

# Agenda Item 29.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Review of Delivery Options for the Highways and Transport Service</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 7 September 2015
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment

<b>OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY</b>
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A high quality and cost effective highways and transport service
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<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Note the progress of the project;</li><li>2) Consider lines of enquiry or requests for further information to Officers in advance of a more detailed report to the November meeting.</li></ol> |
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<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>
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The review is continuing to make progress and will report back again in November 2015 to this committee.
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## Background

The Highways and Transport Service is delivered jointly through the Wokingham Highway Alliance. The Alliance is an informal partnership between WSP, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) and Wokingham Borough Council. Both WSP and BBLP deliver services through term contracts. Both contracts started in April 2008 and have terms of 10 years with up to a 5 year extension.

## Analysis of Issues

A project group has been set-up to review the options for delivery of the service post April 2018. A report to this committee in March 2015 set out the objectives of the review and the primary options for delivery post 2015.

The review has made less progress since March than had originally been anticipated primarily due to the head of service having to take time off sick immediately following the March O&S meeting.

In July the review team sent a brief to a number of consultants seeking proposals for supporting the team. As a result of this exercise the team have now appointed 481 Solution's John Nicholson to support the process. John has considerable experience working in both the private and public sectors and has assisted a number of other authorities in making these key service delivery decisions.

The team now has agreed the outline of the review and will follow 6 steps to help reach a decision. The steps are taken from the The Commissioning Academy framework document ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/70114/Framework-Document-for-Commissioning-Academy.ppt](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70114/Framework-Document-for-Commissioning-Academy.ppt) ).

1. What's the question?
2. Get to know and work with your customers
3. Define the outcome and priorities
4. What will it look like?
5. How will you get there?
6. Measuring the impact

The team has begun the process of evidence gathering that will inform the stages above. It is anticipated that this will be largely complete by the end of September.

We will bring a further update report to this committee in November.

The programme of review is expected to be largely complete by early 2016 with a view of reporting to executive before the end of this financial year. This allows us complete flexibility with regards to options for service delivery post 2018 as it would allow us the time to carry out any procurement if that is deemed necessary.

## 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		No financial implication arising from this report.
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

None

### List of Background Papers

The Commissioning Academy framework document ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/70114/Framework-Documents-for-Commissioning-Academy.ppt](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70114/Framework-Documents-for-Commissioning-Academy.ppt) ).

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