



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

**Annual Reports
2018-19**

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**Foreword by Councillor Philip Houldsworth,
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Management Committee**

Welcome to the Annual Reports of Wokingham Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2018/19. The reports describe how the four Committees reviewed the delivery of key policies and services and scrutinised issues of importance raised by local residents.

The 2017/18 Annual Report highlighted a number of major challenges facing the Council. Most of these challenges remain. In 2019 the Government will undertake a Comprehensive Spending Review meaning short term financial uncertainty. It is likely, however, that the outcome of the spending review will be continuing downward pressure on the Council's budget. At the same time the Council is likely to face continuing demand-led pressures in service areas such as Adult and Children's services. The Council will also face challenges in relation to the delivery of new housing and supporting infrastructure such as roads, schools and community facilities. Finally, uncertainty relating to Brexit will continue to cast a shadow over the entire country.

In order to meet these challenges the Council will have to be more innovative and enterprising, ensuring that its decisions focus on the key priorities as set out in the new Borough Plan. Overview and Scrutiny aims to ensure that decisions are effective and transparent, delivering value for money for local Council Tax payers. Overview and Scrutiny also monitors decisions made by partners such as the NHS, the police and, from 2019, the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Following the House of Commons Select Committee report on Scrutiny in 2017, the Government has published new statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will assess the implications of the guidance during 2019 with a view to strengthening the Council's approach to Scrutiny and developing the skills and knowledge of Members. The key message from the Select Committee report was the importance of organisational culture in developing an effective Scrutiny process. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to demonstrate their value by making recommendations for improvement which enhance the quality of life for all the Borough's residents.

**Philip Houldsworth,
March 2019**

SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview and Scrutiny is a key element in the system of checks and balances which ensure that Wokingham Borough Council and its partners make and implement effective decisions for the benefit of the residents of the Borough.

The Council's Executive is empowered to take decisions within the financial and policy framework set by the full Council. Non-Executive Members of the Council are appointed to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review those decisions and the way they impact on the performance of key services.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny function is delivered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and three Committees focussing on Children's Services, Community and Corporate Services and Health issues. Overview and Scrutiny Committees make recommendations for improvement to full Council and Executive and to partner organisations. As the Council faces continuing financial challenges and increasing demand for key services, Overview and Scrutiny Members continue to make recommendations for improvement to the Executive and to partner organisations.

The report sets out the range of issues and submissions considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2018/19, including:

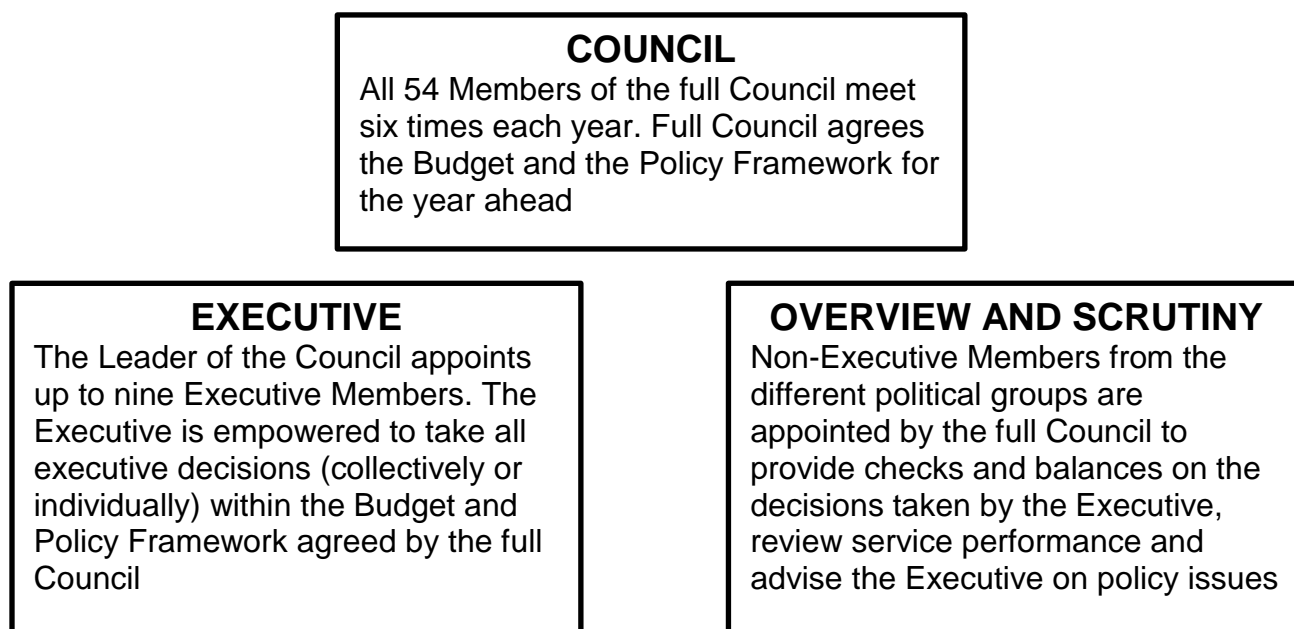
- Implementation of the Council's 21st Century organisational change programme.
- Wokingham town centre regeneration and Market Place improvements.
- Review of the findings of Ofsted inspections of schools and Children's Services.
- Review of the Council's Grounds Maintenance service.
- Performance of health services, including hospitals, GPs and the ambulance service and proposals for closer working between health and social care.
- Effectiveness of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership and local policing.
- Review of the quarterly Council Plan Performance Management reports.

Members of the public are welcome to submit issues and questions for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny and to attend meetings which are usually held in the evening at the Council offices in Shute End, Wokingham.

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Wokingham Borough Council is a large, complex organisation with a thousand employees and an annual budget in excess of £100m. The Council's Vision is to make the Borough "a great place to live, an even better place to do business". The Council makes major strategic decisions which affect the long-term future of the area and its communities. It also makes decisions on a daily basis which affect the lives of some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents. In order to ensure that the Council spends public money wisely and makes well informed decisions about key services it is essential that an effective system of checks and balances is in place.

The Council's Executive is empowered to take decisions within the financial and policy framework set by the full Council. Non-Executive Members of the Council (representing each of the political groups) are appointed to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review those decisions and the performance of key services. The relationship between Council, Executive and Overview and Scrutiny is illustrated in the diagram below:

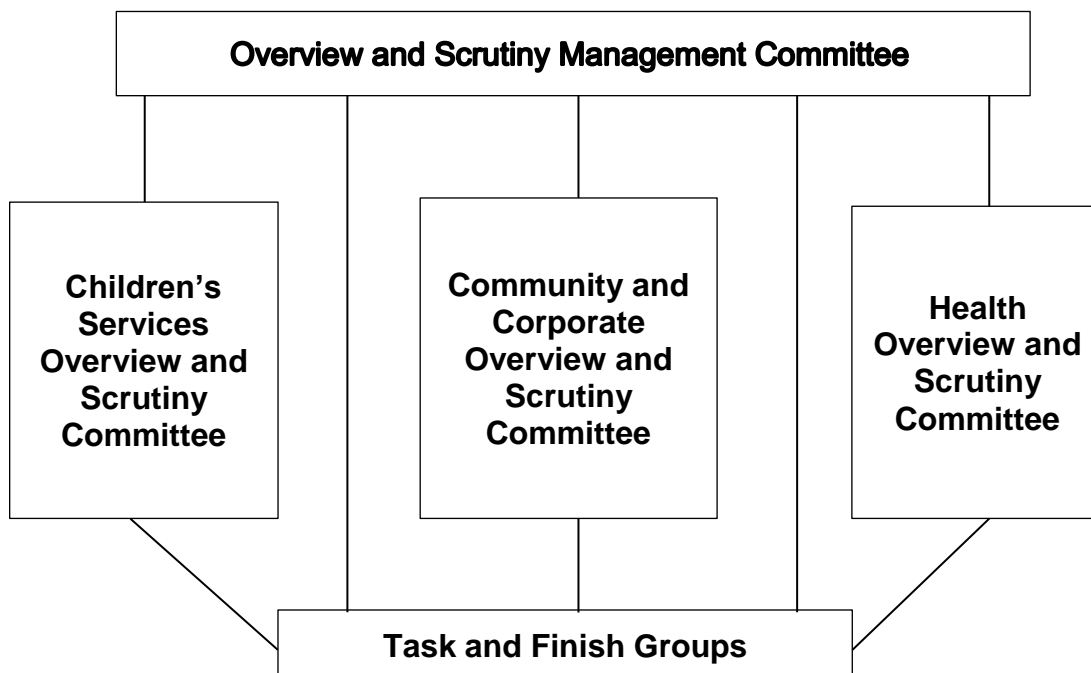


In order to deliver the Overview and Scrutiny function the Council has established the following Committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – responsible for overseeing the Overview and Scrutiny function and developing an annual work programme for each of the Committees.
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – responsible for scrutiny of services relating to schools, safeguarding and child protection, looked after children and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

- Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - responsible for scrutiny of Council services, crime reduction and community safety and flood risk management.
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – responsible for scrutiny of local NHS bodies, public health arrangements and the work of the Local Healthwatch service.

The Committees consider issues at their regular meetings or by setting up time-limited Task and Finish Groups. The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny structure is illustrated below:



Four Principles of Effective Scrutiny

- Constructive “critical friend” challenge to the Executive and external service providers;
- Channelling the “voice” of the public and representing all the Borough’s residents;
- Members reaching bipartisan conclusions based on the weight of evidence;
- Driving continuous improvement which promotes community wellbeing and quality of life.

Limitations

Overview and Scrutiny is not about the investigation of minor matters or individual complaints. The Council has a separate corporate Complaints procedure which is used to investigate individual complaints about services. Similarly, Overview and Scrutiny does not look at quasi-judicial matters such as planning or licensing issues. Finally, Overview and Scrutiny is not used for raising issues of a party political nature as these matters can be addressed through debate at full Council meetings.

SECTION 3

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



**Councillor Philip Houldsworth, Chairman
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

The Management Committee has two key roles. Firstly, to develop and oversee the work programmes of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Secondly to consider specific issues of concern to local residents. Issues considered during 2018/19 included the 21st Century Council programme, the new Borough Plan, Grounds Maintenance, Waste and Recycling and the potential impact of Brexit on the Borough. The Committee also considered the "call-in" of an Executive decision relating to the removal of the Council's School Crossing Patrol service.

As we move into the new Municipal Year the Management Committee will continue to focus on initiatives to strengthen the Overview and Scrutiny process. This will include greater emphasis on pre-decision scrutiny and measures to achieve greater involvement by residents and local community. The Committee will also sponsor further training to develop Members' knowledge and skills, for example in relation to Budget scrutiny.

The Committee will consider the implications of the Government's new statutory guidance and will monitor national developments which have implications for Overview and Scrutiny. In 2018, for example, the review of Governance at Kensington and Chelsea (post Grenfell) and the Best Value Inspection of Northamptonshire County Council both highlighted lessons to be learned by Scrutiny Members. In relation to the latter, in 2019/20 the Council's Scrutiny Members will carry out a detailed review of the Council's budget and the budget setting process, for the first time in many years.

For most of 2018/19 Municipal Year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee was chaired by Parry Batth. I would like to thank Parry and the Members, Officers, residents and community groups who contributed their time, effort and knowledge during the year.

Philip Houldsworth

Remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee oversees the Council's Scrutiny function and is responsible for developing and co-ordinating the work programmes of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Membership

Councillor Philip Houldsworth (Chairman).

Councillors Malcolm Richards (Vice-Chairman), Andy Croy, Lindsay Ferris, Guy Grandison, Kate Haines, Mike Haines, Ken Miall, Ian Pittock, Bill Soane, and Shahid Younis.

Substitute Members: Councillors Alistair Auty, Rachel Burgess, Carl Doran, John Jarvis, Clive Jones and Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey.

Officer contact: Neil Carr neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk

Highlights from the Year

Consideration of 'Call-In'

The Committee considered a "Call-In" of the decision taken by the Executive relating to the proposed replacement of the School Crossing Patrol service with fixed crossing facilities. Having considered evidence from Members, Officers and service users the Committee decided to request that the Executive review the original decision. The Committee's request was based on inadequate consultation and equality impact assessments and a lack of an underpinning business case for the proposal. Having considered the Committee's recommendations the Executive decided to confirm its original decision.

Performance Management

The Committee received the quarterly report setting out details of the Council's performance against a number of financial, staffing and operational/project indicators. The Committee made representations about the delay in receiving the performance data and welcomed the earlier circulation of the information and development of the Members' intranet site. Members used the quarterly data to probe on areas of underperformance and select issues for more in-depth scrutiny reviews.

21st Century Council

The Committee considered updates on the Council's 21st Century Council change programme and sought further clarification on timescales, delivery of savings and the impact on staff. Members noted that the original 18 month programme had experienced serious delays and expressed concern about the achievement of savings and the number of interim managers and consultants employed by the Council during this period of change.

Borough Plan

The Committee received progress reports on the development of the new Borough Plan. Members scrutinised the process for developing the plan and the key priorities identified following public consultation. The Committee also considered the key performance indicators which would enable scrutiny of progress against the plan.

Grounds Maintenance

Following a significant number of complaints about the 2018 grass cutting programme the Committee was requested to carry out a review of the Council's Grounds Maintenance contract. The Committee issued a "Call for Evidence" and interviewed key Members, Officers and the Council's contractor (Tivoli). Following the review the Committee made a number of recommendations to the Executive relating to the resourcing of the Grounds Maintenance contract (staff and equipment), improved communications and networks with Town and Parish Councils and community groups. The Executive accepted the Committee's recommendations in full and the Committee undertook to monitor progress during the 2019 grass cutting season. The Committee then received a further report which included an Action Plan for the 2019 grass cutting programme based on the Committee's recommendations.

Waste and Recycling

The Committee reviewed progress against the Council's plans to achieve the 50% waste and reuse target included in the 2008 EU Waste Framework Directive. The Committee were informed that the introduction of food waste recycling (April 2019) would add 7% to the Council's overall recycling figure (at that time around 40%). In addition, the collection of pots, tubs, trays and cartons in addition to an increased number of glass banks and reduced levels of waste contamination would add an extra 4% to 5%. The Committee welcomed the progress against the 50% target and requested a further update in October 2019.

Member Training

The Committee recognises the importance of ongoing training and development to ensure that Members' skills and knowledge are constantly upgraded. In June 2018 a training session was held which examined key elements of effective Overview and Scrutiny including preparing for meetings, questioning techniques and the development of key lines of enquiry. The session considered the elements of an effective Scrutiny Review and Members used the learning points in delivering the subsequent review of the Grounds Maintenance service.

Work Programme 2019/20

The Committee will scrutinise the following issues in 2019/20:

- Evidence from the Leader, Executive Members and the Chief Executive on priorities, policy development and performance of key services;
- The 21st Century Council change programme;
- Progress on delivery of the four Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and the Local Plan Update;
- Operation and performance of Council-owned companies;
- Compliance with the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act and the Council's commitment to effective consultation;
- Effectiveness of the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Overview and Scrutiny Member training and support.

The Committee will also consider adding items to the Work Programme as a result of consultation with residents, community groups and partner organisations.

SECTION 4

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Ken Miall, Chairman
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee's work is split almost equally between children's social work and educational attainment. As well as monitoring all the recommendations put in place by earlier Committees and Task and Finish Groups, the new work that has come its way is outlined below. This is in addition to the normal performance monitoring that we do at each meeting. This keeps the Committee in touch with how the service and schools, especially the ones that have had Ofsted inspections, are performing.

We also monitor what the Service is doing to help schools requiring improvement or schools causing concern to improve. This is now more complex, with the advent of new academies and free schools, as we have little control over what they do, yet the Local Authority is still accountable for their educational outcomes.

The Committee has a standing part 2 session to review schools causing concern and at risk of underperforming. Local ward Members are invited to attend the meetings and take part in the discussions.

All members of the Committee and their substitutes are invited to attend training at the start of the first meeting each year as Children's Services is an area that is constantly changing and we are keen to keep up to date with new legislation and service developments. Training is also arranged during the year if specific needs arise.

The Committee's membership changed in September, with some new Members joining the Committee. At the end of the year the Committee welcomed a parent governor representative to take part in the Committee.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee, and the substitutes for their commitment to and interest in the work that we do, and for all the positive and genuinely useful contributions that they have made.

Ken Miall

Remit of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny and assisting with policy development in relation to services for children and young people. This includes schools, early years' settings and children's centres, safeguarding and child protection, children in care and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Membership:

Councillors: Ken Miall (Chairman), Kate Haines (Vice-Chairman), Prue Bray, Jenny Cheng, Emma Hobbs, Philip Houldsworth and Graham Howe

Parent Governor: Darryl Ward

Substitute Members:

Councillors Laura Blumenthal and David Hare

Representatives of the Church of England Diocese and the Roman Catholic Diocese are also able to attend meetings of the Committee when Education issues are being considered. At the moment these posts are vacant.

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Highlights from the Year

Performance Management

At each meeting the Committee reviewed the performance of Children's Services in relation to Key Performance Indicators. These indicators demonstrate the contribution made by the Service to achieving key Council priorities relating to looking after vulnerable people, improving educational attainment, focussing on every child achieving their potential and ensuring high safeguarding standards. Members continue to challenge the Service, asking for the most up to date information to be presented.

The Service underwent many changes in the senior leadership team in the past year. The Committee continued to work with various leaders and welcomes the new permanent appointments as a positive step towards more stability in the Service.

School Performance Data

The Committee received regular School Performance data reports and summaries of recent School Ofsted reports. The Committee noted that many schools had sustained their Ofsted inspection results over the previous year but also challenged the performance of schools that were marked 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. The Service was reminded that the Council's ambition is for all schools within the Borough to have an Ofsted rating of 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The Committee noted high achievements and the fact that, on the whole, Wokingham schools continued to perform well, with most performance measures being above the national average.

The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), who is responsible for monitoring the performance of academy schools in the Borough, has been invited to attend a meeting. The RSC is due to attend a meeting on 25 March 2019. Members are looking forward to the opportunity to ask him about the performance of our academy schools.

Educational Psychology Service

The Committee received an update and was informed that the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group intended to make a bid to become a trailblazer for the Mental Health Teams. The proposal included setting up mental health teams in schools, with a psychologist lead in each team to cover low to medium level mental health issues.

Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) Annual Report

The Committee received the annual report which contained a comprehensive review of the work undertaken by the Board during the year. The Committee endorsed the new strategic priorities and the Strategic Delivery Action Plan. The Committee noted the good work undertaken by CPB, in particular the regular attendance of the Children In Care Council to CPB meetings.

Childcare Sufficiency Strategy

The Committee received an update and was pleased to note that there has been good progress of the strategy and that providers were able to meet the local demand for Early Years places.

Primary Place Strategy

The Committee was informed of the planned new schools. In line with the planning strategy, the Council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the Borough. The Committee will continue to monitor the strategy to make sure the Local Authority is fulfilling its statutory requirements.

Children's Emotional and Mental Health Services

Members were invited to join a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2018 to review the service provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The mental health service provided for children and young people in the Borough was explained in detail. The Committee was informed that there is an emphasis on early help and prevention. Members challenged the long waiting lists for autism assessment and encouraged officers to undertake the necessary work towards reducing it.

Social Worker Recruitment and Retention

The Committee received verbal updates on the continued effort to retain and attract more Social Workers to the Borough. A Task and Finish Group has been set up to look at ways in which to promote Social Workers recruitment and retention, the Committee will receive the final report when this is available.

Youth Offending Service Annual Report

The report demonstrated that although there has been an increase in re-offending rates (due to two prolific re-offenders), Wokingham Borough scores well below the national average for first time entrants. Members noted the good work being undertaken by the Service in this area of work.

Data on Demand for Services

A comprehensive report was received, which highlighted an increase in the demand for social care services. It was not possible to ascertain the exact reason for the increase, and it was noted that the numbers have always fluctuated. It is important to identify where help is needed earlier to avoid an escalation of needs.

Ofsted Focussed Inspection on the Front Door Including Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Committee discussed the results of the Ofsted inspection and the improvement plan. The main area of concern was the need to improve MASH. Members were informed that the service has already started conversations with the Police to address the issues which were identified. The Committee will continue to monitor the improvement plan.

Quality Assurance Framework/Annual Quality Assurance

Due to changes in senior leadership this report was received at a late stage by the Committee. The report demonstrated the performance of children's social care in the Borough. The Committee will continue to receive update reports.

Innovations Programme

The Committee received a very useful presentation which explained in detail how the Innovations Programme works in practice. This is a safeguarding programme which was developed by practitioners and uses a model called Signs of Safety.

SEND Strategy

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy was discussed at the 22 January 2019 meeting. The strategy aims to alleviate the pressure identified in the High Needs Block due to the continuous increase in demand for specialist school places. The Committee endorsed the strategy which includes proposals to expand existing specialist places within the Borough and bidding for a new special school in the Borough.

Work Programme 2019/20

The Committee will scrutinise the following issues in 2019/20:

- Delivery of safeguarding services, including staff recruitment and retention;
- Key Children's Services performance indicators and major projects;
- School performance, Ofsted reports and schools causing concern;
- Feedback from the annual conversation with Ofsted about Children's Services;
- Provision of sufficient school places across the Borough;
- Narrowing the gap in educational attainment for children from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Impact of the Council's 21st Century Council change programme and the Continuous Improvement programme;
- Key strategic initiatives such as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
- Impact of demographic and legislative changes.

SECTION 5

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Guy Grandison, Chairman Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

During the past year the Committee has continued its focus on the delivery of Council services to ensure that they provide value for money for the Borough's Council Tax payers. Executive Members and Officers were invited to attend meetings of the Committee to give evidence and answer questions on priorities and performance.

The Committee undertook a review of the Wokingham Market Place highways improvement project and invited residents, shops, businesses, community and disability groups to provide questions and feedback to the Committee, to assist with improved delivery of future major infrastructure projects.

The Committee considered a range of other issues during the year including flood prevention, community safety and local policing, town centre regeneration projects, capital and revenue monitoring and a range of highways issues such as civil parking enforcement and a highways scrutiny request from Finchampstead Parish Council.

In developing its work programme the Committee is keen to ensure that the "voice" of local residents and community groups plays a bigger part in its deliberations. The Committee recognises that involving residents, community groups and local "experts" in Overview and Scrutiny reduces the risk of a partisan approach as Members are able to hear directly from those stakeholders whose interests they are representing. The Committee will continue to promote greater public involvement in Overview and Scrutiny over the coming year and will share any relevant learning with the other Committees.

I thank the Members of the Committee, Officers, residents and other stakeholders who took part in our meetings for their valuable contributions during the year.

Guy Grandison

Remit of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of internal Council operations and partnership working across the Borough. It also has responsibilities under the Police and Justice Act 2006 which involves oversight of the operation of the Borough's Community Safety Partnership. The Committee is also responsible for the scrutiny of flood risk management.

Membership

Councillor Guy Grandison (Chairman).

Councillors Mike Haines (Vice-Chairman), Rachel Burgess, Clive Jones, Dianne King, David Sleight, Bill Soane and Shahid Younis.

Substitute Members: Councillors Andy Croy, Carl Doran, Graham Howe, Malcolm Richards and Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey.

Officer contact: Callum Wernham: callum.wernham@wokingham.gov.uk

Highlights from the Year

Scrutiny Request from Finchampstead Parish Council – Condition of Footways, Kerbsides and Road Signs

The Committee received a scrutiny request from Finchampstead Parish Council, relating to the condition of footways, kerbsides and road signs in the Parish. The Committee asked for comments from other Town and Parish Councils with their experiences of similar issues. The scrutiny request highlighted a number of issues including road furniture being degraded over time, blocked gullies which could lead to flooding and dirty road signs which were not fit for purpose. The Committee referred these issues to the Borough Parish Liaison Forum for discussion by a range of Borough and Town/Parish representatives, the outcomes of which were fed back to the Committee. The Committee subsequently received and welcomed an update, which outlined an action plan to address the issues raised.

Flood Prevention

The Committee considered an update on flooding issues during the winter of 2017/18 and the ongoing work to raise awareness and share information with partner organisations. Members asked questions relating to community engagement events, the asset register, dredging of rivers and the flood alleviation scheme for the River Loddon. Members welcomed more community engagement events with the public in the future regarding flood prevention.

Local Policing

The Committee received a briefing from Superintendent Shaun Virtue, the Local Area Police Commander, on local policing issues relating to the Bracknell and Wokingham Police Area. The briefing highlighted a number of key issues such as staff retention, assisting individuals suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia as well as looked after (and previously looked after) children, and dealing with knife crime in the Thames Valley. The Committee welcomed a closer working relationship with the Borough's partners, including the Thames Valley Police.

Local Fire Service

The Committee received an update from the Chief Fire Officer, Trevor Ferguson, on issues and works relating to the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS). The update gave details of the RBFRS's local response to the Grenfell incident, budget savings that had been (and were scheduled to be) achieved, and the two further tri-service stations that were due to be opened in 2020 and 2021. The Chief Fire Officer was supportive of the Council's Motion on sprinklers in new build schools (Motion 412), and encouraged the Committee and the wider Council to continue to provide support for the RBFRS both locally and through local MPs.

Wokingham Market Place Highways Improvement Project

The Committee received a briefing on the recently completed Market Place highways improvement project. The Committee sent out a 'call for questions', to gain the views of residents, businesses and shops, community groups, and disability advocacy and awareness groups on both the final completed works and the process of planning and carrying out the works. The issues raised at the meeting (both by Members and public submissions) included consultation and engagement, reasons behind the delays to the project, disabled parking bays and colour gradients of the paving surface. The Committee recommended that an up-to-date list of disability advocacy and awareness groups be created to assist with consultation and engagement for future major infrastructure projects. The Committee asked that the final road safety audit and the final financial audit be submitted for scrutiny at a future meeting.

Civil Parking Enforcement

The Committee received an update on the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) strategy which went live in October 2017. The update gave details of recruitment issues, implementation of a digital permit system, and the areas of the Borough where the most penalties were issued. The Committee requested details of times of day that penalty notices were issued, and details of the contraventions that led to penalties being issued. Members of the Committee asked that an update be submitted to the Committee in the next municipal year.

Work Programme 2019-20

The Committee will scrutinise the following issues in 2019/20:

- Council Revenue and Capital Budget monitoring, including a Scrutiny review of the 2020/21 Budget proposals;
- Effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership and local policing arrangements;
- Wokingham Town Centre regeneration projects (including Financial Audits);
- The Council's relationship with the voluntary sector and Town/Parish Councils;
- Highways and Transport issues such as Civil Parking Enforcement, Car Parking Strategy, road maintenance and cycling facilities;
- Effectiveness of flood prevention measures.

SECTION 6

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Bill Soane, Chairman
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to focus on health and social care issues affecting the Borough's residents. The Committee worked closely with key health and social care service organisations, receiving briefings from Public Health, NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group and the South Central Ambulance Service.

The Committee has received regular updates on the work of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough, the independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of Wokingham Borough residents.

The Committee has sought to understand some of the challenges faced locally and nationally, and how these were being addressed, such as population growth, an increase in the number living with multiple, complex long term conditions and recruitment and retention within Primary Care.

I would like to thank the Committee members and substitutes for their work throughout their year. I would also like to thank Officers and external partners who have assisted the Committee in their work during the year.

Bill Soane

Remit of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) reviews and scrutinises matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Wokingham Borough. This includes acute and community health services, family and public health services and the work of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough. The Committee exercises powers conferred to it through the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. It also scrutinises social care services and other health related services jointly commissioned by the Council, health bodies and the voluntary sector.

Membership

Councillor Bill Soane (Chairman).

Councillors Kate Haines (Vice Chairman), Parry Batth (until January 2019), Jenny Cheng, Andy Croy, John Jarvis, Clive Jones, Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall and Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Substitute Members: Prue Bray, Rachel Burgess, Carl Doran, Mike Haines, Ian Pittock and Malcolm Richards

All attendees at HOSC meetings, including members of the public, may ask questions after each report/presentation is presented.

Officer contact: Madeleine Shopland madeleine.shopland@wokingham.gov.uk

Highlights from the Year

Children's Emotional and Mental Health Services

Officers informed the Committee of the draft emotional and mental health strategy which would run from 2018 to 2021 and was focused on universal and early help. The Committee asked about emotional wellbeing and mental health services provided to young children and were updated in particular on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Air Quality

The Committee received a briefing on air quality. Members asked questions regarding air quality monitoring in areas of the Borough including Wokingham Town Centre and Twyford Crossroads and were informed of the negative impact that air pollution could have on health.

Berkshire West Integrated Care System

The Committee considered an update on the Berkshire West Integrated Care System. An Integrated Care System (ICS) was one in which local NHS organisations (both commissioners and providers), often in partnership with local authorities, chose to take on clear collective responsibility for resources and population health, providing joined up, better coordinated care. Members were informed of how the ICS was operating in the Berkshire West area.

Berkshire West policy for Osteoarthritis, Primary Hip and Knee Replacement

The Committee was briefed on the Berkshire West policy for patients with osteoarthritis; primary hip and knee replacement, in response to a Member request for clarification

regarding the criteria for selection for surgery. An evidence based criteria had been developed to identify those patients most likely to benefit from surgery. The Committee was pleased to learn that approximately 75% of patients chose conservative methods to manage their condition such as exercise or weight loss as opposed to surgery.

Diabetes Prevention

The Committee was informed of the increasing prevalence of diabetes and the work being undertaken both locally and nationally to combat this. Members were advised of the Healthier You Programme, a joint ambition of the NHS Five Year Programme and Public Health's Evidence into Action. They noted progress made to November 2018 under the programme, nationally and at Berkshire West level.

South Central Ambulance Service

The Committee received an update on the work of South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and in particular performance and operations for the Wokingham area, how the ambulance service was working with other emergency services and how SCAS was working with the London Ambulance Service Trust to establish a partnership to look at potential efficiencies through projects such as joint procurement of vehicles. In addition Members were informed of how the Trust was addressing the recommendations of the Carter report 'Operational Productivity and Performance in English NHS Ambulance Trusts.'

Primary Care

NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group briefed the Committee on the challenges faced by primary care locally, at its January 2019 meeting, including increasing population numbers, the number of people with multiple complex long term conditions and recruitment. Members sought assurance regarding how the challenges identified were being met.

Suicide Prevention

At the Committee's January meeting, Members were updated on suicide prevention within the Borough, support for those bereaved by suicide and Berkshire-wide shared learning. Members asked questions in relation to self-harm rates and the provision of support services for young people who were bereaved by suicide.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough updated the Committee on its work at each meeting. Members also considered the Healthwatch Annual Report for 2017/18. During the year, Healthwatch submitted updates on a range of issues including visits to local extra care facilities and individual case studies. In addition the Committee was kept informed of the commissioning of the Healthwatch contract and contract award.

Work Programme 2019-20

The Committee will continue to scrutinise the following issues in 2019/20:

- Monitoring health and social care outcomes and the performance of the local NHS Foundation Trusts;
- Monitoring the work of the NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
- Reviewing progress on the integration of health and social care services.

SECTION 7

GETTING INVOLVED IN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Council is committed to making Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings accessible to all residents of the Borough. A key aim is to increase public involvement in the process and to remove barriers to participation.

Residents can get involved in Overview and Scrutiny by attending meetings - all Overview and Scrutiny meetings are open to the public and are held in the early evening to make attendance easier. In addition, copies of Agendas including reports to be considered are published five working days before each meeting and can be accessed on the Council's website:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings

Residents can also elect to receive automatic notification when new Overview and Scrutiny Agenda and Minutes are published.

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting includes a Public Question Time session which allows residents to raise issues of general interest and/or specific issues relating to the items under consideration.

Members of the public are also able to contribute to Scrutiny reviews by giving evidence either as an individual or as part of a community group. Residents can also request that a specific item is considered by Overview and Scrutiny as a review item. Residents can complete an online Scrutiny review suggestion form at:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/decisions/ask-for-a-scrutiny-review

During 2019/20 the Council will continue to use local and social media to raise awareness of issues coming before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to allow residents to provide comments and feedback.

The Council's Twitter feed is accessible here: [WokinghamBorough@WokinghamBC](https://twitter.com/WokinghamBC)

If you want to learn more about Overview and Scrutiny or want to discuss a specific issue, please contact Neil Carr, the Council's Scrutiny Officer:

by telephone: 0118 974 6058, or

by email: neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk or by post:

Democratic Services, Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN.

SECTION 8

DATES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2019/20

- **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

Wednesday 22 May 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7pm
Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 7pm
Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 7pm

- **Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 7pm
Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 7pm
Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 7pm
Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 7pm
Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7pm

- **Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 17 June 2019 at 7pm
Monday 2 September 2019 at 7pm
Monday 25 November 2019 at 7pm
Monday 13 January 2020 at 7pm
Monday 23 March 20120 at 7pm

- **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 3 June 2019 at 7pm
Monday 15 July 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 7pm
Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm
Monday 20 January 2020 at 7pm
Wednesday 4 March 2020 at 7pm