

Scrutiny Commission Work Programme

The following items will be considered as standing items: Capital and Revenue Financial Performance Reports (Quarterly), and Performance Report (Annually)






Last Updated:
17 April 2024

Item	Scrutiny Theme	Purpose	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder/ Lead Member	Pre or post decision?
May 2024 (tbc) - Private Briefing Session					
Adult Social Care Briefing	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To understand ASC spend with reference to anonymised case studies (joint session with Health Scrutiny Committee)	Paul Coe / Maria Shepherd	Adult Social Care and Health Integration	Scrutiny Commission Decision
21 May 2024					
Waste Strategy	<i>Policy Effectiveness</i>	To review the development of the Waste Strategy	Jon Winstanley / Kofi Adu-Gyamfi	Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity	Pre-decision
Review of SEND and the High Needs Block* (*To be reprogrammed)	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review current spend and transformation activity in this area	AnnMarie Dodds	Children, Education and Young People's Services	Scrutiny Commission Decision
24 September 2024					
Community Safety	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	Meeting in its capacity as West Berkshire Council's Crime and Disorder Committee, to receive a presentation from the Building Communities Together Partnership.	Supt Andy Penrith/ Nigel Lynn	Public Safety	Scrutiny Commission Decision
IT Project Management	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the Council's approach to managing major IT and identify lessons to be learned from recent projects (e.g., Care Director)	Andy Best / Melanie Best	Acting Leader; Strategy, Communications, Governance and Transformation	Post-decision
Covid and Recovery Task Group Report	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To present the Task Group's report	Gordon Oliver	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision
October 2024 (Special)					
Thames Water	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To understand how Thames Water is upgrading its water supply and foul water networks to support planned development and pollution incidents in West Berkshire and how the Environment Agency is holding the water company to account.	Karen Nelson (Thames Water) Dave Willis (Environment Agency)	Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity	Scrutiny Commission Decision
Section 19 Water Act Report on 2024 Flooding	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To review the findings of the report and understand lessons learned in terms of flood alleviation and river management authorities.	Jon Winstanley / Paul Bacchus	Climate Action, Recycling and Biodiversity	Pre-Decision
26 November 2024					
Attainment of Children on Free School Meals	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the reasons for the persistent gap in attainment between those on free school meals and other children living in West Berkshire and the measures to address this.	AnnMarie Dodds / Rose Carberry(?)	Children, Education and Young People's Services	Scrutiny Commission Decision

	Review of SEND and the High Needs Block* (*To be reprogrammed)	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To receive an update on spend and transformation activity in this area	AnnMarie Dodds	Children, Education and Young People's Services	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	Budget Headlines	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the emerging draft budget, budget consultation and expected government settlement.	Joseph Holmes	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-decision
February 2025 (Budget Scrutiny)						
	Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2025/26	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To consolidate the investments and borrowing strategy for the year ahead by detailing how and where the Council will invest and borrow in the forthcoming year, within a particular framework. This strategy is monitored throughout the year, with a mid-year report going to the Government and Ethics Committee as well as an annual report being presented to Members.	Joseph Holmes	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-Decision
	Medium Term Financial Strategy	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To set out the financial planning assumptions for future years and how these align these with the Council Strategy to ensure that the Council Strategy will be delivered. The MTFS highlights the overarching key issues facing the Council's finances as well as how there are many different scenarios and uncertainty concerning the future revenue streams for the Council in the future.	Joseph Holmes	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-Decision
	Capital Strategy. Financial Years 2025/26 to 2034/35	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To outline the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2025/26 to 2034/35 and the supporting funding framework, providing a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.	Joseph Holmes	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-Decision
	Revenue	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	Purpose: To consider and recommend to Council the 2025/26 Revenue Budget.	Joseph Holmes	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-Decision
13 March 2025						
	Libraries Service	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the performance of the Libraries Service and its funding model.	April Peberdy / Felicity Harrison	Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	Housing Task & Finish Group Terms of Reference	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To agree the terms of reference for the Housing Task and Finish Group.	Gordon Oliver	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision

Standing Items					
Quarterly Capital Financial Performance Report	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	Reports on the under or over spends against the Council's approved capital budget.	Joseph Holmes / Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-decision
Quarterly Revenue Financial Performance Report	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets.	Joseph Holmes / Melanie Ellis	Finance and Economic Development	Pre-decision
Performance Report (Annual)	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To provide assurance that the core business and council priorities for improvement measures in the Council Strategy 2019-23 are being managed effectively. To highlight successes and where performance has fallen below the expected level, present information on remedial action taken, and the impact of that action	Joseph Holmes / Catalin Bogos	Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships	Pre-decision

Council Strategy Priorities

-  Services We Are Proud Of
-  A Fairer West Berkshire with Opportunities for All
-  Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency
-  A Prosperous and Resilient West Berkshire
-  Thriving Communities with a Strong Local Voice