

Title of Report:	Delivery of the Council Strategy
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	1 December 2015

Purpose of Report: To propose the adoption of a schedule of meetings to provide oversight and monitoring of progress against achievement of the Council Strategy priorities for improvement.

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Commission agrees for regular monitoring to be carried out on the progress being made against the achievement of the aims and priorities for improvement set out in the Council Strategy.

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has set out what it wants to achieve in the period 2015 – 2019 in its strategy ‘Shaping our District’. Although progress against the targets set within the strategy is subject to monitoring by the Executive, to date the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has not hitherto given the matter attention.
- 1.2 This paper sets out a proposal for an ongoing and scheduled programme of scrutiny to monitor the progress that the Council is making in the achievement of its strategic outcomes. It provides some background information on the structure of the Council Strategy and a proposed schedule of activities.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Strategy has the following aims

Aim A	Better educated communities
Aim B	A stronger local economy
Aim C	Protect and support those who need it
Aim D	Maintain a high quality of life within our communities

- 2.2 Sitting across the entire strategy is an overarching aim to become ‘an even more effective council’.

- 2.3 Beneath the aims are 6 priorities for improvement

Priority 1	Improve educational attainment
Priority 2	Close the educational attainment gap
Priority 3	Enable the completion of more affordable housing
Priority 4	Deliver or enable key infrastructure projects in relation to roads, rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy
Priority 5	Good at safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
Priority 6	Support communities to do more to help themselves

- 2.4 The strategy additionally makes reference to a range of core services which are essential for the communities of West Berkshire.

- 2.5 Responsibility for the achievement of actions associated with each of the priorities for improvement is assigned to services within the authority for which an Executive Member of the Council has responsibility.

3. Proposed action

- 3.1 Part of the role of Overview and Scrutiny within councils is to ‘hold the Executive to account’. It is proposed therefore that the Commission regularly and systematically receives updates from the Executive Members and Heads of Service responsible for achievement of the aims and priorities for improvement contained within the Council Strategy on the progress being made against them.

Appendix B

- 3.2 The updates would be received during scheduled meetings of the Commission, with each priority probably being the subject to its own meeting. An illustrative schedule is shown below.

Meeting date	Priority
5 January 2016	Deliver or enable key infrastructure projects in relation to roads, rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy
26 January 2016	Improve educational attainment
23 February 2016	Close the educational attainment gap
5 April 2016	Enable the completion of more affordable housing
June 2016 (date tbc)	Good at safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
July 2016 (date tbc)	Support communities to do more to help themselves
September (date tbc)	Become an even more effective Council

The cycle would then repeat.

- 3.3 Should the proposal be adopted then the schedule of the meetings may need to be adjusted to ensure that the duration of each is broadly equal and that undue demand for attendance at meeting is not placed on either Executive Members or Heads of Service.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Commission agrees for regular monitoring to be carried out on the progress being made against the achievement of the priorities for improvement set out in the Council Strategy.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.