

# Agenda Item 88.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Public and Member Questions</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 30 May 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the checks and balances which ensure that the Council and its partners make and implement effective decisions for all the residents of the Borough. Questions submitted to the Executive and Council give an indication of issues of interest and concern. These issues may generate review topics for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee consider the list of questions set out at Annex A and determine whether any of the issues raised should be considered for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

At its meeting on 31 May 2016, the Committee considered a report containing suggestions for improving the Overview and Scrutiny process. One of the suggestions related to the monitoring of questions submitted to the Council's Executive and Council.

Members agreed that regular monitoring reports be submitted to the Management Committee. Details of questions submitted to recent meetings are set out in the report.

## Background

At its meeting on 31 May 2016, the Committee considered a report containing a number of suggestions aimed at improving the Overview and Scrutiny process and developing greater public interest and involvement. One of the suggestions related to the monitoring of questions submitted to the Executive and full Council meetings.

Members and residents regularly ask questions at the Executive and Council meetings. These questions indicate areas of interest and concern and may generate ideas for Overview and Scrutiny investigation. The Committee agreed to consider regular monitoring reports on the questions submitted. Annex A contains details of the public and Member questions raised at recent meetings.

## Analysis of Issues

Members are requested to consider the questions set out in Annex A and to determine whether it contains issues requiring further consideration and inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18.

## 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 relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### List of Background Papers

None

<b>Contact</b> Neil Carr	<b>Service</b> Governance and Improvement Services
<b>Telephone No</b> 0118 974 6058	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk">neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date</b> 18 May 2017	<b>Version No.</b> 1

## Executive Meeting on 30 March 2017

- **Question from Prue Bray to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

### Question

Why the lack of consultation with residents on the proposed relocation of Wokingham Library?

- **Question from Imogen Shepherd-Dubey to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

### Question re Wokingham Library

Why was this proposal kept secret from many Wokingham Borough Members until now?

- **Question from Clive Jones to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

### Question

How much have you just spent on updating the existing Wokingham Library?

- **Question from Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

### Question

Will the Elevate Hub be included in the proposal for the New Library site?

- **Question from Guy Grandison to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

### Question

One of the major issues that has been raised with me again recently has been inconsiderate and sometimes illegal parking around our local schools such as Loddon and Hawkedon with yellow lines being ignored. Could you explain how Civil Parking enforcement will help put a stop to inconsiderate parking around our local Schools?

- **Question from Michael Jones to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

### Question

Regarding the re-development of Gorse Ride South, given that Council documentation shows major concern for residents for the lack of certainty of this project, why is there no firm commitment for the ability to continue the project after phase one and the monies required for completion should surely be allocated before commencement?

- **Question from Peter Must to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

### Question

Since the proposed relocation of Wokingham Library, probably the major public community facility in the town, is posited on an improved service for residents, is it not vital to consult local people to discover their views on the proposal, a measure that

could be achieved by for example amending the Recommendation to read: 1) that a public consultation be held about the proposal to relocate Wokingham Library to a new building on the Carnival Phase II site: 2) that any proposal to relocate the Library be then submitted to the Executive by the Executive Member for Resident Services, with a summary of the responses to the consultation, together with a full impact assessment and detailed business case?

- **Question from Keith Malvern to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

**Question re Proposed Relocation of Wokingham Library**

The first time I was aware of this proposal was when the Executive agenda was published last Wednesday although the Town Council and local Members were made aware of this on the 22nd of February - more than a month ago. Have you had any response from the Town Council or local Members to give support to the view expressed at the start of the report that this proposal will offer better access and parking to existing users of the library, and will allow them to combine visits with other activities.

**Council Meeting on 18 May 2017**

- **Question from Shahid Younis to the Executive Member for Children's Services**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member update the Council on her work to secure fairer funding for the Borough's schools?

- **Question from Charles Margetts to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member provide an update on the start of the Northern Distributor Road at Coppid Beech?

- **Question from UllaKarin Clark to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member tell me what is being done to produce a parking strategy for Wokingham Borough?

- **Question from Tim Holton to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Development**

**Question**

What steps is the Executive Member taking to ensure that the Borough's businesses are not unduly affected by the proposed changes to business rates?

- **Question from Philip Mirfin to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member provide an update on the development of the Winnersh Relief Road and its junction with the Northern Distributor Road at Reading Road?

- **Question from John Jarvis to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member tell me whether the Council's application for Civil Parking Enforcement has been received by the Department for Transport?

- **Question from Michael Firmager to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member explain the implications for Wokingham Borough of the Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper?

- **Question from Chris Smith to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance**

**Question**

Could the Executive Member for Finance explain what the negative revenue support grant is and how it is affecting this Council?

- **Question from Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

What is the reason for the delay in delivering the Winnersh Relief Road (and all of its ancillary bits (such as Lower Earley Way Expansion) which is sorely needed for relief of the Reading Road and Winnersh Crossroads Chaos (which seems to be almost a car park at times) and the increase in cost of the project (which seems to be not included as a separate budget lines of the MTFP)?

- **Question from Imogen Shepherd-DuBey to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Question**

At the moment, the volunteers who give up their time and skills to be School Governors are expected to attend meetings at training at Shute End and pay for parking. While they have the option to claim the parking charges off the schools, most will not as our schools are already being starved of funding. This seems utterly wrong to ask these volunteers to pay for the privilege of being a school governor. Why are we charging these parking fees to these volunteers and surely it is within the Council's ability to provide 'one-off' permits for those attending these kinds of meetings or volunteer training at Shute End?

- **Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration the following question:**

**Question**

Can the Executive Member responsible please advise what is the current status of the WBC Grazeley Garden Village Submission for 15,000 Houses in that area?

- **Question from Guy Grandison to the Executive Member for Resident Services**

**Question**

I went into Lower Earley Library last weekend and was impressed by the new facilities that had been installed, could you tell me if this has increased usage at Lower Earley Library and our other borough libraries?

- **Question from Susan Tyldesley to the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration**

**Question**

Under what circumstances can Wokingham Borough Council officers agree at the pre-planning stage to a planning application for a quarry and cement factory to proceed in advance of the new Central & Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals & Waste Plan that is currently being considered?

I ask the question because one of the stated aims of the new Minerals and Waste Plan is that... 'all the sites will be considered holistically across the whole Plan area to ensure the best strategy can be achieved.'... I am unclear as to how this could actually be achieved if agreement has already been given in principle to an individual planning application that should evidently be part of the bigger regional consideration.