains the additional information circulated after the meeting on 31 May 2016. The report allows Members to discuss the additional information provided and to decide whether further information or investigation is required.

Background

At its meeting on 31 May 2016, the Committee considered the Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance Monitoring report. The report highlighted 66 key indicators which were broken down as 52 Green, 11 Amber and 3 Red.

Members asked for further information on a number of indicators. The additional information is set out at Annex A for Members to discuss.

Analysis of Issues

Members are requested to consider Annex A and determine whether it contains issues requiring further consideration and inclusion in the Work Programme for 2016/17.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	NA	NA
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

List of Background Papers

None

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Follow-up Information Requested by the Committee relating to the Performance Monitoring Report - Q4 2015/16

Minute Extract - 31 May 2016	Answer Provided
<p>Agenda page 18 - % Care Proceedings completed in 2015/16 within 26 weeks of application – Members queried the value of the indicator which was influenced by the actions of partner organisations which were outside the Council’s control.</p>	<p>The Children and Families Act 2016 introduced an amendment to the Children Act 1989 stating that Public Law Care Proceedings should be completed within 26 weeks of application. This is an important target which aims to minimise unnecessary delay in making vital decisions about the future of some of our most vulnerable children. Whilst the Local Authority does not have full control over performance against this target (it must comply with timetables set by the court) it is vital that the LA is aware of performance as the lead agency with responsibility for the protection of children, so that we can work in partnership to understand and remove barriers to timely decision-making. It is recommended that this target remains on the list of indicators in the Corporate Performance Monitoring Report in 16/17.</p>
<p>Agenda page 19 - % Looked After Children living within 20 miles of their home – Members requested further information on the actions being taken to achieve the indicator target.</p>	<p>We have ambitious plans to recruit local foster carers to provide safe and stable placements close to home to meet the needs of our looked after children.</p> <p>The recruitment strategy is being refreshed for 16/17, which will focus on particular children within the fostering service -- for example, specific recruitment for some older children and sibling groups. The fostering service must recruit foster carers who can offer permanence for mid age-range children.</p> <p>There is also further action underway to consider the retention and development of existing carers. We will, where appropriate, welcome back some of our young people who are placed more than 20 miles away and encourage, where appropriate, step-down from residential resources. The “Home for Good” recruitment is delivering new carers – five new foster carer assessments are currently underway.</p>
<p>Agenda page 31 – Reducing the education gap at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 – Members asked for further information on the impact of the new Ofsted regime and the implications for the</p>	<p>It should be noted that in most areas WBC’s vulnerable pupils attain <i>better</i> than their national peers. Performance gaps appear because (a) in a minority of cases that isn’t the case and (b) WBC’s majority pupils do better than their peers to an even greater extent than the vulnerable pupils do.</p> <p>So we have broadly an issue of differential over-performance rather than underperformance as such. The impact of Ofsted in WBC is that more schools have maintained or gained</p>

Minute Extract - 31 May 2016	Answer Provided
Council if the education gap did not narrow.	<p>“good” judgements under the 2015 inspection framework than have lost good judgements. In two recent cases of downgrading, performance gaps were cited as an issue however.</p> <p>The reputation of the council relies in the first place on the % of good or better schools, which is above benchmarks and improved over the past year in Wokingham. Other factors are the number of schools in special measures, which has increased (a negative), and the council’s use of statutory powers, which has increased (a positive). Performance gaps are the most significant pupil performance area: this remains a priority.</p>
<p>Agenda page 32/33 - % of schools with a current Ofsted rating of “good” or better – Members requested an update on the implications for local schools of the Government’s recent policy changes on the forced academisation of schools.</p>	<p>Members will be aware that the national policy has been clarified in terms of retaining the aspiration for all schools to become academies, whilst removing the shorter-term requirement for good schools to convert. Implications for local schools are a matter of speculation. The starting point is that a greater proportion of WBC schools are good or outstanding than is the case nationally. There has been an increase in that proportion since September and the new Ofsted framework that came in then.</p> <p>Therefore the primary implications of the policy relate to very few Wokingham schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools in special measures are now required to become sponsored academies. The implication in any such cases is about the work required to identify the appropriate sponsor. Such schools experience changes in governance as a result of the change, and their special measures status, and its implication for the LA’s reputation, is removed upon the change to academy status. • Schools with results rendering them vulnerable to “coasting” (below national average) judgements by DfE might be subject to academy orders if they are unable to convince the Regional Schools Commissioner of the effectiveness of their improvement plans. This is complicated by the new curriculum and assessment arrangements for 2016 making longitudinal judgements less predictable or reliable. • Ofsted has no “coasting” category – that is a DfE matter – but inspections now place greater emphasis on pupil progress. Key Stage two outcomes for Wokingham are well above national for attainment (this has seen our schools do well in the past), but overall slightly below national for progress in 2015, so there is potential vulnerability. Despite that, Ofsted

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	<p>performance has overall been positive under the new regime as noted above. Secondary schools' progress measures are very strong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools requiring improvement were not exempted from enforced academisation, which might therefore remain a pressure for the small and reducing number of such schools in Wokingham. <p>It remains the case that the 2016 White Paper and Education and Adoptions Act have raised schools' awareness of the academisation issue, with a sense that this is a national direction of travel which might not ultimately be resisted. The council's Executive Committee has adopted a broadly supportive stance to this, albeit with questions about resource implications. WBC is working with schools to ensure their clear understanding of the salient issues and processes, so that they and we are able to make the right decisions. The Lead Member has written to the Secretary of State setting out the Council's stance and concerns about resourcing.</p>
<p>Agenda page 37 – Kgs of residual household waste per household per annum – Members requested further information on the factors underpinning the reduction in wood recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015/16 there has been a 16% increase in the WBC's HWRC tonnage, and the increase in HWRC residual tonnage is greater than the increase in HWRC non-residual tonnage. The tonnage increase is partly due to a greater WBC patronage at Smallmead in 2015/16, but mainly due to increased volumes delivered to the HWRCs by the public. In Qtr. 1 & 2 of 2014/15, approximately half of the wood that was collected at the HWRCs was able to be sent for recycling. However, in 2015/16 to date all wood has been sent to energy recovery/biomass, and therefore is not currently contributing to recycling performance. The move away from wood recycling is a nationwide response to a present lack of demand for the recycled product. Although recovery is of course preferable to landfill (both economically and environmentally), the councils have requested that the contractor continues to prioritise recycling options at the HWRC where possible.
<p>Agenda page 38 - % of household waste reused, recycled and composted – Members requested further information on the options under consideration to increase recycling</p>	<p>This reduction reflects a national picture of declining recycling rates and there is evidence to suggest that there is a strong correlation with the country emerging from a declining economy. The Council is far from complacent about this and is working hard to increase recycling, especially on new developments and multi occupancies (flats). A Task and Finish Group has been established to look at, amongst other things, how we can increase recycling. Given that the main source of our overall recycling rate comes from the kerbside</p>

Minute Extract - 31 May 2016	Answer Provided
<p>rates, the operation of the permit scheme at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and the anecdotal evidence that plastics were being separated at the Bracknell HWRC.</p>	<p>the changes at the HWRCs are not expected to have a significant effect on this indicator but we will monitor the effects and report back if this is not the case. The anecdotal evidence around removing plastics at the HWRCs evolves around the bag splitting trials which continues and is another way of extracting as much material as possible for the residual waste stream. This process removes plastic bottles / paper/card and all other materials we have recycling outlets for.</p>