

# Agenda Item 53.

ITEM NO:

<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 11 January 2016
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment

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

A high quality and cost effective highways and transport service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to comment on progress of the review and to add any specific issues they would like to see addressed as part of the review.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The review is continuing to make progress and will report back again in early 2016 to this Committee.

## **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.

## **Review**

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. An update on progress of the project was presented to this committee in November 2015.

The project team is currently in the process of assessing an outline business case from the Council's current suppliers relating to an extension of the existing contracts.

This will be compared to an outline business case developed for other options to determine which option best fits with the Council's aspirations for future service delivery.

## Next Steps

The programme of review is expected to be largely complete by spring 2016 with a view of reporting to executive before the end of the 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	0	
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	0	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	0	

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

None

### Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

N/A

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