

Notice of Meeting



Scan here to access the public documents for this meeting

Executive

Thursday 16 July 2020 at 5.00pm

This meeting will be held in a virtual format in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Please note: The Council will be live streaming its meetings.

This meeting can be streamed live here: <https://westberks.gov.uk/executivelive>

You can view all streamed Council meetings here:
<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/councilmeetingslive>

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 8 July 2020

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Democratic Services Team on (01635) 519462

e-mail: executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk



To:	Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Ross Mackinnon, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart and Howard Woollaston
-----	---

Agenda

Part I

Pages

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any).
2. **Minutes** 11 - 26
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30 April 2020.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#).
4. **Public Questions**
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.
 - (a) **Question submitted by Mr Neville Booth to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**
"Who got planning permission for the cycle lane on the A4 between Tesco and Mercedes garage and is it finished?"
 - (b) **Question submitted by Ms Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**
"How many patients, and into which West Berkshire Care Settings, were Transfers of Care made from NHS Hospitals between 1st March and end of April without being tested as negative for Covid-19?"
 - (c) **Question submitted by Ms Paula Saunderson to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**
"During this period were the usual Transfer of Care Procedures of the Joint Care Provider Service overturned, possibly leading to additional risk to patients and Care Settings?"



Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 16 July 2020 (continued)

-
- (d) **Question submitted by Mr Peter Carline to the Leader of the Council**
“How prepared do you believe West Berkshire is for a no deal Brexit?”
-
- (e) **Question submitted by Mr Peter Carline to the Leader of the Council**
“What advice are and will you be giving to residents who may be concerned about this seemingly inevitable and undesirable outcome?”
-
- (f) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Can the Executive explain why there is a discrepancy between the figure provided by Councillor Hilary Cole of an average of 127 units of social housing for rent being developed each year since 2015 and the figures available on the Council website?”
-
- (g) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Please can the Executive confirm the actual number of homes for social rent that have been added in each year since 2015?”
-
- (h) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“How can WBC say they are meeting the housing needs of local residents on low incomes when there are c1755 West Berkshire households on the housing waiting list and only one property is available on the latest Homechoice bidding list?”
-
- (i) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Why have WBC not taken advantage of the ability to remove limits on investment in social housing (introduced in 2018) when so many other regions have seized this opportunity to help low income residents?”
-
- (j) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Will the Council commit to any actual numbers for additional homes for social rent over the next 5 years?”
-
- (k) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“When does the Council expect to publish a new planning strategy when the most recent version expired in 2015?”
-
- (l) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**
“Is the Council happy to operate without a planning strategy?”
-



(m) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“Please can the Portfolio Holder explain what percentage of the urban runoff is not attenuated on new development sites Travelodge on London Road and the Premier Inn on Park Way?”

(n) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

“Please would it be possible for the council to give a brief update to the public on what their plans are to ensure the foul sewage infrastructure (pumping station, high pressure pipe and Thatcham treatment works) can accommodate the extra capacity needed by the London Road industrial estate redevelopment?”

(o) **Question submitted by Mr Vaughan Miller to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing**

“Why has the Council let down the women, men, girls, boys, coaches, parents, schools, teachers, aspiring England players and once a week recreational players of Newbury so badly by taking away the main football ground more than two years ago, and without providing a suitable alternative?”

(p) **Question submitted by Ms Miriam Lee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance please outline what local climate change mitigation projects the additional £6.5m Laura Farris has reported West Berkshire Council has received been invested in?”

(q) **Question submitted by Ms Miriam Lee to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance comment on whether it will be emulating other Councils for example Cornwall Council who have set aside £20 million for their climate emergency action plan for this budget year in February 2020?”

(r) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development**

“Please will the Council say if there are any significant infrastructure problems which are causing delays in redeveloping of the London Road Industrial Estate?”

(s) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“Please will the council say if they have ever considered using the former football ground at Faraday Road as an overflow balancing pond to overcome any problems regarding sustainable drainage when redeveloping London Road Industrial Estate?”



(t) **Question submitted by Mr Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“As it appears that West Berkshire Council does not have any written documentation on guidance or standards for implementation of cycling infrastructure on its road network, would it consider adopting or following the guidance of Wokingham Borough Council in its Cycling Infrastructure Style Guide (2013)?”

(u) **Question submitted by Dr Chris Foster to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“What measures will the Executive propose to ensure that the proposed development of at least 3200 homes north west of Basingstoke (known as Manydown) won’t have an intolerable impact on traffic on the A339 through Newbury, on top of that from Sandford Park and other forthcoming developments?”

(v) **Question submitted by Mr Simon Pike to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

“In its implementation of a Mandatory Cycle Lane through Thatcham, did the Council consider the impact on the passage of emergency vehicles (especially ambulances), given that it is not permitted for a vehicle to enter a mandatory cycle lane in order to allow emergency vehicles to overtake?”

(w) **Question submitted by Ms Jane Gulliver to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance**

“Please will the council confirm whether or not it will immediately supply a copy (redacted if necessary) of any legally binding contracts it has made, and are in place at this moment in time to build any housing, including for example affordable housing?”

5. Petitions

Councillors or Members of the public may present any petition which they have received. These will normally be referred to the appropriate Committee without discussion.

Items as timetabled in the Forward Plan

	Pages
<hr/> 6. Post Consultation Environment Strategy (EX3831)	27 - 124
Purpose:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To update the Executive on the consultation and engagement in relation to the draft Environment Strategy and how responses have been considered.• To provide the Executive with a summary of the consultation feedback through the identification of key themes and to present a	



Agenda - Executive to be held on Thursday, 16 July 2020 (continued)

proposed response to these themes.

- To provide the Executive with the proposed amended version of the strategy for consideration.

-
7. **Parking Provision for Electric Vehicles (EX3931)** 125 - 138
Purpose: To highlight the Motion made at Full Council on 3 March 2020, advise of associated issues and make recommendations as to whether the Motion should be implemented.
-
8. **2019/20 Performance Report: Quarter Four (EX3716)** 139 - 178
Purpose:
 - To provide assurance that the core business and council priorities for improvement measures (Council Strategy 2019-2023) are being managed effectively.
 - To highlight successes and where performance has fallen below the expected level; to present information on the remedial action taken, and the impact of that action.
-
9. **West Berkshire Recovery Strategy (EX3937)** 179 - 234
Purpose: To provide the framework for the Council's overarching recovery in respect of Covid-19 and its impact on the district. The Recovery Strategy intends to highlight the key areas of focus for the Council and highlights where action has been taken to date and areas that will be explored further once considered with partners and the community.
-
10. **2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn (EX3798)** 235 - 248
Purpose: To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets. This report is the provisional outturn position for 2019/20.
-
11. **2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn (EX3802)** 249 - 260
Purpose: To present the provisional capital outturn for the Council in respect of financial year 2019/20. It should be noted that these figures are provisional and may change as a result of External Audit.
-
12. **Future Arrangements for the provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading (EX3900)** 261 - 270
Purpose: To consider options and recommendations concerning the future management of Public Health across Berkshire West.
-
13. **Members' Questions**
Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.



(a) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“What can the portfolio holder say to reassure residents that the government’s proposal that ‘a wider range of commercial buildings will be allowed to change to residential use without the need for a planning application’ will not result in poor quality homes that do not meet local needs?”

(b) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“What can the portfolio holder say to reassure residents that if ‘builders will no longer need a normal planning application to demolish and rebuild vacant and redundant residential and commercial buildings if they are rebuilt as homes’, the resulting homes will be of an appropriate scale and design for their setting?”

(c) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“Can the portfolio holder reassure residents and parish/town councillors that the government’s proposal that ‘property owners will be able to build additional space above their properties via a fast track approval process, subject to neighbour consultation’ will not remove the ability of district ward councillors to call-in planning applications to planning committees?”

(d) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Leader of the Council**

“What efforts are being made to restore democracy by initiating hybrid meetings so the public can resume asking questions at planning and meetings such as this?”

(e) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing**

“Does the portfolio holder for Planning think it is acceptable for a Committee decision to be refused in a public meeting, yet 13 weeks later for it not to have been implemented?”

(f) **Question submitted by Councillor Adrian Abbs to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

“Can the Council confirm the decreased take-up of green bins and explain why, given that everyone was at home during the COVID crisis?”

(g) **Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education**

“What support has been provided to children given laptops during the COVID crisis so that they have been able to use them as effectively as possible during lockdown?”



(h) Question submitted by Councillor Erik Pattenden to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education

“With five schools in West Berkshire reporting unlicensed deficits for 2019/20, two West Berkshire schools carrying forward licensed deficits for 2019/20, and with the significant additional costs to schools arising from COVID and measures to re-open schools in a COVID-safe manner, how will the Council ensure schools in deficit do not have to make cuts to school services that impact pupil attainment?”

(i) Question submitted by Councillor Billy Drummond to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development

“Will the Executive please lobby the government to cover the cost of parking for the first two hour period for 6 months to help the many local shops and give them a fighting chance to get back on their feet and saving many from going under?”

(j) Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing

“Could the Portfolio Holder explain the processes in place to support developers with their CIL submissions and help them achieve a zero-assessed outcome where that is legitimately the case, or is the process to take every possible opportunity to charge developers if they make the mistake of getting something wrong or omitted on their CIL submissions?”

(k) Question submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside

“Can the Portfolio Holder update me on his assurance at a Full Council meeting that he would fast track my motion to reduce the speed limit along the A4/Benham Hill in Thatcham, rather than let the matter wait for the Speed Limit Review Group later this year?”

(l) Question submitted by Councillor Alan Macro to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

“What action is this Council proposing to take, including the use of CCTV, to combat the sharp rise in litter and fly-tipping which is polluting our open spaces across the District?”

(m) Question submitted by Councillor Phil Barnett to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside

“Once the new link road is completed between Hector’s Way and Hambridge Road Newbury, can the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside identify if the majority (if not all) of the through traffic from Sainsbury’s roundabout to the Hambridge industrial area (and reverse) will be directed to use the new road?”



14. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RECOMMENDATION: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description contained in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 specified in brackets in the heading of each item. [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution refers.](#)

Part II

15. **Emergency Duty Service (EX3942)**

271 - 374

(Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial/business affairs of a particular person)

Purpose: To request that the Executive approve a new shared service agreement for the continuing provision of a hosted Emergency Duty Service (EDS) between the six Berkshire unitary authorities with Bracknell Forest Council as a lead/host authority.

Sarah Clarke
Service Director (Strategy and Governance)

West Berkshire Council Strategy Priorities

Council Strategy Priorities:

PC1: Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes

PC2: Support everyone to reach their full potential

OFB1: Support businesses to start, develop and thrive in West Berkshire

GP1: Develop local infrastructure to support and grow the local economy

GP2: Maintain a green district

SIT1: Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Moira Fraser on telephone (01635) 519045.



This page is intentionally left blank

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2020

Councillors Present: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Rick Jones, Ross Mackinnon, Richard Somner and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: John Ashworth (Executive Director - Place), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Sarah Clarke (Service Director (Strategy and Governance)), Kevin Griffin (Head of Customer Services & ICT), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director - Resources), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Shiraz Sheikh (Legal Services Manager), Councillor Adrian Abbs, Councillor Jeff Brooks, Stephen Chard (Principal Policy Officer), Councillor Carlyne Culver, Councillor Lee Dillon, Councillor Owen Jeffery, Councillor Alan Macro, Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Steve Masters, Councillor Erik Pattenden and Phil Rumens (Digital Services Manager)

PART I

99. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

It was noted that the resolutions for minute item 89 – Revenue Budget 2020/21 - contained unconfirmed figures. However, this was usual practice for this report at Executive meetings, with the figures confirmed when the report was approved by Full Council. This took place at the Council meeting on the 3 March 2020.

100. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Carlyne Culver declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 by virtue of the fact that she held Bond holdings with Abundance Investment, but reported that, as her interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, she determined to remain to take part in the debate.

101. Public Questions

Councillor Lynne Doherty gave thanks to all the members of the public that had submitted questions for this Executive meeting. In accordance with the resolution passed at the Council meeting of the 29 April 2020, Councillor Doherty confirmed that all public questioners would receive written responses and these would be published on the Council's website within five clear working days of the meeting.

Councillor Doherty looked forward to seeing public questioners back in the Council Chamber in due course.

The written responses provided to the public questions can be viewed at the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

(a) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr Graham Storey on the subject of the number of social housing units for rent that had been added to West Berkshire's housing stock in the last five years received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

(b) **Question submitted by Mr Graham Storey to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr Graham Storey on the subject of whether the Council believed that the number of houses it had added to the local housing stock met the needs of low income residents in West Berkshire received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

(c) **Question submitted by Ms Helen Wright to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Ms Helen Wright asking what the Council's targets and plans were for adding social housing for rent received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

(d) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance**

A question standing in the name of Mr John Gotelee asking for a copy of the redacted development contract between St Modwen and West Berkshire Council regarding the London Road Industrial Estate received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance.

(e) **Question submitted by Mr John Gotelee to the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance**

A question standing in the name of Mr John Gotelee asking for a list of the members in the steering group tasked with taking regeneration of the London Road Industrial Estate forward received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance.

(f) **Question submitted by Mr Paul Morgan to the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

A question standing in the name of Mr Paul Morgan requesting detail on allocations of S106 funding and the amount unallocated received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(g) **Question submitted by Mr John Stewart to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr John Stewart on the subject of the status of the football ground in Faraday Road received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

(h) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr Alan Pearce requesting a document (redacted if necessary) listing the suitable and alternative sites available in respect of Newspaper House received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

(i) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr Alan Pearce on the subject of whether the Newspaper House planning application met the requirements of the Council's sustainable drainage planning policy received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

(j) **Question submitted by Mr Alan Pearce to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning**

A question standing in the name of Mr Alan Pearce asking whether a Council drainage officer was in attendance when the Newspaper House planning application was discussed received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning.

(k) **Question submitted by Mrs Jane Gulliver to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

A question standing in the name of Mrs Jane Gulliver on the subject of whether the Northbrook stream was classed as a critical watercourse received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside.

(l) **Question submitted by Mrs Jane Gulliver to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

A question standing in the name of Mrs Jane Gulliver on the subject of the maintenance of the banks and bed of the Northbrook stream received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside.

102. **Petitions**

There were no petitions presented to the Executive.

103. **Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge - West Berkshire (EX3887)**

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 6) concerning the results of the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge for West Berkshire Council and the action plan produced to address the recommendations within it.

Councillor Lynne Doherty explained that the LGA Peer Challenge of the Council was undertaken in November 2019 and was scheduled after the Council invited the LGA to conduct the Peer Challenge.

In summary, the report highlighted that the Council had much to shout about in terms of its successes and in its provision of services to residents, but there was always room for improvement. These areas for attention were detailed within the action plan. However, predominantly the report painted a positive picture which highlighted strong governance, strong leadership and sound financial controls.

Councillor Jeff Brooks agreed there were many positives in this report. However, some areas for attention had been highlighted previously, i.e. the Council needing to do more to promote its good work. He sought an assurance that this area would be taken forward.

Councillor Brooks also reflected on comments made about the Council being risk averse. In some ways this was a positive, but he queried whether the Council could be more ambitious in some areas.

In response to these questions, Councillor Doherty acknowledged that the Council could improve upon the promotion of its good work. This would be taken forward by the Customer First Programme Board. Councillor Doherty felt that the Council was ambitious, as evidenced in the Council Strategy, but it needed to be realistic.

Councillor Lee Dillon gave thanks to Councillor Brooks for his involvement in the Peer Challenge on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

Councillor Dillon then referred to the action plan and noted that the timescale for some of the actions was in the relatively near future. He queried whether this was realistic alongside the Covid-19 response and recovery work.

Councillor Doherty agreed that the Council was very busy in its response and recovery work. However, much good work had come out of the Council's activity in relation to Covid-19 that would help to meet some of these actions, for example it had helped to move community engagement work forward. There would however still be a need to review timescales in some areas.

Councillor Adrian Abbs also queried timescales, specifically the December 2020 timescale for recommendation three: 'to determine West Berkshire's housing, economic growth and environment priorities, how they need to inter-relate and reflect them in the emerging respective strategies'. Was this a realistic target when the Council was also responding to Covid-19?

As explained to Councillor Dillon, Councillor Doherty advised that there was a need, as part of the Covid-19 recovery process, to look at the impact of the crisis on the 2036 Vision. A key piece of work to be undertaken as a priority was to review the timescales for some areas including the priorities listed in recommendation three.

Councillor Erik Pattenden referred to paragraph 4.2 of the Executive Summary and the first bullet point in relation to engaging with residents. He offered his assistance in this work. The Liberal Democrats had made a proposal at the Council meeting in March 2020 to set up community forums and this could be a way of taking this forward.

Councillor Doherty thanked Councillor Pattenden for his offer and advised him that he could be involved. The starting point on which to try and improve this was to liaise with residents to understand how they wished to be involved. A survey would be conducted to this end.

Councillor Hilary Cole agreed this was a positive review. She felt that it demonstrated that the Council had built on the peer review of four years ago. The very sound action plan would help to address those areas identified as needing attention.

RESOLVED that:

- The report be noted.
- The actions that were being taken to address the recommendations within the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report be approved.

Other options considered: The Council found valuable the Corporate Peer Challenge process which reflects on the strengths recognised by fellow experienced Councillors and officers and also recommendations for further improvement. A careful consideration of the feedback, resulting in an action plan to address the recommendation, is the option that will achieve the maximum benefit from undertaking the corporate peer challenge.

104. Launch of a Community Bond (EX3896)

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 7) which sought approval for the Council to launch a Community Bond of £1m. This bond would be for retail investors, with marketing and promotion to West Berkshire residents, to enable the Council to fund some of its activities that delivered the Environment Strategy at a cheaper financing rate than using the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb), which was the Council's traditional source of borrowing.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon presented the report and proposed approval of its recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter who stated that he looked forward to the Bond helping the Council to grow the Environment Strategy

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

quite significantly. As stated by Councillor Mackinnon, the Council could access additional funds with lower borrowing costs. It also gave the Council the opportunity to engage further with residents and gave residents the opportunity to contribute personally towards their own pensions/savings vehicles, but also to the Environment Strategy.

Councillor Carlyne Culver gave her full support to this approach which she felt was an excellent idea. She noted that information on the Community Bond was already on the website of Abundance Investment.

Councillor Culver did however feel that greater clarity was needed on what the bond would be used for. The report referred to the Solar PV pilot, but also referred to other Capital Programme schemes. Councillor Culver felt that the Council needed to be more specific on investments to encourage investors to come forward. She requested more information on the other schemes; natural carbon reduction measures and the Urban Tree Fund.

Councillor Mackinnon advised that it was the intention for investments to go into the Solar PV project. However, as a result of Covid-19/social distancing, other projects had been referred to rather than identifying Solar PV in isolation. It was the hope, by the time the Bond was launched, to be in a better situation and for the Council to be able to specify what the community could invest in.

Councillor Mackinnon continued by stating that residents had pulled together and helped each other during the Covid-19 pandemic. He felt that residents would have also seen the Council stepping up, for example in helping vulnerable residents and working with businesses. Councillor Mackinnon felt that the Bond would be another way for the Council to work together with residents and have a shared commitment towards the Environment Strategy.

He reiterated that the Bond would achieve a cheaper financing rate than using the PWLB and offer good returns on a relatively low risk investment. Councillor Mackinnon stated that he was proud that West Berkshire Council was taking forward this innovative approach, as the first Council to offer investments to the community in this way.

Councillor Culver also queried the interest rate that would be offered to the public and whether Members could invest in the Bond. Councillor Mackinnon expected the interest rate for investors to be between 1% to 1.2%. The expected interest rate would be clearer by the time the Bond was launched.

Finally, Councillor Culver queried the Council's communications plan for the Bond as it was important to ensure that people were made aware of this opportunity. Councillor Mackinnon explained that there would be regular communication with residents on how their investments were progressing. Abundance Investment had a strong record on engaging with residents and providing information on investments.

The launch date for the Bond was to be reviewed to ensure it started at an appropriate time, but Councillor Mackinnon was hopeful this would be in the fairly near future.

Councillor Jeff Brooks asked whether regular reports would be provided on the level of take up of the Bond. He felt this would be useful to understand this alongside a schedule of expected investment.

Councillor Mackinnon explained that there was a low risk of not raising the necessary finance. The finance for the Bond was underwritten by a major financial institution if there was not the expected level of uptake from residents. He did however confirm that this would be aimed at residents as much as possible.

Councillor Brooks also felt that the report was not clear in explaining that the Bond would be set up on an annuity basis and asked that this be clarified.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

Councillor Mackinnon acknowledged this point. The detail would be finalised prior to launch between himself and the Executive Director for Resources, but this was intended to be an annuity with a reducing balance over a four year period.

Councillor Steve Masters referred to the expected return rate of 1% to 1.2% and queried this as this was considerably lower than many other projects that Abundance Investment were involved in. Was that a reflection of the current market?

Councillor Mackinnon could not comment on other Abundance projects, but felt that the difference in terms of return could relate to the risk profile and associated level of return. The Bond would offer a low risk investment which he felt would be very attractive to investors.

Councillor Masters also asked how the Bond would be published to residents prior to any investment. In response, Councillor Mackinnon explained that the Council would be utilising the expertise of Abundance Investment in communicating the opportunity and finding customers. This would be via a variety of communication channels. There was also a role for Members in raising awareness.

RESOLVED that:

- The results of the due diligence work had been considered and the summary noted.
- The launch of the Community Bond be approved, subject to final sign off of the necessary legal agreements delegated to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Executive Director (Resources).
- The Executive delegated to the Executive Director (Resources), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the date of the formal launch of the bond, the bond length period, and bond issue rate so long as it was below the PWLB rate.

Other options considered:

- The Council could opt to remain utilising PWLB; this is at a higher cost to the taxpayer than this route.
- Seek alternative financing routes; the Council is actively considering these, though in the current timescales, further due diligence is required before utilising any of these options.
- Neither of the other options include the ability to enhance engagement with residents over the Council's Environment Strategy.

105. Community Solutions Fund (EX3901)

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 8) which recommended the closure of the current Community Solutions Fund (2017-2020) and which proposed the utilisation of the remaining budget for the development of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in West Berkshire.

Councillor Rick Jones introduced the first of two linked reports. The proposal in this report linked closely with the next item on the Executive agenda – 'Working with the Voluntary Sector'.

The current Community Solutions Fund had been set up with joint funding from West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust to support and encourage more independent and resilient communities. Seed funding had been established for eligible projects. However, there had been limited use of this fund for its original purpose and this proposal was considered to be a better use of the funding.

Councillor Adrian Abbs queried the level of awareness of the Community Solutions Fund. For instance, were newly elected Members in May 2019 made aware of this Fund? His

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

understanding was that the Fund had already been closed, Councillor Abbs had attempted to apply for this funding but he did not believe this had been processed.

Councillor Jones confirmed that the Fund had not closed, this was a decision for the Executive to take. The application made by Councillor Abbs was being considered in the last funding round before the Fund was closed down.

Councillor Jones accepted the point about awareness raising. The Fund had been well publicised when it was launched three years ago. A number of projects came forward at that time but it transpired that other funding streams were able to be utilised instead. Therefore, this report proposed using the funding in a different way.

Councillor Erik Pattenden noted that only £24k had been allocated from the original fund of £400k. While the aims of the Fund had been worthy it had not proved to be a success and the proposal therefore made sense. However, Councillor Pattenden sought assurance that lessons had been learnt which would ensure that funding would be utilised for suitable causes in future.

Councillor Jones accepted that the Fund had not proved to be successful, although pointed out that some funding had been successfully put to health and wellbeing schemes. Councillor Jones confirmed that much had been learnt from the experience. This proposal in this report and the subsequent item would aim to benefit the voluntary sector moving forward.

RESOLVED that the Community Solutions Fund (2017-2020) be closed down and that any unspent budget would go into supporting initiatives that would reframe and develop the VCSE sector in West Berkshire.

Other options considered:

- It was considered appropriate to review the existing Community Solution Fund particularly as this fund had remained unspent for some considerable time. Equally, it seemed appropriate to ensure future spend is closely aligned to Council Strategy priorities. This proposal particularly fits with the Council's goal to work to deliver sustainable services through innovation and partnerships. Equally, it's clear many other of the priorities outlined in the West Berkshire Vision 2036 and Council Strategy 2019-2023 require a strong VCSE to support community resilience and reduce demand on Council services.
- Another approach would have been to revise and reshape the criteria for the Community Solutions Fund to allow it to become a more general grant stream. Demand for grants is always high and by making the fund more accessible, it would be relatively easy to deplete the budget in a small number of funding rounds.

106. Working with the Voluntary Sector (EX3903)

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 9) which advised of the outcome of the recent Executive Member Strategy Board on working with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and presented recommended actions for approval to progress.

Councillor Lynne Doherty introduced the report which followed on from the 'Community Solutions Fund' item. She stated that West Berkshire was very fortunate in having a very active and diverse VCSE sector. The willingness of residents to volunteer had become even more pronounced now than ever before, with over 3,000 residents stepping up to help their communities.

Local charities were often best placed to deliver real and tangible work and the Council wanted to work in partnership with them.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

It was recognised that there were varying skills held within the VCSE sector and there was therefore a need to re-establish an umbrella organisation for the sector that could provide independent support to all. This report sought approval of the proposals listed in paragraph 4.1 of the report which included establishing a project for this work, map existing provision and commission a Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) using the Community Solutions Fund to do so. Further development would take place in liaison with the VCSE sector.

It was considered timely to signify this intent and progress this at this stage given the excellent examples of community response that had been experienced. Approval of this report would provide a strategic view to build on the momentum of recent weeks.

Councillor Graham Bridgman added to the words of praise from the Leader to the many volunteers and volunteer groups who had stepped forward to help their communities through the work of the Community Hub. West Berkshire's volunteers had led the way in comparison to other areas and he gave his thanks to them for all their efforts. It was important that this was built upon.

Councillor Owen Jeffery echoed the thanks to the hundreds of volunteers for their work, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. He agreed this needed to be maintained and long term relationships built. The Community Hub needed to be retained and expanded upon. He was supportive of the proposals and added that the Liberal Democrats would be a critical friend moving forward.

Councillor Doherty gave thanks for these words of support. The intention was to strengthen arrangements with the VCSE sector and the progress of this would be closely monitored.

Councillor Erik Pattenden added that this very impressive support had come from West Berkshire residents within a short period of time. He queried whether, as a result of lessons learnt in recent months and of the need to continue to harness support, any thought had been given to altering any of the proposals.

Councillor Doherty explained that the work on this had commenced pre Covid-19 in February 2020. There was not felt to be a need to change the approach. VCSE organisations operated in different ways and from holding conversations with voluntary groups it was found to be beneficial to them to not be restrained by an overly formal structure.

Councillor Lee Dillon gave his thanks to officers for their work in response to Covid-19 and to Executive Members for all their hard work.

Councillor Dillon felt that the proposal was an appropriate way forward. He did highlight that some areas of activity would not be of particular interest to voluntary groups and it was important to ensure that this work was still picked up.

Councillor Doherty acknowledged this point. The mapping exercise would help to understand which services were being picked up by the VCSE and whether there were any gaps to fill.

Councillor Rick Jones endorsed the comments that had been made. He reiterated that this work started before the Covid-19 pandemic had started. It was entirely appropriate for the Council to work more closely with the VCSE sector to maintain the recent good work.

RESOLVED that the actions recommended in this report be approved as follows:

- Establish a project to develop a strategy for working with the VCSE that reflects the following key points identified by Members.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

- Project to be governed by the Corporate Programme with agreed actions contained within a cross service project, with identified resources and agreed time frames.
- Undertake a high level mapping exercise of VCSE provision to inform the development of the emerging strategy - what is being provided, to who and where, levels of income/spend, capacity and support for the Council Strategy – scope and resources to be identified/agreed as part of the overall project.
- Commission a LIO. Process will require careful consideration of the context of current arrangements which are outside of Council funding. Source of revenue budget to be identified.
- Ownership will sit within the Resources Directorate for the period of development, supported in the project by the other Directorates and overseen by the Leader.
- The current situation in relation to Coronavirus and the impressive response of the VCSE through the work of the Community Hub be noted. This will undoubtedly reshape the relationship of the Council with the sector and therefore the proposed recommendations may need to be revisited to reflect this when the time is right. As the situation is so fluid they have been left 'as is' for the purpose of progressing this report.

Other options considered: It is possible that we could chose to do nothing, but at a national and local level policy is increasingly steering Councils towards use of the VCSE in meeting local need. Many of the priorities outlined in the West Berkshire Vision 2036 and Council Strategy 2019-2023 require a strong VCSE to support community resilience and help reduce demand on public services. To have this in place will require a more strategic approach to the relationship with the sector to set out with clarity how we will work with them, what they can expect from us and how we can best work with them to achieve our shared priorities. Therefore do nothing is not considered an option.

107. **Strategic Commissioning and Procurement (EX3878)**

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 10) which proposed changes for a future model of strategic commissioning and procurement, its application in the Council and presented a supporting Procurement Strategy for approval.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon in introducing the report explained that currently, the Council operated a mixed model of commissioning with those services more familiar with this approach leading the way in terms of identifying commissioning outcomes in strategies.

This proposed Strategy would provide an overarching model for all service areas to follow alongside support from the Commissioning Service. This would seek to maximise quality and achieve value for money.

An annual plan of commissioning activity would be produced which would include all procurement in excess of £100k. However, the Commissioning Service would still offer support for procurement of services at a lower cost than £100k.

Implementation of the Procurement Strategy would require the recruitment of two additional Procurement Officers.

An implementation plan was provided at Appendix D, Councillor Mackinnon explained that it might be necessary to review some of the target dates.

Councillor Jeff Brooks agreed that a clearer strategy was needed. However, he felt that some sections of the report required more detail when it came to implementing this new approach in practice.

Councillor Brooks felt that a clear business case was needed to support the recruitment of two additional officers. The return from this needed to be considered and how it would be measured. How did this extra cost compare with existing spend?

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

Councillor Brooks also noted from the report that commissioning was shown as separate from procurement but the report lacked a clear definition on that.

In response to these points, Councillor Mackinnon acknowledged that the report was heavy going in some areas. However, he did point out that definitions were included early on in the report, including an attempt to define commissioning and procurement, and show the difference between the two.

Councillor Mackinnon did not have to hand the existing spend and offered to provide that at a later date. However, it was felt that a more efficient and joined up approach would result in the two new officers paying for themselves through their work.

As a strategy, this would not contain all the detail to support implementation of the new model.

Councillor Brooks was pleased to hear there would be additional resources, but the outcome this achieved needed to be monitored. The professional input to service areas was important, but services were clear on their requirements and Councillor Brooks felt that there should not be too much reliance on centralisation.

Councillor Mackinnon acknowledged the point made on centralisation. He explained that the new approach would not be a one size fits all. The Commissioning Service would aim to work in partnership with service areas, but the progress of this would be closely monitored.

Councillor Erik Pattenden referred to the difficulties experienced with the tendering process for the school meals and school cleaning contracts. He questioned whether this Strategy would avoid such issues in future.

Councillor Mackinnon explained that it was the clear intention for the new model to make procurement more efficient and successful at all levels.

Councillor Dominic Boeck added that a key piece of learning from this process was for the Commissioning Service and service areas to work more closely together. The learning from this experience would feed into the new Procurement Strategy.

Councillor Pattenden also referred to Appendix A, specifically the Family Hub Strategy which stated that the requirements to deliver this particular strategy were unclear. He queried when this would be understood.

Councillor Mackinnon advised that some areas did need further detail. Much work had gone into producing the Strategy and areas identified as 'not clear' would be updated in due course.

RESOLVED to:

- Approve the proposed changes and the Procurement Strategy for implementation across the Council.
- Approve the implementation plan as set out in this report to start in 2020/21 for the tenders in the service areas identified.

Other options considered: Do nothing and maintain current arrangements. Developing the commissioning function within the Council has been a recommendation from LGA Peer review and identified as a corporate priority in the Corporate Programme. In the current devolved model opportunities are being missed to improve on a range of outcomes including commercial social value, green agenda and for a clearer strategic direction. Do nothing is not a realistic option if the Council wishes to progress in line with other local authorities to achieve a more strategic approach to commissioning.

108. Economic Development Strategy and Delivery Plan (EX3758)

The Executive considered the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) and Economic Development Delivery Plan (EDSDP) (Agenda Item 11). The new EDS would run until 2023 and it aligned with the Council's strategic commitment to promote economic development.

Councillor Hilary Cole introduced the report. She explained that the EDS would replace the previous version that ended in 2018.

An Economic Development Board was established in late 2018 to consider how best to take this work forward. A number of service areas were involved and they helped to draft material for each of the different chapters.

Progress had also been made by the Economic Development Manager who promoted the approach to economic development at a number of engagement events which included Parish and Town Council meetings, as well as attending stakeholder and network meetings of the Newbury West Berkshire Economic Development Company.

A six week period of consultation was held in July 2019 and consultation comments had been incorporated in to the EDS.

The EDS and EDSDP would have been presented to the Executive in December 2019 but this was prevented by the purdah period and since that time much effort had gone to supporting businesses in response to Covid-19.

Councillor Cole was aware of concerns that the Council was looking to adopt the EDS at such a challenging time for the economy. While she understood these concerns, the EDS would provide a firm foundation upon which to work with partners which included the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) who would be leading work on economic recovery.

Councillor Cole added that West Berkshire was better placed than many other areas. The local economy was in a strong position pre Covid-19. Many West Berkshire businesses and were able to work remotely as was the Council.

The commitment to deliver the EDS and continue to support businesses was evidenced by the strengthening of the Economic Development Service. The Economic Development Officer had been promoted to the Manager role and additional staff would be recruited to maintain the level of support to businesses in West Berkshire. Councillor Cole added that the EDS could be adapted to suit emerging needs.

Councillor Cole concluded her introduction by thanking officers in Finance for their work in helping to assist businesses, i.e. through processing Business Rate relief requests and in processing grant applications from businesses.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon gave his support to the recommendation. He took the opportunity to provide an update to Members on the processing of grant applications. To date, 1,991 claim forms had been received and 1,543 had been processed. The time taken between the receipt of the grant form and the payment to businesses was three days. £19m had been paid to businesses so far from the Government grant which totalled £29m. Finally, Councillor Mackinnon explained that the average grant paid out to businesses was £12.3k when the total amount available per grant was £25k. This showed that on average, a greater proportion of smaller businesses were claiming the grant.

Councillor Jeff Brooks noted that in present circumstances, there would be changes to the economy in the years to come, but these changes were uncertain. More people were working from home, but it was uncertain how this would impact on the use of office

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

space. The EDS was only proposed until 2023 and Councillor Brooks queried why this relatively short term strategy had not been put on hold. It had already been delayed for the reasons explained.

Councillor Brooks also noted that reference was made in the document to a hope to achieve certain targets and a hope to implement changes etc. He felt the EDS lacked certainty and ambition that areas of work would be completed.

Councillor Brooks had been advised of the number of companies that had been consulted, but he queried whether meetings had been arranged with large local employers such as Vodafone as part of the consultation or had they merely been written to?

The Liberal Democrat Group felt that more work was needed on the EDS and they could not support it in its present form.

Councillor Cole was disappointed to note the final point from Councillor Brooks. Although added that was not surprised when considering how strongly Councillor Brooks felt about economic development. Councillor Cole referred back to her introductory points which included that the EDS would need to be adapted due to the present unprecedented circumstances.

Councillor Cole continued by stating her view that it was better to have a new proactive EDS in place rather than retaining the old reactive version.

She acknowledged the point made about being hopeful for achievements and felt this was another example of the Council hiding its light under a bushel rather than lacking ambition. There was however a need to be realistic as well as aiming for high standards.

Councillor Cole felt that this was a sound document for present circumstances. The EDSDP would help to achieve much with local businesses.

She concluded by stating that the Economic Development Manager had held meetings across the district, to a larger extent than ever previously, and as a result had made strong contacts within larger down to smaller businesses. A wide range of businesses had been approached and spoken to rather than via a form filling exercise.

Councillor Lynne Doherty supported this point by advising that she had attended meetings of the Newbury West Berkshire Economic Development Company and met many employees to hear their views.

Councillor Lee Dillon commented that there was a clear understanding amongst Liberal Democrat Members that the other papers presented to this meeting would be subject to changes as a result of Covid-19. However, the Group felt that economic changes would be so transformational that the EDS would become out of date soon after being approved. He noted that progress would be reviewed, but he sought a commitment that update reports would be presented to Executive on a quarterly basis as part of this review. This was important when considering that the economy underpinned many important areas of Council activity.

Councillor Doherty responded to this point by advising that she had meet with the LEP and they had an existing economic strategy. The LEP also recognised that it was important to have a strategy as a baseline.

The LEP would be leading on much of the economic recovery work across the Thames Valley and therefore it was only right to consider the timetable they were working to so that the LEP, the Council and businesses could work in partnership before committing to a schedule for reviewing the document. Councillor Doherty did however give her support to conducting reviews once the timetable had been considered.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

Councillor Dillon noted this response, but felt it would still be useful in the meantime to receive updates on local initiatives. He would also welcome himself and Councillor Brooks having sight of the timetable referred to.

Councillor Doherty confirmed that work was ongoing on the timetable, but it would be shared in due course.

Councillor Cole endorsed the view that the Council would be working closely with the LEP and local businesses. It was important to align the Council's activity with that of the LEP. Progress would be reported at a future date.

RESOLVED that the Economic Development Strategy and Economic Development Strategy Delivery Plan be approved.

Other options considered: Not approving the Economic Development Strategy and Economic Development Strategy Delivery Plan. This option is not recommended given the Council's commitments as outlined in the Council Strategy 2019-2023.

109. HWRC Opening Hour Changes (EX3834)

The Executive considered a report (Agenda Item 12) which set out recommendations for proposed opening hour changes for the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). This followed the successful completion of the recent trial expansion of opening hours at the Padworth site and engagement with residents on proposed new opening hours for both HWRCs.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter introduced the report and explained that prior to the summer of 2019, the Padworth HWRC was restricted in comparison to the long established site at Newtown Road as its hours were limited and it was restricted to green waste only.

During the summer of 2019, the Council began a trial period of extended opening hours and an ability to receive more materials.

The trial had proven very successful in displacing some of the demand on the Newtown Road HWRC. It had also resulted in an increase in overall site usage across the District. Residents living in the east of the district could take their waste to Padworth and did not need to travel to Newtown Road. Residents had been surveyed and there were very supportive of the extended service.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter recommended approval of the proposal to have an equal service across the two HWRCs with opening hours of 9am to 6pm throughout the year, with the exception of later opening one day a week at Newtown Road during the summer months. The additional cost to be incurred was felt to be relatively modest (in the region of £20k to £40k per annum).

The reopening date of the HWRCs could not yet be confirmed. The Government had yet to indicate when they could reopen, but the Council was eager to resume normal service. The Council was actively planning for the reopening which included appropriate safety measures.

Councillor Dominic Boeck seconded the report by stating the importance of residents living in the east of the district being able to access the same level of service as the rest of West Berkshire.

Councillor Graham Bridgman was very pleased at this proposal. He was routinely questioned by residents in his ward on this matter who wanted longer opening hours and the ability to dispose of more items at Padworth which offered an excellent facility.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

Councillor Adrian Abbs also welcomed this development. He considered it likely that there would be a backlog of waste that residents would wish to dispose of and he queried whether extended hours could be offered in the evening in the opening weeks to accommodate this as well as still being able to ensure social distancing by users.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter agreed these were important points for consideration. He agreed there would likely be a backlog. HWRCs did not have car parks and a number of residents could seek to use the sites soon after they were able to reopen. This could result in queuing being a factor. It was therefore important to widely publicise the reopening and identify ways to manage the backlog in an efficient manner.

Councillor Alan Macro queried if a later opening one day a week would be possible for Padworth as would be the case at Newtown Road. It was also the case that some materials could not be accepted at Padworth and he queried whether this could be extended.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter explained that there was a low demand in the evenings for use of both HWRCs, with a lower demand in Padworth. However, the option could be taken of trialling longer hours on a temporary basis.

On the subject of extending the materials that could be accepted, this would require additional staffing and to date this had not been a workable option. However, it was the hope that usage would grow and the range of materials could be extended. Councillor Ardagh-Walter considered this part of the ongoing evolution of the service.

Councillor Macro reported that complaints/concerns had recently been raised with regard to an increase in bonfires and fly tipping. He hoped that the Council would be in a position to reopen its HWRCs as soon as the Government gave approval to do so.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter was aware of these issues. Recent communications from the Council had been to encourage residents to act appropriately. He too hoped that the HWRCs could soon reopen and the concerns mentioned could be resolved relatively swiftly.

Further details would be shared on reopening as soon as they were known.

Councillor Lee Dillon queried the selection of Thursday evenings for the later opening. For example, had Monday evenings been considered so that residents could dispose of waste collected over weekends.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter could not recall the reasoning for selecting Thursdays. However, this was subject to analysis and he offered further detail on this point in writing.

Councillor Dillon also asked if consideration had been given to ways to alleviate high traffic volumes accessing the sites.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter agreed that this was an area of concern. A resolution being given serious consideration was to implement a booking system to help manage the volume of those on the sites. This was a challenge the Council was striving to meet.

RESOLVED that the opening hours of the HWRCs be approved as follows (effective from 1 May 2020 or the earliest practicable date after that time, subject to the ability to reopen the sites in the context of the Covid-19 situation):

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

HWRC Site	Winter Hours (October to March)	Summer Hours (April to September)
Padworth HWRC	9am to 6pm	9am to 6pm (7 days a week*)
Newtown Road	9am to 6pm	9am to 6pm (7 days a week apart from Thursdays) 9am to 8pm (Thursdays only)

** The Council's sites are open every day of the year including Bank Holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.*

Other options considered:

- The following options were presented to Operations Board in December 2019:

Option	Option Description	Estimated Additional Annual Cost to WBC	Estimated Monthly invoice over 12 months
Option 1	9am – 6pm standard opening hours at both Newtown Road and Padworth	£10,673.71	£889.48
Option 2	9am – 6pm at both sites plus 2 summer evening hours at Newtown Road only (all days)	£72,748.57	£6,062.38
Option 3	9am – 6pm at both sites plus 2 summer evening hours for a day at Newtown Road	£19,541.55	£1,628.46
Option 4	9am – 6pm at both sites plus 1 summer evening hour at Newtown Road (all days)	£41,711.14	£3,475.93
Option 5	9am – 6pm at both sites plus 1 summer evening hour for a day at Newtown Road	£15,107.63	£1,258.97

- Operations Board supported the recommendation of Option 3 above as the Preferred Option. The recommended option achieves a good balance between providing a high level of service access to residents and delivering value for money. It will provide a high level of standardisation of hours between the Council's two sites and also allow flexibility for extended summer opening on Thursdays at Newtown Road.
- A public engagement exercise conducted on the HWRCs during 21 - 24 February 2020 shows that prior to the public engagement exercise, most residents were not aware of the proposed changes. This was entirely expected because the purpose of the exercise was to increase awareness. Data obtained from the survey shows that residents are broadly supportive of the proposed changes, with most respondents either agreeing with changes or saying that they will not be adversely impacted. A summary of the recent survey has been included under Appendix C. The proposed new hours have also been communicated via the Council's website.

EXECUTIVE - 30 APRIL 2020 - MINUTES

- It was intended that resident communications will be sustained in the period leading up to the implementation of proposed changes. However, due to the recent COVID-19 situation which has resulted in the temporary closure of the HWRC sites, we have paused our efforts to notify residents about the new hours to avoid confusing the public. Communications will be picked up again once the situation allows and before implementation.

110. Members' Questions

A full transcription of the Member question and answer session is available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

(a) **Question submitted by Councillor Steve Masters to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Steve Masters on the subject of the status of the football ground on the London Road Industrial Estate was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing.

(b) **Question submitted by Councillor Steve Masters to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Steve Masters on the subject of the Playing Pitch Strategy and the use of Faraday Road was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing.

(c) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Carolyne Culver on the subject of whether care workers would receive full pay if they needed to shield and/or self-isolate was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

(d) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Carolyne Culver on the subject of whether care workers had access to the all the PPE they needed was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

(e) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Carolyne Culver asking the Council to liaise with BBOWT in relation to the reopening of car parks at Greenham and Snelsmore Commons was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Countryside.

(f) **Question submitted by Councillor Carolyne Culver to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Carolyne Culver on the subject of whether all residents would be permitted to use the green garden bin regardless of whether or not they had paid was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 7.12pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	25 June 2020
Report Author:	Jenny Graham
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3831

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) Update the Executive on the consultation and engagement in relation to the draft Environment Strategy and how responses have been considered,
- (b) Provide the Executive with a summary of the consultation feedback through the identification of key themes and to present a proposed response to these themes.
- (c) Provide the Executive with the proposed amended version of the strategy for consideration.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Executive is asked to approve the amended version of the Environment Strategy included in Appendix G.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these will have financial implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.
Human Resource:	There are no direct HR implications as a result of this report.

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

	<p>There are plans to recruit to the new Environment Delivery Team using approved resources in order to help deliver the Environment Strategy. Also, the Delivery Plan will identify projects and these may have HR implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Legal:	<p>There are no direct Legal implications as a result of this report.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these may have legal implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Risk Management:	<p>There are no direct risk management issues as a result of this report.</p> <p>The consideration of risk associated with achieving what is set out in the Environment Strategy will be dealt with alongside the Delivery Plan. Each project identified in the Delivery Plan will assess and manage its own risk.</p>			
Property:	<p>There are no direct property implications as a result of this report.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan will identify projects and these will have property implications, all dealt with through the PMM process and governance through Environment Board.</p>			
Policy:	<p>The Contents of the Environment Strategy, influenced by the consultation responses, should be used to inform and shape relevant Council policies across the organisation.</p>			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

<p>A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?</p>		X		<p>The delivery plan will have to consider this issue on a project by project basis.</p>
<p>B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>		X		<p>The delivery plan will have to consider this issue on a project by project basis.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact:</p>	X			<p>Clarity on the carbon reduction commitment and other associated strategic objectives will, subject to effective implementation through the Delivery Plan, have a positive impact on the local environment.</p>
<p>Health Impact:</p>	X			<p>Clarity on the carbon reduction commitment and other associated strategic objectives will, subject to effective implementation through the Delivery Plan, have a positive impact on the health of local communities.</p>
<p>ICT or Digital Services Impact:</p>		X		<p>At this stage it is not envisaged that ICT or Digital Services will be impacted by the Environment Strategy. Subsequent projects may do, but this will be governed through PMM and the Delivery Plan. Environment Board can consider.</p>

Council Strategy Priorities or Business as Usual:	X			This is a key report for the progression of the Council Strategy and its Delivery Plan.
Data Impact:		X		At this stage it is not envisaged that there will be any data impact by approving the Environment Strategy. Subsequent projects may do, but this will be governed through PMM and the Delivery Plan. Environment Board can consider.
Consultation and Engagement:	John Ashworth, Jon Winstanley, Gary Lugg, Adrian Slaughter, Bryan Lyttle, Gabrielle Mancini, Sarah Winter, Jenny Legge, Jenny Graham Cllr Lynne Doherty, Cllr Steve Ardagh-Walter, Cllr Richard Somner and Members of the Environment Advisory Group			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The consultation and engagement undertaken in relation to the draft Environment Strategy was a more expansive process than previously undertaken for council strategies, reflecting the high level of public interest in the subject matter. This has generated a wide range of views to consider.
- 4.2 An online survey was a key part of the consultation and the results of this survey and accompanying comments made as suggestions to improve the strategy are detailed in Appendix C.
- 4.3 Direct written responses were also received, a summary of which can be found at Appendix D. These were grouped into one of 5 topic areas: i) Policy/Strategic issues; ii) Technical issues; iii) Communication and engagement issues; iv) Presentation issues; and v) Items for the Delivery Plan.
- 4.4 A series of public engagement events were facilitated by consultants at WSP who provided a summary at Appendix E.
- 4.5 A series of general public drop-in sessions were also arranged and the feedback summary is detailed at Appendix F.
- 4.6 The project team has undergone a process of considering the responses from the different elements of the consultation and engagement (as set out in sections 5.10 – 5.13). As a result of this process a series of 18 key themes have been identified. Table 1 below shows these key themes grouped into firstly those that are proposed to be taken forward within the strategy and / or Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council’s work and, secondly, just two themes that are not considered appropriate to take forward

in the final strategy. Further detailed responses to each of the key themes are provided in the supporting information (section 5) along with the proposed actions where relevant.

Table 1: Key themes from the consultation and engagement on the Draft Strategy

Key themes to be taken forward within Strategy / Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council's work	
1	We should work with a wider data set, including academic institutions, to help understand and improve the accuracy of our journey towards carbon neutrality. This should also include an acknowledgement about scope 3 emissions and how these will be monitored even if they are not included in the 2030 target.
2	There should be clearer incentives for business to improve their carbon reduction activity and ensure there is a clear link with the Economic Development Strategy.
3	There should be effective enforcement of the current (and future) environmental standards.
4	The role of agriculture and farming should be more prominent.
5	The Council should aim for renewable energy to be on all their sites (including schools).
6	Increase the uptake and incentivise the use of electric vehicles, mindful of the impact of affordability to avoid social justice risks.
7	Greater focus on education and training (schools, residents and businesses) with sustained engagement events to try and persuade the wider community to believe in the vision.
8	The document should use more reader friendly diagrams to explain its key messages.
9	Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.
10	The Council should show leadership to local businesses in the way it procures supplies and services.

11	Improve links with local food producers and find ways to get their produce to local markets.
12	Fundamental changes to kerbside recycling.
13	Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.
14	Stronger emphasis on the policy and financial commitments related to sustainable transport systems.
15	Improved provision of cycling infrastructure.
16	There should be more emphasis on air quality.
Key themes not proposed to be taken forward	
17	Bringing forward the 2030 target.
18	Form a citizen assembly.

- 4.7 Since the draft strategy was published there has been ongoing research into the various styles and subjects covered by other local authorities, public bodies and the business community in relation to climate change and carbon reduction measures. In addition some good examples were identified by those who engaged in the consultation. This research and the examples put forward by others have been used to influence the contents and presentation of the proposed final strategy.
- 4.8 The final proposed strategy which takes account of the consultation and engagement feedback as outlined above is included in Appendix G.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.2 The Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency on 2nd July 2019 and in doing so highlighted the fact that the Council, its partners and local communities all needed to play their part in response.
- 5.3 Following the declaration, work to develop an Environment Strategy took place overseen by the Environment Board and influenced by the Environment Advisory Group (EAG). Following the publication of a draft Environment Strategy on 9th January 2020, the Council embarked upon a 6-week consultation period. Comments were invited using an online survey with a broad range of questions examining the main sections of the strategy. A summary document and further supporting information were also made available at the same time to assist with the consultation.
- 5.4 The supporting information below sets out:
- (a) the approach that was taken to ensure good engagement with the draft Environment Strategy,
 - (b) a description of the process of analysis of the consultation feedback,
 - (c) a summary of the feedback and explanation of appendices
 - (d) the proposed response to the feedback
 - (e) the next steps for progressing the Environment Strategy

Consultation and Engagement Approach

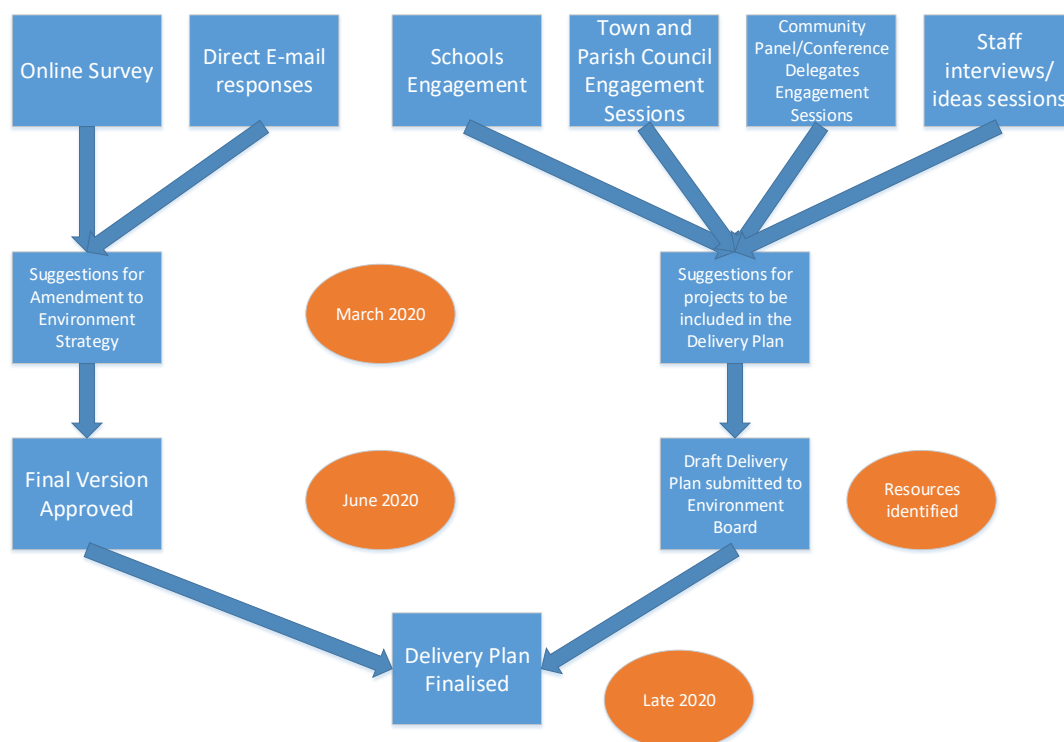
- 5.5 The high level of interest generally in climate change across all ages of the population and from numerous groups and organisations was recognised by the Executive. This led to the Executive expressing a desire to ensure that a comprehensive approach was planned for the consultation and engagement around the draft Environment Strategy. The standard approach of an online survey was not seen as enough given the significant profile of this topic. The project team therefore put forward a series of ideas for wide ranging engagement and a new approach was agreed.
- 5.6 The diagram below at Figure 1 sets out the strategy agreed for the consultation and engagement work. The online survey remains an important part of gathering feedback with additional events and ways of engaging specific groups planned alongside.
- 5.7 In addition to this enhanced approach to consultation and engagement, the draft strategy itself benefitted from comments and suggestions made at West Berkshire's first Climate Conference held on 28th October 2019. This popular event engaged a wide range of people from our community including residents, businesses, interest groups and community groups and set a good foundation for bringing together ideas for improving the environment in West Berkshire.
- 5.8 Figure 1 demonstrates that using the consultation feedback to help develop an agreed strategy is just the start of the process. It was always anticipated that specific projects

Post Consultation Environment Strategy

would be put forward as part of the engagement making this exercise a valuable part of informing the development of the Delivery Plan as well as the final strategy.

- 5.9 Some of the engagement sessions were undertaken with the help of consultants, WSP, held at Shaw House. Town and Parish Councils were invited, as were all the members of the community panel who had expressed an interest in the environment. This was very much a follow up to the Climate Conference held in October 2019 with a focus of moving forward with the Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Figure 1: Consultation and Engagement Strategy

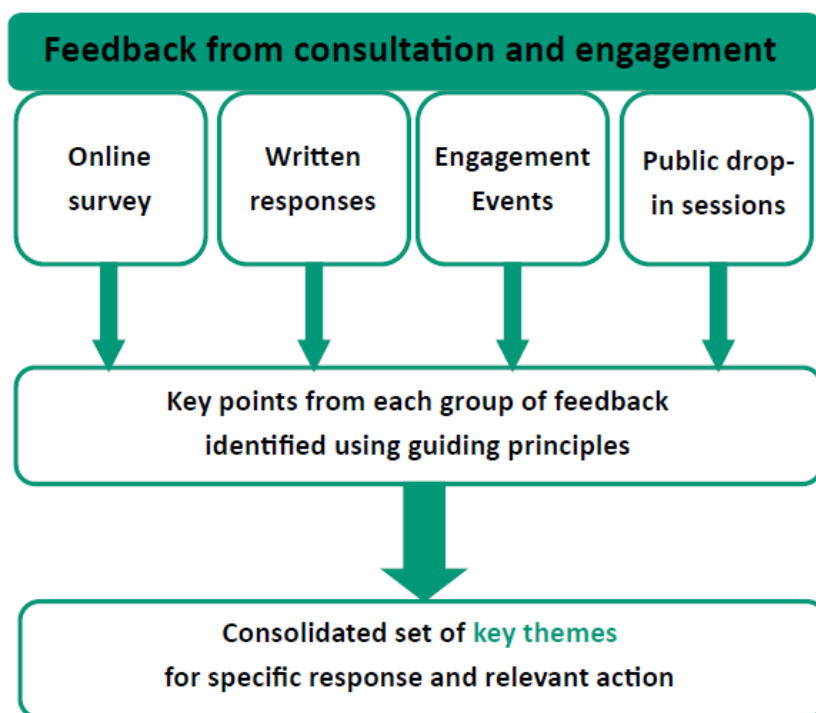


Process for Analysing Feedback

- 5.10 The enhanced approach to consultation and engagement described above led to a wealth of information, views and ideas being provided in the feedback received. Contributions to the feedback consisted of direct survey results, written responses from residents (many highly detailed and technical in nature), political party narratives and commentaries, local and national organisational statements and analysis from local media. In addition, there is also feedback from the public drop-in sessions and the facilitated engagement sessions with interested parties.

- 5.11 The process used for analysing the feedback is shown in Figure 2 below and described in the following paragraphs.

Figure 2: Process for analysing feedback



5.12 The feedback received was reviewed initially within its relevant group. For example, feedback from the online survey was reviewed all together and, separately, feedback from the different engagement sessions was considered together. Key points were identified from each of the groups of feedback. The process for helping to identify these key points from within the feedback was guided by the following principles:

- Where multiple responses were saying similar things demonstrating consistency and the weight to be given to the point, these were noted.
- Consideration of points from direct written responses which had an obvious practical or strategic benefit.
- Where responses reflected other feedback through the wider engagement it was given additional weight in the considerations.
- Where responses corresponded with technical feedback from consultants or other published data that had been researched it was given additional weight in the considerations.

5.13 The key points identified from the groups of feedback were then compared and considered all together in order to produce a consolidated set of key themes. It is considered that these key themes (18 in total) represent the most prominent feedback necessitating specific responses at this point in the process and, in some cases, proposed changes to the strategy document.

Summary of feedback

5.14 As already highlighted, the enhanced consultation was successful in producing feedback from a wide-ranging group from the community of West Berkshire. The project team considering the responses therefore brought in a range of officers who have responsibility for the delivery of functions most closely associated with the strategic

objectives and key targets. This provided a wider base of knowledge than just the project team in order to cover the range of topics covered by the responses. It also helped to ensure a greater awareness of the strategy and the comments that had been made.

5.15 The project team considered the full content of the responses and produced a series of summaries covering the different elements of the consultation and engagement process. The summaries are included in the appendices and are outlined below:

- Appendix C – Summary of survey responses by question. The survey responses are presented as graphs and charts and relate only to those who responded. A further dataset is available for all cases if requested. The accompanying comments made as suggestions to improve the strategy are also listed against the relevant survey questions.
- Appendix D – Summary of direct written responses. The direct written responses received did not follow any template and tended to reflect the background of the respondent. To help the consideration of these the following themes were used to group comments: Policy/Strategic issues; Technical issues; Communication and engagement issues; Presentation issues; and Items for the Delivery Plan.
- Appendix E - Feedback from engagement events. The programme of engagement events was a parallel exercise to the consultation and focussed on how local people could contribute to the local implementation of the strategic objectives and key targets.
- Appendix F - General public drop-in sessions. These were arranged as a parallel exercise to encourage engagement and feedback via the survey. The sessions also generated their own feedback which has been captured and recorded.
- Appendix G – Revised Strategy. The information gathered through the engagement outlined above has influenced a revised strategy which can be found in Appendix G. The revised strategy has also been influenced by a number of suggestions within the consultation responses which signposted some good examples of work being done elsewhere. These have been reviewed and used to help improve the strategy in terms of clarity of message, reducing the overall complexity of language and using pictures more readily to convey ideas.

5.16 As explained in the previous section, the analysis of the feedback from the different group summaries outlined above led to 18 key themes being identified. These themes and the responses and proposed actions are set out in Table 2 below which is an expanded version of Table 1 in the executive summary section of this report.

5.17 As well as the consultation feedback being used to improve the strategy, it will inform the development of the Delivery Plan to accompany the Strategy but also be valuable information to refer to as projects are initiated and as the Council continually monitors and reviews the progress of the implementation of the strategy.

Table 2: Response to key themes identified through consultation and engagement

Key themes to be taken forward within Strategy / Delivery Plan or through other areas of the Council's work		
Ref	Theme from consultation responses	Response / proposed action
1	We should work with a wider data set, including academic institutions, to help understand and improve the accuracy of our journey towards carbon neutrality. This should also include an acknowledgement about scope 3 emissions and how these will be monitored even if they are not included in the 2030 target.	Consideration will be given to establishing some technical advice to support the delivery of the Strategy. This advice and expertise will be incorporated into the work of the Environment Advisory Group and Environment Board.
2	There should be clearer incentives for business to improve their carbon reduction activity and ensure there is a clear link with the Economic Development Strategy.	Recommend investigation of how 'Green Incentives' might be applied within the District to the Economic Development Board. This will feed into and be monitored by the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan.
3	There should be effective enforcement of the current (and future) environmental standards.	When issues of environmental enforcement arise for example energy efficiency certification in the private housing sector, the Public Protection enforcement policy will apply. The Environment Board will consider any subject specific policies to provide a consistent approach.
4	The role of agriculture and farming should be more prominent.	This is reflected in the proposed revised strategy with recognition in section 3 that we need to find better ways to engage with farmers and landowners and a commitment in section 5.5 to work with landowners and farming/ agricultural communities to explore opportunities for natural sequestration through environmental land management techniques.

<p>5</p>	<p>The Council should aim for renewable energy to be on all their sites (including schools).</p>	<p>A programme of site surveys will be commissioned including conditions surveys for reducing consumption. We will aim to deliver on all sites where it is shown there is a feasible renewable energy option. The judgement around feasibility will be based on the ability to find a structurally safe proposal in a way that is acceptable within Planning and where the required investment is justified for the predicted renewable energy return.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Increase the uptake and incentivise the use of electric vehicles, mindful of the impact of affordability to avoid social justice risks.</p>	<p>A specific strategy covering all Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles with a particular emphasis on electric vehicles will be brought forward and included in the Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Greater focus on education and training (schools, residents and businesses) with sustained engagement events to try and persuade the wider community to believe in the vision.</p>	<p>We will facilitate ongoing engagement through existing channels and networks as well as examining new opportunities. A range of options will be considered such as delivering a programme of topic specific sessions each year through webinars or making use of other online platforms. The range of people who are keen to engage and the different ways in which they prefer to get involved will be considered in the education and training opportunities delivered.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>The document should use more reader friendly diagrams to explain its key messages.</p>	<p>Some additional diagrams have been sourced and are proposed to be used in the final strategy document. Examples from other strategies and suggestions from the consultation feedback have been used to improve accessibility of the document.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.</p>	<p>An annual report will be produced to set out progress against the Delivery Plan. In addition, an ongoing flow of information will be encouraged and the Council will look to a range of platforms to achieve this.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>The Council should show leadership to local businesses in the way it procures supplies and services.</p>	<p>The Council Procurement Strategy will be reviewed to include strong environmental and 'local first' principles to minimise carbon emissions from council operations.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Improve links with local food producers and find ways to get their produce to local markets.</p>	<p>This can be reviewed through the Feed and Food Enforcement Plan in the Public Protection Partnership and supplement the Economic Development Strategy.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Fundamental changes to kerbside recycling.</p>	<p>Bearing in mind existing contractual commitments with Veolia, opportunities will be explored to enhance the kerbside recycling scheme. Other possible opportunities to support recycling in the community will be explored. This will feed into the Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.</p>	<p>This will be looked at through revisions of the Local Plan and the Housing Strategy. There is considerable professional opinion to suggest that the Council would be at risk to legal challenge should it go beyond existing environmental standards set by central government. The Council will, however, lobby Government to set the environmental standards in planning at the highest levels. The commitment to this has been strengthened in the Strategy to reflect the consultation feedback.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Stronger emphasis on the policy and financial commitments related to sustainable transport systems.</p>	<p>This will be dealt with through the Local Transport Plan and its associated strategies but will have the 2030 target as a central feature.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Improved provision of cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>There has been an increase in focus and delivery of cycling infrastructure particularly evidenced through the improvements to the facilities along the A4 as part of a Berkshire-wide strategic route. The momentum for this increased focus on cycling infrastructure will be continued through the updating of the Local Transport Plan and its associated strategies such as the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Particular</p>

		attention is being given to supporting cycling through the Active Travel Fund as part of recovery plans following the COVID-19 pandemic.
16	There should be more emphasis on air quality.	It is considered that the Council places the appropriate priority on air quality and will continue to address this area through its reporting to Defra, through identification of key monitoring data and through actions taken forward in the Local Transport Plan. The links with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will remain a priority. Opportunities to lock in any benefits for air quality arising from changes in behaviour as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be explored through the Delivery Plan.
Key themes not proposed to be taken forward		
Ref	Theme from consultation responses	Response / proposed action
17	Bringing forward the 2030 target.	The interpretation around levels of 'urgency' given the declaration of a climate emergency do need to be balanced against some pragmatic issues for delivery. It is not possible, in our view, to achieve our target before 2030 and in fact this is still too ambitious for many respondents who took part in the consultation.
18	Form a citizen assembly.	As a specific process this seems unnecessary if the engagement and communication improvements are made as suggested above. The response to key theme 1 in particular picks up on seeking wider advice and input in relation to our data set and technical aspects. At this stage it is considered that a citizen's assembly would take up valuable resources that should be directed at delivery of projects.

Next Steps

- 5.18 It is worth noting that towards the end of the consultation and engagement process a new structure has been agreed within the Environment Department. A new 'Environment Delivery Team' has been formed and will be responsible for progressing the Delivery Plan.
- 5.19 The immediate next step is to publish the final approved version of the Environment Strategy. Following that, the new Environment Delivery Team will have a priority of working with partners to develop the Delivery Plan to accompany the strategy.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 It is acknowledged that there are a number of ways in which the consultation responses could have been interpreted and used to influence a final version of the strategy. This report has outlined the approach and process that was chosen to develop a series of recommendations for amendments to the strategy and elements to be taken forward in the Delivery Plan based on the content of the consultation.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The consultation and engagement process for the strategy has been a considerable task and has reflected the desire of the Executive to conduct a thorough process and provide plenty of opportunities for the community to get involved.
- 7.2 This report includes the proposed actions to be taken as a result of the consultation feedback and are a mix of direct changes to the strategy, ideas for inclusion in the Delivery Plan and elements to be picked up elsewhere in the Council's work.
- 7.3 Overall, it is considered that the feedback on the draft strategy has been positive and that the community of West Berkshire are pleased to see the Council taking the lead in developing a strategy. The level of engagement and the ideas and suggestions put forward by individuals and groups tends to suggest that the community agrees that the delivery of the strategy is a shared responsibility across the whole community.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix B – Data Protection Impact Assessment
- 8.3 Appendix C – Summary of survey responses by question
- 8.4 Appendix D – Summary of direct written responses
- 8.5 Appendix E - Feedback from engagement events
- 8.6 Appendix F - General public drop-in sessions
- 8.7 Appendix G – Revised Strategy

Background Papers:

All referenced with the summary report and appendices.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

Wards affected: whole district

Officer details:

Name: Paul Anstey
Job Title: Head of PPC
Tel No: 01635 519837
E-mail: Paul.Anstey@westberks.gov.uk

Document Control

Document Ref:	CB Post Consultation Env Strategy	Date Created:	10/03/2020
Version:	1.4	Date Modified:	
Author:	Paul Anstey		
Owning Service	PPC		

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1.0	05/03/2020	Initial draft based on the format used by Performance, Research and consultation team	PA
1.1	10/03/2020	Initial feedback form project team	PA
1.2	10/03/2020	EAG/Environment Board comments	PA
1.3	18/03/2020	Further project team feedback	PA
1.4	21/05/2020	Merge with consultation papers and wider research from other organisations	PA

Appendix A

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:***
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;***
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:***
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;***
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;***
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.***
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	Approve the Environment Strategy
Summary of relevant legislation:	None
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Paul Anstey
Date of assessment:	10/03/2020

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	Confirm the strategy for West Berkshire
Objectives:	Carbon neutral by 2030
Outcomes:	Linked into wider strategy framework for the council, improved consistency of approach on carbon emission reductions and financial decisions.
Benefits:	Reduced carbon emissions and the associated environmental and public health benefits.

Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.		
(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a

		protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Disability	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Gender Reassignment	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Race	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Religion or Belief	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Sex	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.

Sexual Orientation	None	The Environment Strategy for West Berkshire would be unlikely to have any more impact on a person with a protected characteristic than on anyone else.
Further Comments relating to the item:		
None		

Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer: As projects associated with the strategy evolve there will need to be careful assessment on where investment goes to ensure that the delivery plan benefits as many people in the district as possible e.g. rural/urban compromise on infrastructure, sustainable transport solutions, cycleways. This will need to be picked up through the PMM associated with these projects individually and oversight through the Environment Board will be key.	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer: In general the answer is no but this is difficult to predict. As above there will need to be careful consideration about the projects that are progressed to deliver the vision. There are views expressed in the consultation that would suggest some solutions to climate change are unpopular and may cause some adverse impact. This will need to be evaluated against the gains the majority may experience e.g. infrastructure will be desirable to some but not all, reducing car travel is difficult for some rural communities, businesses may not want to see green initiatives push up the cost of trading etc...	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered ‘yes’ to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template.

Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	Not for the strategy but to be mindful of impacts of individual projects that may be part of the Delivery Plan.
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	

Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
--	--

Name: Paul Anstey

Date: 10.03.2020

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.

Appendix B

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	Place
Service:	Public Protection and Culture
Team:	
Lead Officer:	Paul Anstey
Title of Project/System:	Environment Strategy
Date of Assessment:	10/03/2020

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
<p>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</p> <p><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p><i>Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual’s input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised</p>		

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.

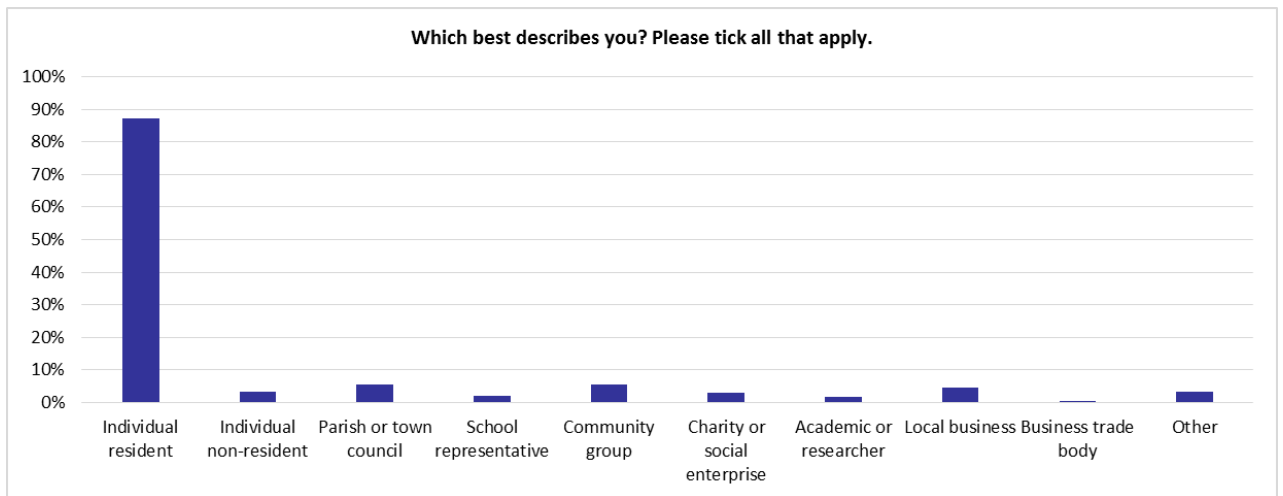
Appendix C

Summary of survey responses by question

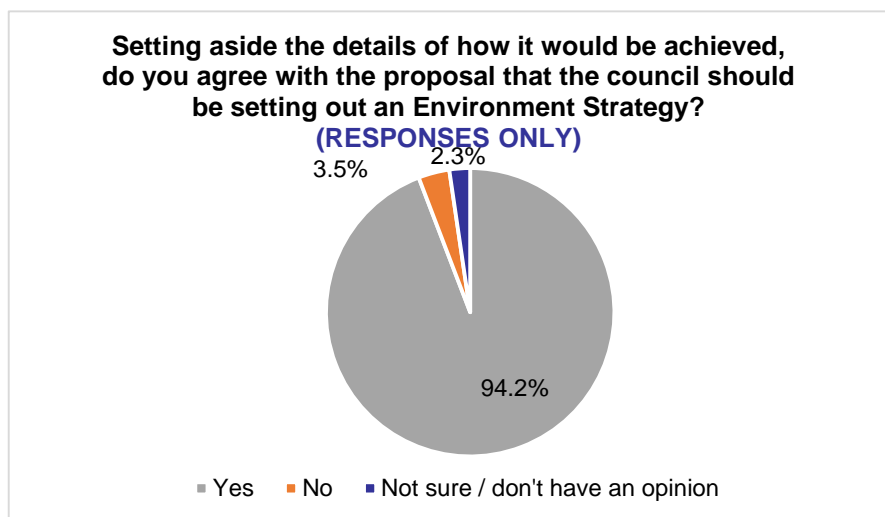
The tables and graphs represent the 'responses only' results. The total number of responses was 501. Where the response level is different it is identified in the title list by the n=##.

The bullet points under the charts are the summary of the responses for positive change, where they are in bold the comments were made by more than one person.

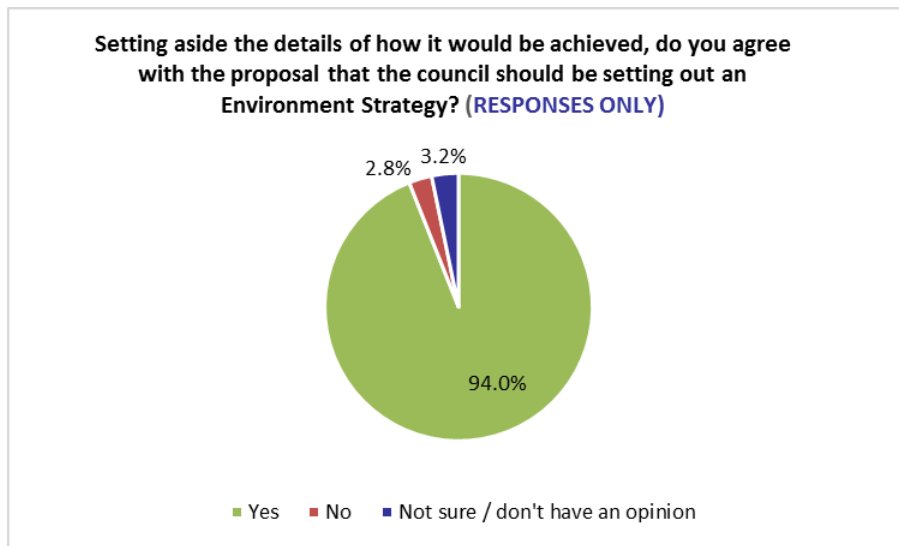
1. Response profile (all responses = 509)



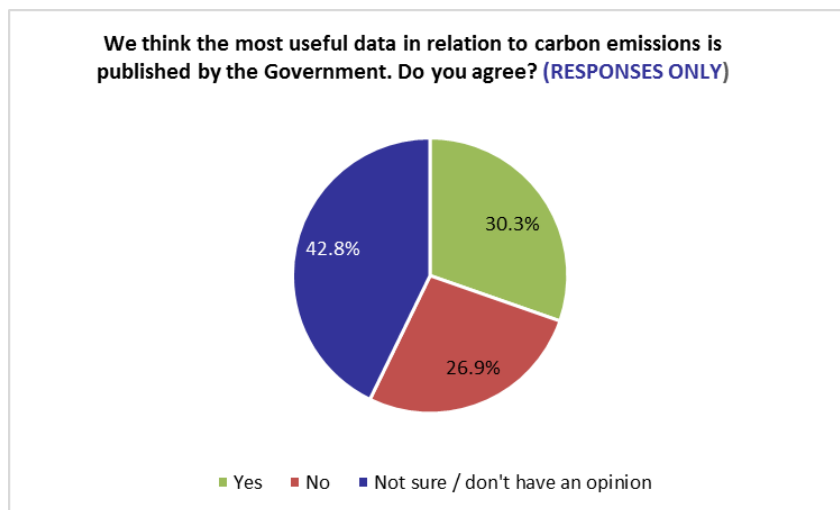
2. N= 430



3. N= 432

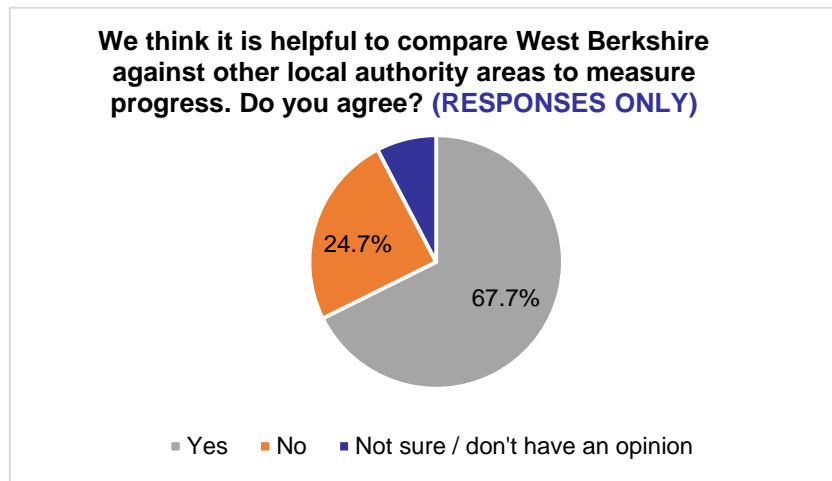


4. N= 402



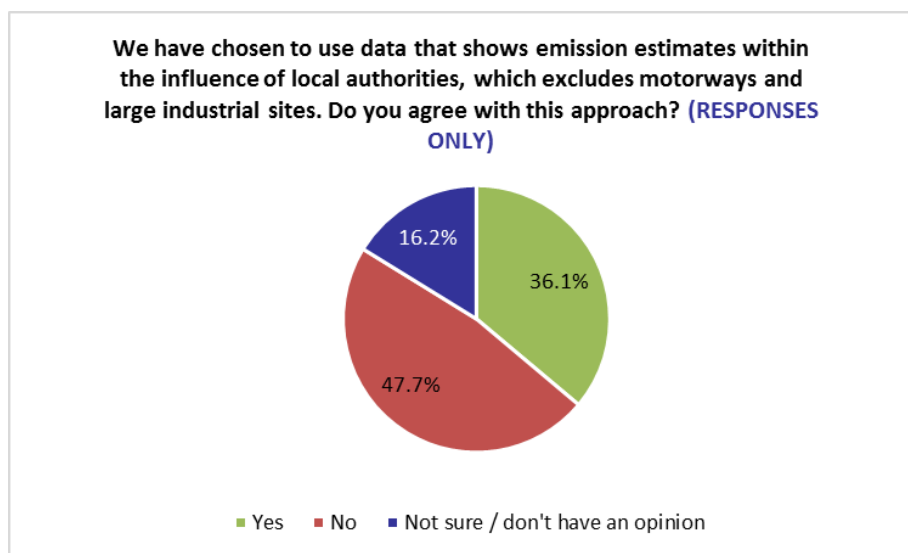
- Council should have its own data.
- NGO's and Universities
- Friends of the Earth
- MET Office Hadley Centre
- Reading University
- The Grantham Institute
- CCC/IPCC
- Greenpeace
- Carbon Trust
- NASO OCO-2 and 3
- Peer-reviewed work
- Not independent

5. N=405



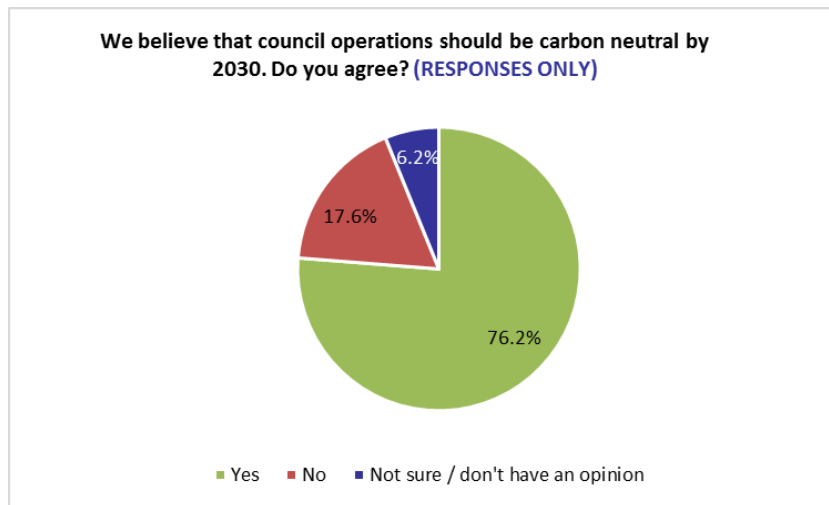
- Use the benchmarking to compare against high performing.
- Confirm what data makes those benchmarked against a fair comparison.
- Not at the expense of the main focus and targets set e.g. avoid complacency
- Look at international performance

6. N=407



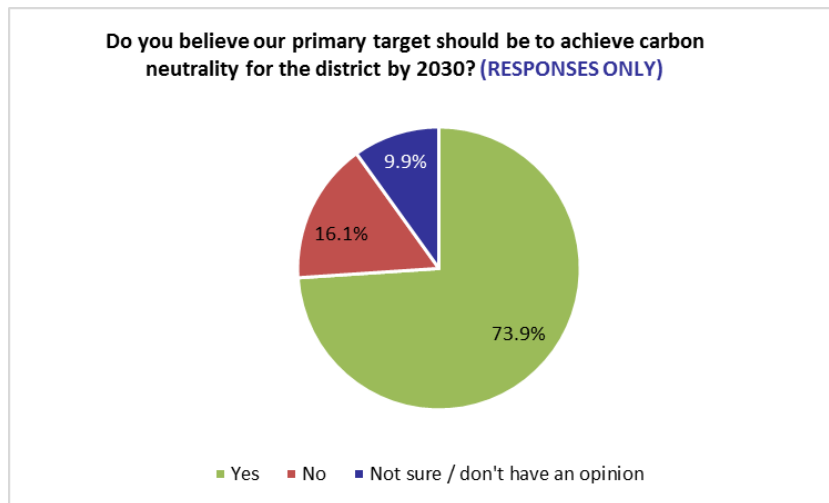
- Show a strategy for how we intend to influence those who do control them
- Monitor it even if you can't control it.

7. N=404



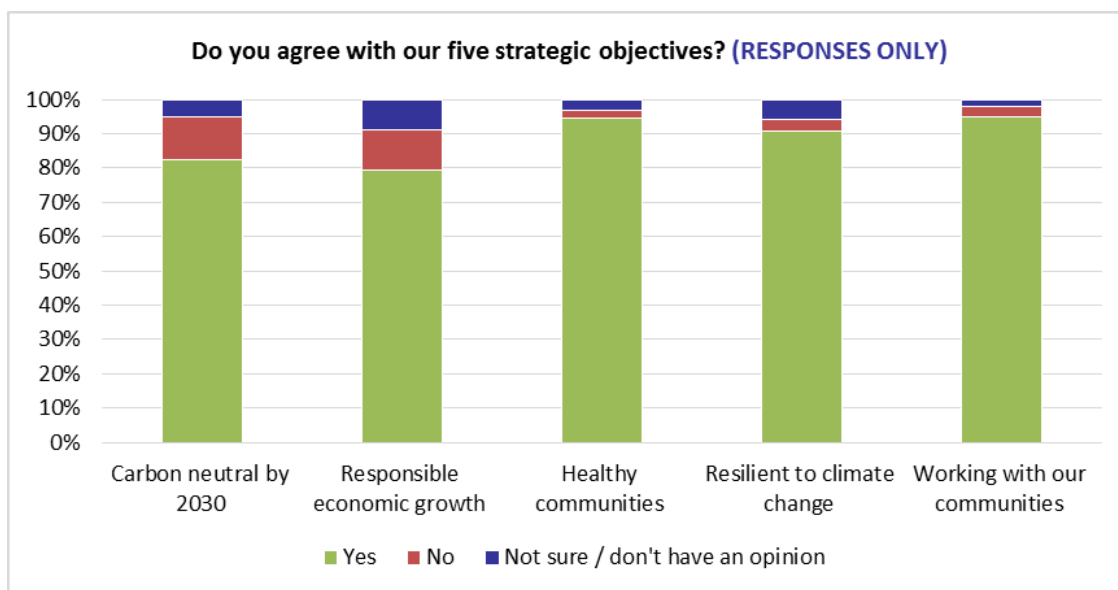
- Local first procurement strategy
- Clarify terminology net zero greenhouse gases

8. N=403



- Be clearer on what is 'in-scope'
- More focus on energy efficiency and reducing demand

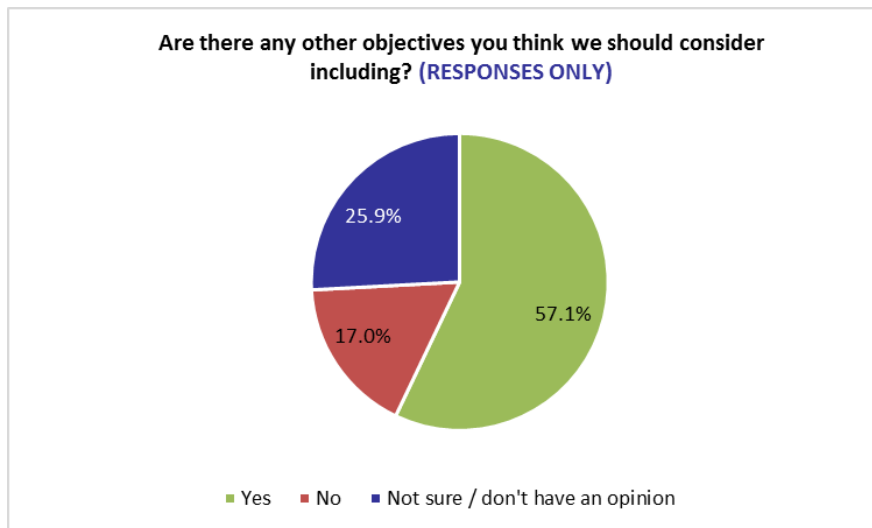
9. N=range 362 to 371



- Carbon Neutral by 2030 (13%)
 - o Needs to be earlier e.g. 2025
 - o Ground source heat pumps
 - o Need citizen assembly to drive this forward
 - o Too much emphasis on carbon offsetting
 - o More emphasis on reduce, re-use, recycle
 - o Home/SME insulation measures
 - o Balance tree planting with historic landscape
 - o More reference to natural carbon solutions rather than just planting trees
 - o Public transport

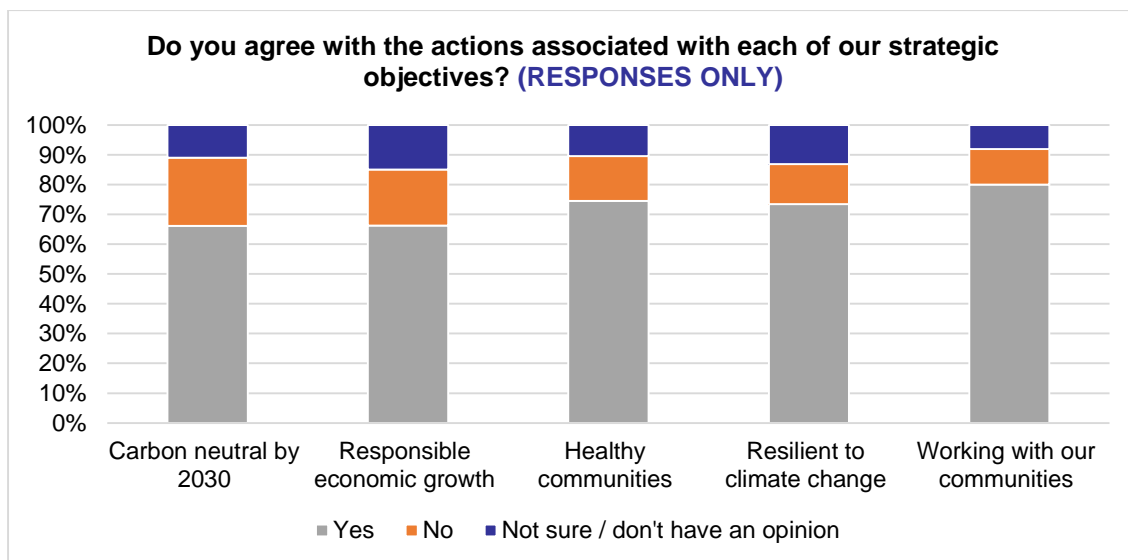
- Responsible Economic Growth (12%)
 - o **Incentives - Use of business rates/Business support funds**
 - o **Enforcement - Env Eff Cert/EPC's/DEC**
 - o Devolution of power to LA's
 - o Planning policy should be strengthened
 - o Env standards in new commercial buildings
 - o Encouraging improved use of technology
 - o Support home working
 - o Economic growth should not be mentioned at all
 - o Can we do better in explaining what types of economic growth we are looking for?
 - o How does this fit with the natural capital of west Berkshire
 - o Agricultural practices/support

10.N=352



- **Role of agriculture and farming**
- **Recycling**
 - o Restoring nature
 - o Plastics
 - o Local businesses/pension funds
 - o Public transport
 - o Schools

11.N= range 305-319



-
- Carbon Neutral by 2030 (23%)
 - **Solar and GSHP installed in all Council sites / Renewables**
 - **Sooner than 2030**
 - **Improve Sustainable Transport system and reduce costs**
 - **Increase uptake / Incentivise EV's e.g. Public Parking advantages for EV's**
 - **Improve kerbside recycling offer**
 - Incentives for private business/residents
 - Citizens assembly
 - Better education and communication of issues / opportunities / limitations
 - Education about Food waste
 - Home / SME insulation programme / actions to improve social housing
 - All licenced taxis to be EV
 - Wider consideration of other types of sequestration
 - Policy of only building on brownfields

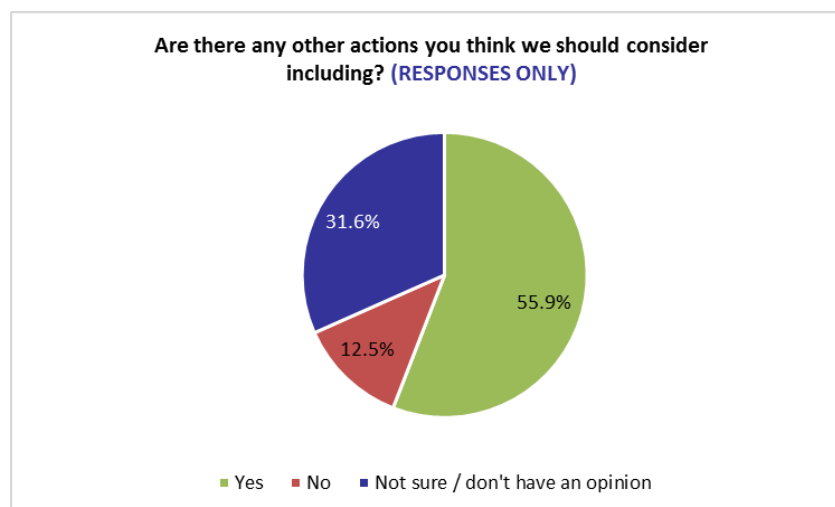
 - Responsible Economic Growth (19%)
 - **Implement/Enforce higher energy efficiency through Building Regs/planning**
 - **Use incentives/tax to help businesses make green choices**
 - **Minimum environmental standards for commercial developments are too low**
 - Lobby the Government to enforce higher environmental standards for new homes
 - Encourage PV installations
 - Encourage diverse businesses by reducing parking costs and cheaper business rates
 - What is responsible growth?
 - Agriculture missing
 - Designating London Rd Industrial Estate as a Green Development Zone
 - Business awards for green practices

 - Healthy Communities (15%)
 - **Cycle infrastructure (more and better planned)**
 - **Clean air (more joined up working)**
 - Local food supply
 - Leisure facilities
 - Improve care for the elderly
 - Reduce meat consumption/link to health eating
 - Consider mental health
 - Speed limit reductions on roads
 - Safe walking zones
 - Schools and outdoor spaces
 - New developments; better planting and more open space
 - Car free zones near schools
 - Home to School transport; cycling
 - Reduce the health inequality gap in the area
 - More use of wardens to patrol areas
 - Improve rural isolation
 - Offer workshops and guidance

-
- Resilient to climate change (13%)
 - **More emphasis on other potential climate change issues, e.g. drought, wild fires, etc.**
 - **Flood alleviation schemes / Community Flood Plans**
 - **Improved urban design, e.g. to address increases in temperature**
 - **Nature recovery network / Plant more trees**
 - Better education and communication
 - Maintenance of existing drainage systems
 - Rewilding e.g. reintroduction of Beavers
 - Community Farms / adequate allotment provision
 - No building on flood plains

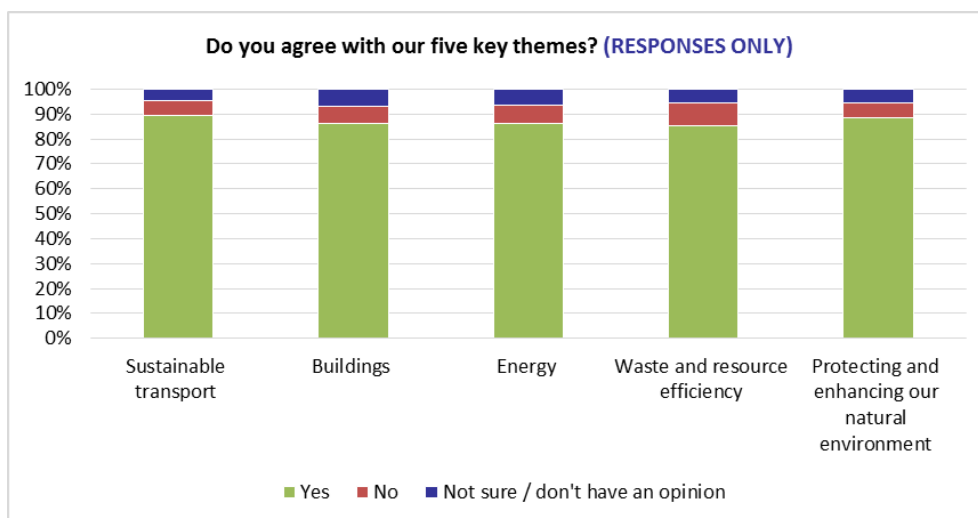
 - Working with our communities (12%)
 - **Citizens Assembly**
 - **Educate and engage people**
 - **Greater involvement of local groups**
 - Needs partnership agreements
 - Needs a direct reference to vulnerable communities
 - Involve the community at every decision making opportunity
 - Establish a working party to look at how partnership links can be formed
 - Consider all groups not just town and parish councils
 - Public transport and better integration of train and bus services
 - Improved and more frequent recycling services
 - More lobbying of government
 - Wider community involvement rather than just those with a green interest
 - More consensus between political parties
 - London Road Industrial Estate as West Berkshire's first Green Development Zone
 - Improved communications, publicity and awareness raising
 - Incentives to act

12. N=297

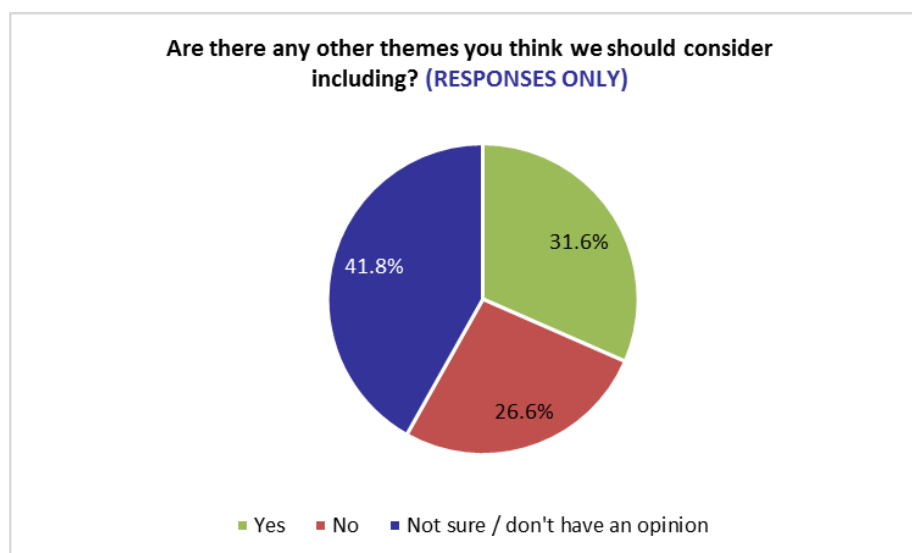


- **More attention on education and training (schools, residents, businesses)**
- **Better kerbside recycling offer**
- **Sustainable Transport System / Better rural bus service / Park & Ride**
- Look at what other municipalities beyond UK are doing
- Encourage / incentivise EV's
- Stronger local planning system requiring better design of housing and sites to include renewables from outset and adaption to climate change. Opportunity to use Faraday Road as example to rest of district.
- Proper resourcing of the issue at hand
- Workplace levy to discourage parking at work
- Rewarding those that take up and excel in the challenge (business rates / council tax)
- Renewables, hydro electric / solar PV etc.
- Citizens assembly
- Improving the profile of the local agenda e.g. only eat local sourced foods etc
- Address local agriculture activities and methods

13.N=range 301 to 318



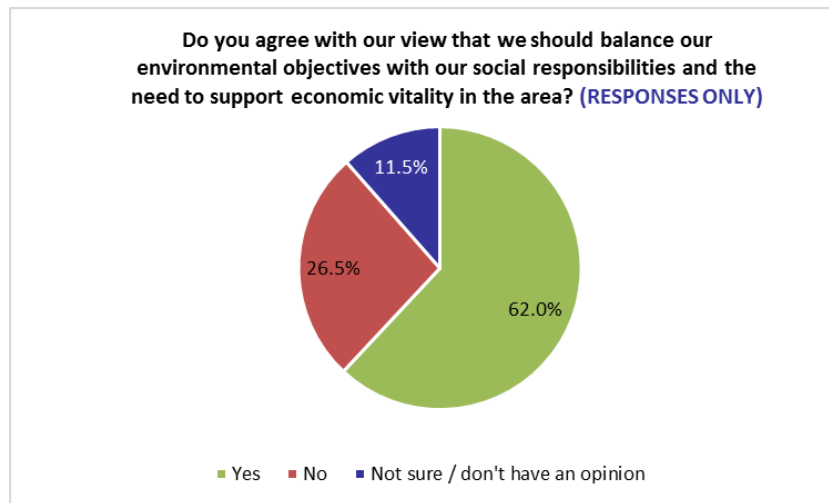
14.N=282



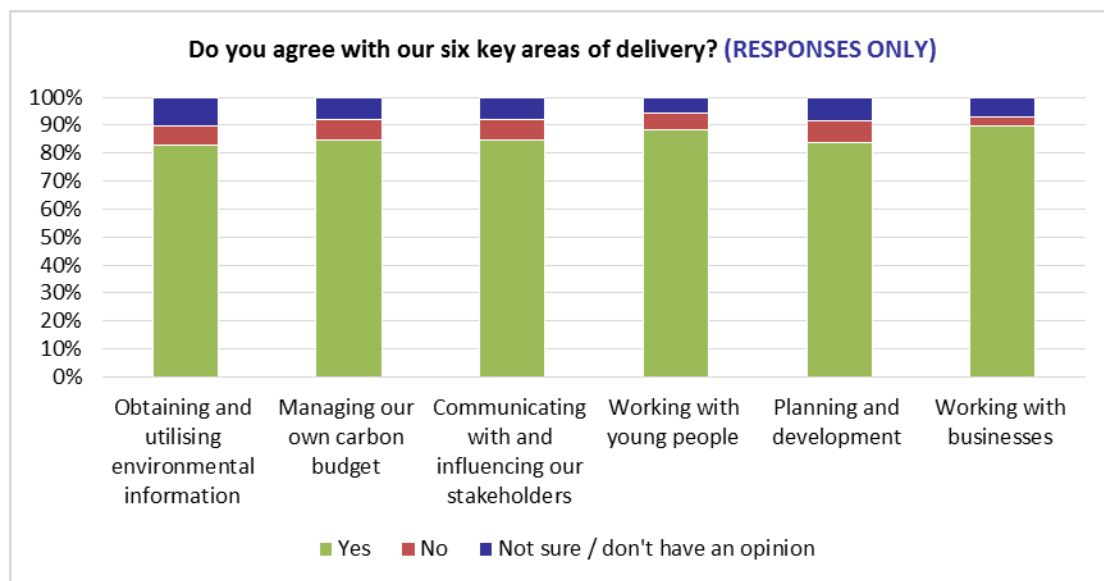
- **Plant more trees and increase green space**
- **Increase children and adult education around the environment – including WBC Councillors and Staff**
- **Agriculture and food production**
- **Improve recycling and increase plastic/Teracycle recycling – free recycling of materials at HHRCs and green waste at kerbside**
- **Comprehensive cycle network through the district**
- **No parking zones/traffic free zones outside schools**
- **Better communications and publicity**
- New walkways and nature reserves
- Improve public transport and more buses, more environmentally friendly
- Restricting bonfires and burning of waste

-
- Encourage all schools to sign up to Eco Schools programme
 - Cross party working
 - Council fleet electric
 - Lobby government
 - Reforestation of M4 Corridor
 - Cycling to schools
 - More street cleaning
 - Planning – full site environmental impact studies and low carbon buildings required
 - UN Strategic Development Goals – include recommendations
 - Focus groups
 - Free recycling for all
 - Introduce sustainable procurement processes
 - Better flood management
 - Farmers forum
 - Green Awards Scheme for West Berkshire
 - Appoint senior climate change officer – who would write weekly columns, social media accounts etc
 - Raise AQ awareness with parents at schools
 - Historic built environment needs a separate section
 - Build on brownfield rather than greenfield sites
 - More emphasis on rural areas, reduce fly tipping issues
 - Water
 - Aviation
 - Themes of Sustainable Transport to achieve Low Emissions and Clean Air, Protecting and Enhancing our Bio-diversity and Ecology - for Wildlife and Natural Environment
 - Enhancing local residents' wellbeing
 - Review street lighting. Type and timings.
 - Use the Kennet and Pang Valley aquifer for district heating
 - Park and rides
 - Promote closer local government (LG)/commercial/resident partnerships that are mutually beneficial e.g. shared use of car parks.

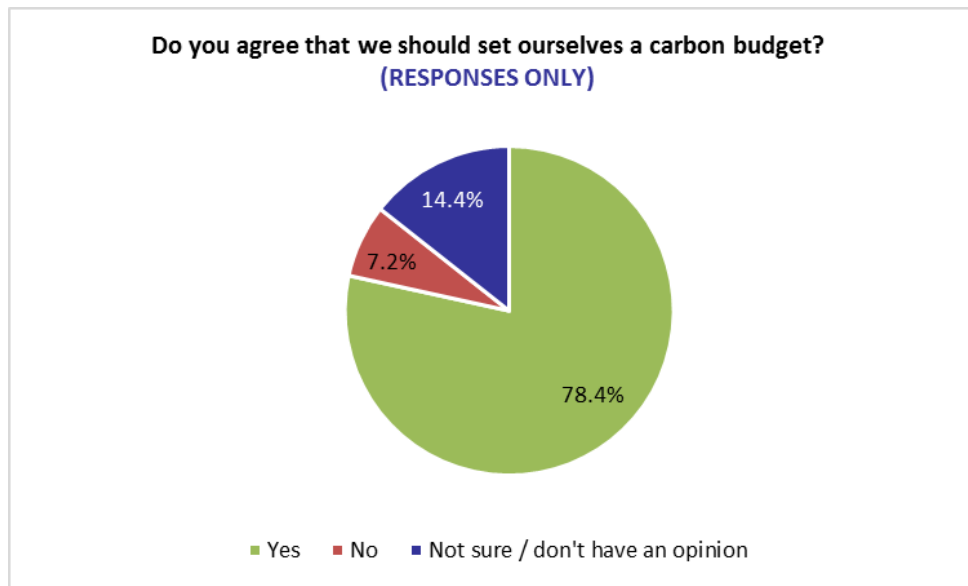
15.N=313



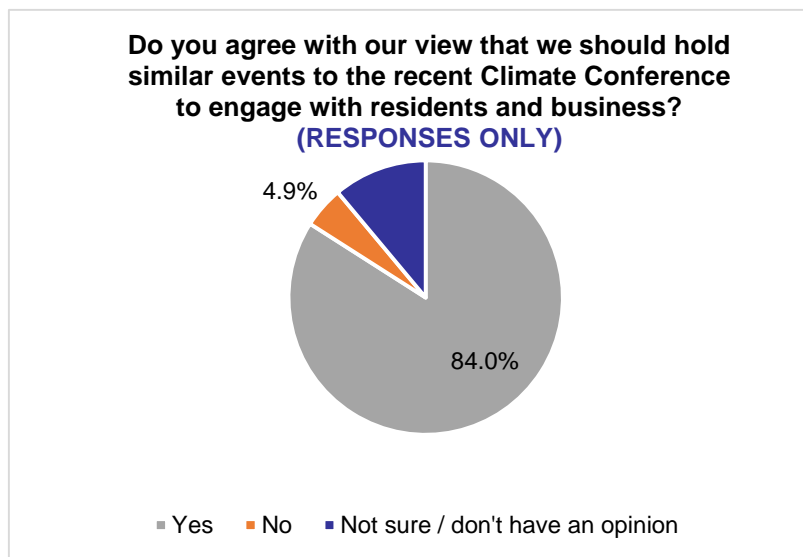
16.N=range 299-305



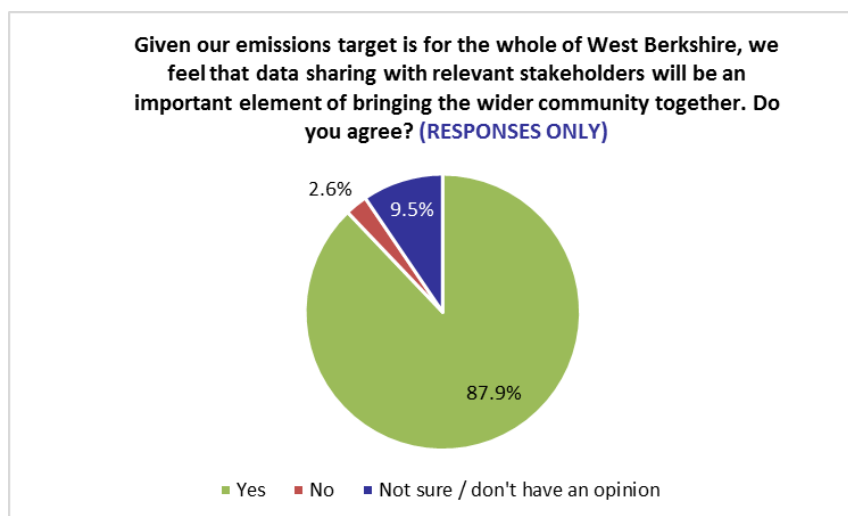
17. N=306



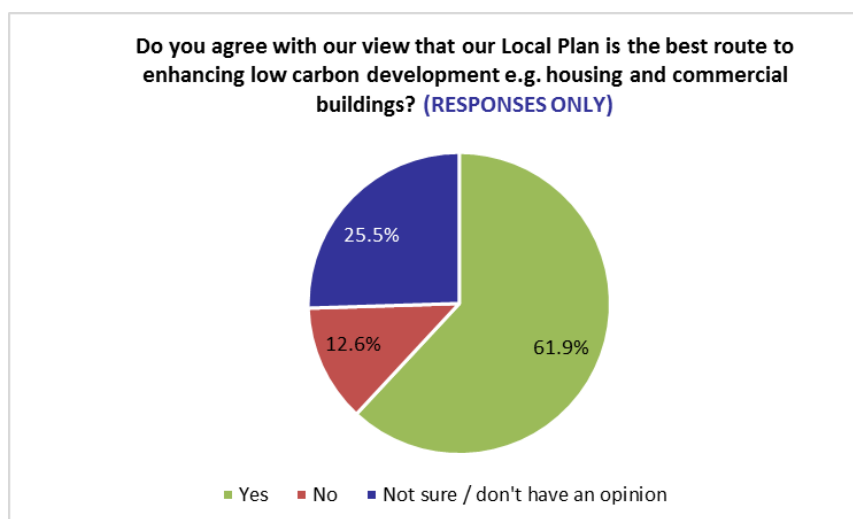
18. N=307



19.N=305

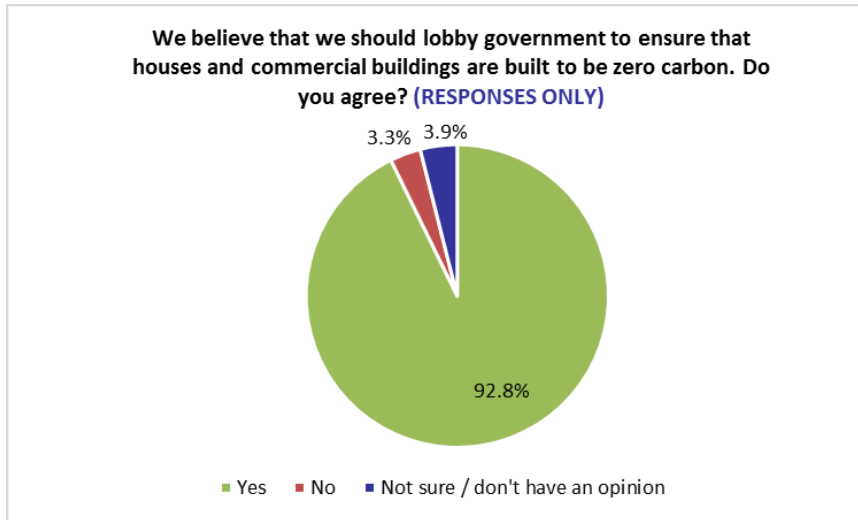


20.N=302

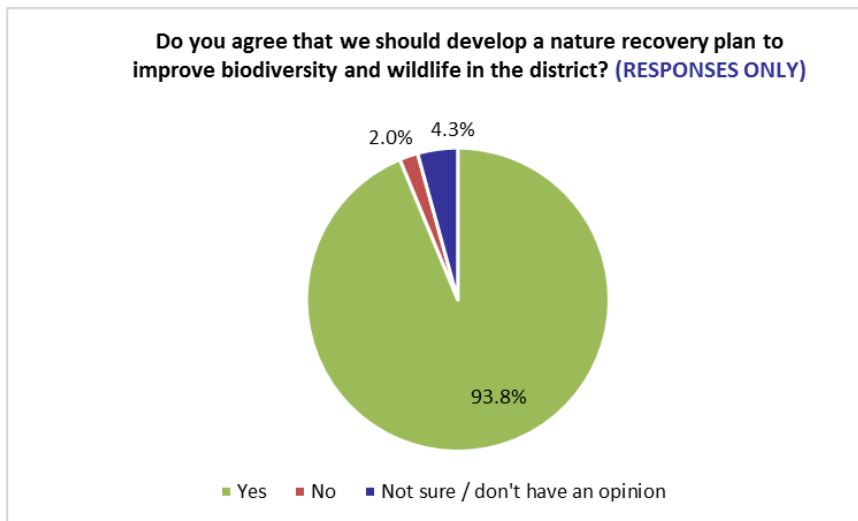


- **Merton Rule**
- **Must lobby government for more local power to set standards**
- **Zero carbon homes or equivalent standards should be adopted**
- **LDP must have renewable energy as a core policy**
- Prioritise brownfields over greenfields
- Better protection of natural environment
- Needs to have teeth / Must enforce any policy
- Like the idea of allowable solutions if realisable
- Local Area Energy Strategy to sit alongside LDP
- Needs to look at all aspects of building including construction and not just solar PV etc.

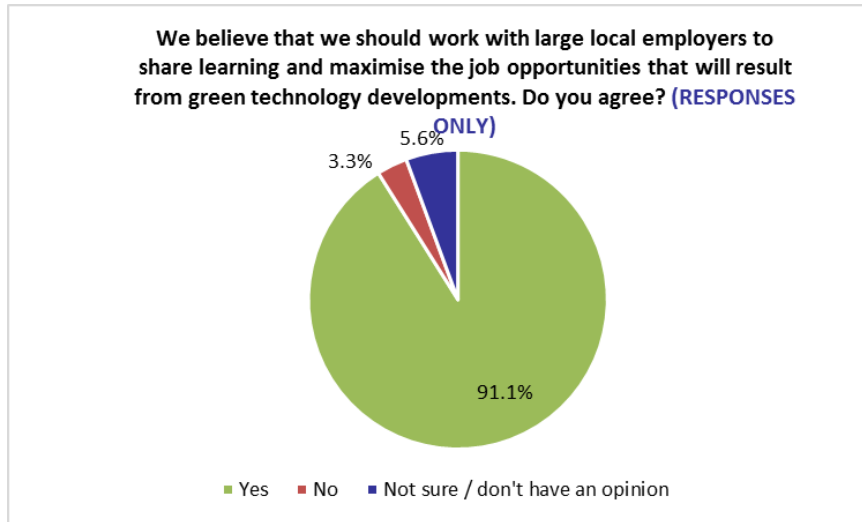
21.N=304



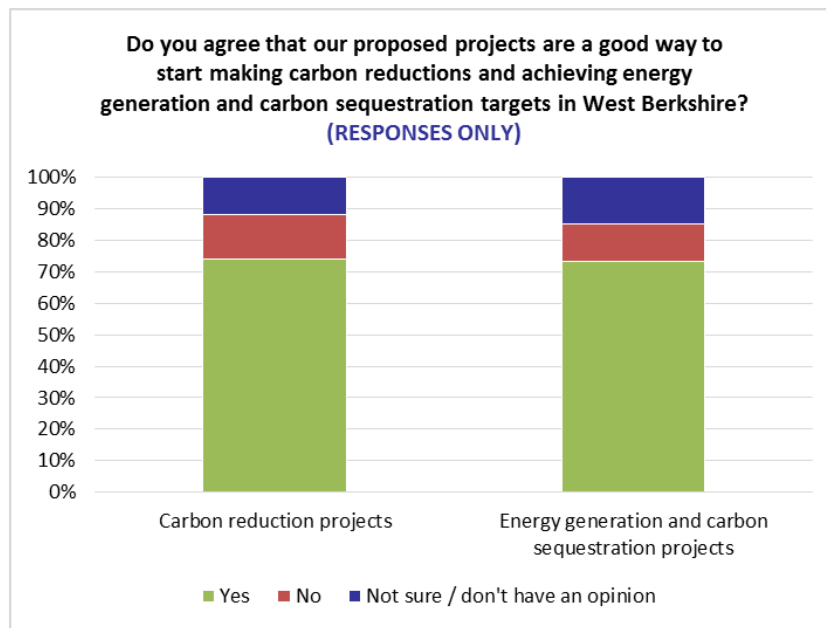
22.N=304



23. N =302



24. N=range 286 to 300



Carbon reduction projects

-
- **Need to be more ambitious**
 - **number to be agreed on first strategy review' this is a bit woolly**
 - **Need to see the targets/numbers**
 - Will need adequate communication on progress
 - Need to include timescales and measures of success
 - Lead by example and infrastructure with EVs
 - Demonstrate some practical achievements at WBC (or perhaps just promote what WBC have done)
 - Multi use paths
 - Wildflower verges, tree planting
 - Waste policy, contract length, Plastic recycling
 - Consider upstream supply chain
 - Work with schools, improve energy efficiency, solar panels etc
 - Wind energy
 - Agriculture
 - Doesn't appear to be about district as a whole

Energy generation and carbon sequestration projects

- **Tree planting**
- **More detail on targets and costs**
- **Hydro**
- **More solar projects**
- **Don't plant trees on agricultural land**
- Higher and more enforceable
- Invest in renewables and battery storage instead of commercial property
- Support local renewable projects
- Protect existing trees and hedges
- Wind investment
- Energy from waste
- Removing CO2 such as Carbon Capture
- Schools – solar panels on roof
- More advice and help
- Needs to be more about the district than WBC

25. N=299



Summary of direct written responses

Policy/Strategic Issues

- i) There needs to be a clear commitment that all the other Council strategies will tie in to the carbon zero objective by 2030. This should be a key element of the Delivery Plan.
- ii) Do more to seek control on emissions outside local authority influence. Find ways to explain the limitations and show practical examples of how the Council can monitor what others (government and industry for example) are doing and report back.
- iii) General scepticism in the effectiveness of lobbying central government.
- iv) Examine the links between social justice and ability to achieve behaviour change in relation to carbon reduction projects/initiatives.
- v) Show more desire to influence planning/housing policy.

Technical Issues

- i) Improve the consistency of data included in the document and get an independent third party to review what has been used.
- ii) Ensure the data is reliable and state if there are assumptions/gaps in the sources relied upon.
- iii) Find ways to measure carbon sequestration in order to assess overall balance.
- iv) Explain Scope 3 emissions in a more transparent way so people understand what it means if they are not measured, or what national data needs to be available to enable this, through to 2030.
- v) Be more ambitious and seek to achieve behaviour change through a more comprehensive approach than purely raising awareness.

Communication and Engagement Issues

- i) Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards the Council's targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing the citizens.
- ii) Engage more with neighbouring authorities, specified experts, trade unions, staff and show more robust evidence that this will happen.

-
- iii) Be more outward facing on engagement, do more climate conference style events, use technology to get to 'hard to reach' people/business.
 - iv) Young people need more than 'awareness' they need projects they can get involved with.

Presentation Issues

- i) Less words, more accessible 'receiver friendly' illustrations/visuals.
- ii) Be clearer in the methodology and structure of the strategy to show how migration to a sustainable and low carbon position can be achieved:
 - Use less;
 - Increase efficiency;
 - Find carbon-friendly alternatives; and
 - Offset what's left.
- iii) Be clearer about the timescales for the delivery plan. Try to avoid the risks associated with too much talking and not enough action.
- iv) There are too many examples of clashes in style. Needs more editing by someone more removed from the process.

Items for the Delivery Plan

- i) There are lots of ideas which need to be considered. The Council needs to find an appropriate process to review, prioritise and approve projects which will maximise carbon emission reductions.
- ii) Decision making needs to be based on best available evidence, no room for short termism.
- iii) Establish a clear policy approach towards the agricultural sector to help engage on environmental improvement issues.
- iv) Maximise the number of joint projects with external partners e.g. town and parish councils, businesses, education and voluntary sectors e.g. Newbury College/Reading University/Schools/Community Hub.
- v) There should be a gap analysis of the Council as an organisation and recruitment/contracts should be mapped to address the gaps.

Full list of direct written responses

- a. Policy/Strategic Issues** (items where policy change needs to be considered)

-
- Develop a local offsetting scheme, which has been effectively scrutinised, for local SME's (small and medium sized enterprise) to sign up to.
 - The Council should be bolder in its attempts to provide local leadership. This should go beyond lobbying and fully embrace the 'emergency'.
 - Do more to seek control on emissions outside local authority influence, such as major roads. This should include seeking congestion charge style systems and local fuel tax systems.
 - Identify some indicative targets for others e.g. town and parish councils, local businesses.
 - Remove the green bin charge.
 - Embed ethical finance and investment as a principle.
 - Gentle 'nudge' approach is not enough. Need to be tougher in approach.
 - Support for integrated transport planning and the associated investment required to make it happen in a rural area. Focused on moving away from private cars towards better public systems.
 - In energy terms, using less and being more efficient should be the priorities.
 - General scepticism in the effectiveness of lobbying central government.
 - More emphasis on supporting local cooperatives of allotment holders, that cuts costs to Town Councils and contribute more imaginatively to food networks.
 - More comprehensive recycling services are needed to support residents.
 - A commitment to clean air zones.
 - There should be more evidence that the Council is prepared to simultaneously address social justice issues and the social inequalities evident in West Berkshire. Environmental objectives must be balanced with social justice e.g. concerns about the affordability of electric cars and how this will create a divide in the community.
 - The exclusions of certain emissions is wrong, they should be listed and shown as being the responsibility of others for monitoring purposes.
 - The Council plan to 2036 should be tied into the Environment Strategy.
 - Para 6.11 - Specific commitment to financially support bus services needed.
 - More resources should be made available for the sustainable transport initiatives described in the 2nd para of page 18.
 - Greater emphasis on new builds and set a defined target for when all houses should be carbon neutral.
 - Re-visit, with urgency, the Council's Local Plan/Core Strategy.
 - The Council needs to make the statement that overall planning policy will prioritise tackling climate change, protecting and enhancing the environment.
 - Explicit commitment on tree planting is needed.
 - London Road Industrial Estate should be designated a green development zone.
 - Specific policy on vehicle free zones near schools is needed.
 - Specific policy on increasing cycling is needed.
 - Develop a zone centred traffic plan.

-
- Introduce a workplace parking levy for those places of work with 10 or more parking spaces.
 - Review waste strategy and policy to maximise recycling. This review should also consider removing the green bin charge and the permit scheme, improving kerbside bins and more commercialisation of composting.
 - Review procurement policy to include environmental sustainability clauses.
 - Create grant funding to encourage small scale, local, projects on climate change/carbon reduction.
 - Need to reconsider the inclusion of methane as part of the target, the big input of waste to greenhouse gases should be mentioned.
 - Show more desire to train the right tradespeople to develop skills e.g. installers and engineers across the area so they can provide good quality advice for new installations. This is also a good start for west Berkshire becoming a good place for business.
 - There should be a clear organisational change policy, with adequate technical input, to show how the Council will adapt to the emergency and what steps are required to achieve sustained change.

b. Technical Issues (issues raised where there is specific scientific/technical element to respond to)

- Carbon sequestration is more than just planting trees. Find ways to measure carbon sequestration in order to assess overall balance.
- Concern about the Council's financial capacity to deliver on projects needed.
- Make clearer the reasons why certain evidence was used.
- Chart 5 (p29) data shows an artificially low carbon saving requirement. Need to see stronger evidence that the downward trajectory of emissions reductions will continue, nor that the sequestration target of 350 ktonnes is achievable. These figures should be independently underwritten. Find a partner e.g. Reading University as done by other LA's.
- P.15 should state that the provision of energy infrastructure, required to cater for economic growth, must come from sustainable sources.
- Review the claims made about electric vehicle charge points, not agreed and needs a more detailed study which engages a wider set of partners.
- Para 6.22 – mention the use of LED as a contributor.
- Para 6.25 – government consultation on Building Standards Part L (Energy Efficiency) should be noted and the Council should commit to ensuring insulation and air tightness standards are improved.
- Table 3, page 19 – why the difference? Wider consideration of other technologies needed.
- Clarify the technical references in how much renewable energy would need to be produced to sustain the Council's operations.
- Assumptions based on national data which is the basis for Charts 3 and 5 have significant risks attached and should be made clearer. Make more reference to the carbon audit and the potential for a new line requirement.

-
- Section 8 and the series of figures that are included in it should be made clearer and the logic explained. How reliable is the extrapolation and is the target realistic?
 - In relation to strategic objectives we should consider including the fact that budget planning is reflective of the strategy.
 - Need to reflect the IPCC report of October 2018 which stated that the upper target of 2°C was no longer safe and the 1.5°C should henceforth be the upper limit. This report added the huge urgency to the issue.
 - Page 10, Chart 3 needs re-modelling as the per person calculations don't make sense.
 - Page 12 para 4.1.3, please explain Scope 3 emissions and why they are excluded.
 - Page 19 section 6.1.3 1st paragraph. Could the 11,630MWh expressed here, the 11.6M kwh on page 24, fourth paragraph of section 6.2.2, and the 11.5 MW on page 29, section 8.1, first bullet, please be expressed in the same way.
 - Awareness-raising as the primary strategy for change has again and again been shown to be an ineffective – very probably even highly psychologically damaging – change strategy. What has been shown to be more effective is to bring together four factors together. These are:
 - ‘**Agency**’, defined as the ability to do something personally meaningful in response to information received on the climate emergency;
 - ‘**Association**’ with a supportive group, defined as being able to work together with others in a pro-climate context.
 - ‘**Awareness**’ of the relevance of climate change to one’s own life and priorities.
 - ‘**Action and reflection**’ – Reflecting on outcomes to learn what works and to build understanding of how to do better in future.

c. *Communication and Engagement Issues* (looking at how the document reflects the Council’s approach towards the ‘message’)

- The nature of the communications and consultation process is in need of review and modernising.
- There should be a stronger presence of a commitment to include workers and trade unions. Include them and learn from them.
- More integrated strategy work across children and families services in acknowledging the way climate change will impact on them. Include them and learn from them.
- Be more creative in the engagement process to widen the feedback and create a more inclusive environment. This includes events such as the Climate Conference, learn from the technology that is available and find ways to get to ‘hard to reach’ groups.
- Provide well-evidenced, regular reports on progress that include key influences on our environment, and their effects on progress towards WBC’s targets, would serve a vital function in engaging and informing us as citizens (a more accurate term than ‘residents’).
- Embed and progress the ‘shared learning’ ambitions.

-
- Find more creative ways to unblock the political dimensions that have been experienced in the governance process. Environment Board and Environment Advisory Group need better engagement and communications.
 - Engage more with neighbouring authorities, specified experts and show more robust evidence that this will happen.
 - A series of face to face public events will be needed if public opinion is to be changed, which will need professional facilitation.
 - Carry out more partnership working with other LA's who are more advanced in their climate change/carbon reduction journey.
 - Explore more creative ways to engage with the public and move away from internal meetings on the subject.
 - Look for 'flagship' projects which will generate a greater level of excitement and inspirational.
 - There should be more of a steer to others, for instance Newbury and Thatcham town Councils, given they have declared climate emergencies. Can there be an allocation of the target to them?
 - Publish the planned date of issue of the draft delivery plan which should focus on energy reduction and efficiency before renewable energy and offsetting.
 - Focus the strategy on reduction, reuse and recycling.
 - It is obviously important to give appropriate opportunities to participate to the younger generation, but efforts must be led, and be seen to be led, by current decision takers in the community in businesses and in the household.

d. Presentation Issues (specifically relates to the way the document has been drafted/formatted)

- More effective use of diagrams and comparisons with other local authority output.
- Less emphasis on the Council's emissions given it is such a small proportion of the overall problem.
- Be clearer about the timescales for the delivery plan. It should be produced as soon as possible.
- Be specific about Council initiatives which aim to reduce their carbon emissions so others can follow suit.
- Include information about what the Council does in relation to air quality monitoring.
- Be clearer in the methodology and structure of the strategy to show how migration to a sustainable and low carbon position can be achieved:
 - Use less;
 - Increase efficiency;
 - Find carbon-friendly alternatives; and
 - Offset what's left.
- Better breakdown on the information that makes up the orange line in the conclusions.

-
- More emphasis on green urban spaces for play and leisure have proven links to improving physical and mental health.
 - P10 – too much cut and paste with not enough explanation of why it is included.
 - Chart 2 – doesn't work at this scale – move to appendices.
 - Include a glossary.
 - There are too many examples of clashes in style. Needs more editing by someone more removed from the process.
 - Improve the clarity about why some measures or policies have been preferred over others.
 - Question whether 'healthy communities' and 'waste and resource efficiency' are directly relevant – should this be a pointer to other strategy work?
 - Clarify some of the conclusions, explaining the connections between some of the statements made or statistics quoted.
 - Given the Councils relatively small contribution to overall emissions, there is too much focus on it within the document.
 - Include in a glossary an explanation of the terms energy, power, peak power installed and the units to measure them.
 - A section on what the council might require from town and parish councils.
 - More specific focus on air quality, low emission or zero emission zones.
 - More clarity on how progress will be measured and evaluated.
 - Repetitive nature of the document.
 - There needs to be more clarity in the context section and be consistent in referring to zero net carbon.
 - There should be more use of local data.
 - Climate change is certain to continue until late in the 21st century so adaptation needs greater emphasis.

e. *Items for the Delivery Plan* (items where policy/project is in place or where project feasibility is required)

- The potential for groundwater to be used as an energy source in West Berkshire.
- Review of Greenham Common, its potential to contribute to both carbon reduction, natural habitat, biodiversity and minerals and waste objectives.
- Find out more about existing projects where we can engage young people to get involved in environmental conservation.
- Mention how people can reduce emissions at home e.g. coal and open fires.
- Should be a project to increase pedestrianisation and Ultra Low Emission Zones.
- Research energy generation methods such as Bio-energy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS).
- Wider use of speed lowering schemes.
- Review the Newbury bus station project and consider its suitability for a more integrated transport system.

-
- Carry out a dedicated assessment of the effects on accessibility issues raised for older people, disabled people, wheelchair users, and families of young children using buggies, all of whom who are most affected by changes to car usage, parking and public transport.
 - All new homes should be fitted with solar panels, super-efficient insulation and triple-glazed windows, and are not fitted with fossil fuel heating systems such as gas boilers as standard.
 - Need to see more information about how Veolia can help the Council make producers responsible for the waste they create and for the full cost of recycling or disposal, encouraging more sustainable design and manufacturing.
 - Greater investigation into the links between flytipping and the waste services provided by the Council.
 - The Council should produce, and make public, robust environmental impact assessments coupled with an infrastructure strategy that identifies shortfalls in existing drainage systems and renew/maintain where appropriate.
 - The Council should have a register of land owners to ensure their land is managed in an environmentally responsible manner.
 - Where 'lobbying' of government is referred to this should be a set of clear and publicly available objectives sent to the MPs for an answer.
 - Specific lobbying of the AONB so as to permit the use of land for power generation, food production and recreation.
 - Encourage the take up of 'green roofs'.
 - Work with the Licensing Committee to improve air quality policy, vehicle standards and enforcement.
 - Review all council associated travel, officers and members, and introduce policy incentives to reduce it.
 - Review policy on bus provision, evaluation of cost for a sustainable and free service to connect key public infrastructure.
 - Engage with Vodafone to seek wider public access to bus routes.
 - Greater use of education campaigns to reduce consumption to minimise overall waste levels.
 - Clear action plan on reducing plastics, specific commitments on single use both for the Council and their contractors.
 - Full consideration of retro-fitting council buildings to improve energy efficiency.
 - Specific commitment on solar PV for all council buildings, including schools.
 - Review all other Council estate to look for renewable energy opportunity.
 - Specific policy on schools to enable them to take maximum advantage of energy saving technology.
 - Evaluate the potential for a private landlord licensing scheme which includes energy standards.
 - Establish a clear policy approach towards the agricultural sector to help engage on environmental improvement issues.
 - Review flood management policy to include more specific ways to improve sustainability.

-
- Dedicate resources to the management of climate change within council structures.
 - Provide a wider training programme for senior officers on climate change and carbon reduction.
 - Evaluate the potential benefits of a green awards scheme.
 - More Council run car parks should offer EV charging points.
 - Page 18 section 6.1.1 Sustainable Transport quotes 'large number' of EV charging points which seems inappropriate. A more considered view of the subject is needed.
 - 'Decoupling emissions and economic growth is already a reality in the world's major economies' has only been achieved by rich nations exporting their manufacturing emissions to poorer nations where manpower is cheaper as you noted in your own comment earlier in the strategy. Under this heading there should be included an item for investigating how a zero growth strategy might be achieved.

Feedback from the Engagement Events

i. Community Conversations facilitated by WSP

Climate Change Workshop

3rd & 4th February 2020

Shaw House, Newbury



Background

In July 2019 West Berkshire District Council declared a Climate Emergency

On the 28th October 2019 West Berkshire District Council held a Climate Conference

West Berkshire District Council have made a commitment to be "carbon neutral" by 2030

The objectives of the workshop were:

To explore and identify practical steps which can shape our response to tackling the Climate Emergency. This can include:

- Identifying how Parish Councils can help to achieve the Climate Change Strategy?
- How can the community support the District Council in their responses?
- How can the District and Parish Councils support the wider community to contribute to the Strategy's targets?



N.B. This workshop was not part of the Consultation run by WBDC.

Workshop Format



WSP provided 4 workshops on the subject of climate change

Workshop 1 – Mon 3rd Feb 2020; 6pm – 7.15pm – Parish & Town Councils

Workshop 2 – Mon 3rd Feb 2020; 7.30pm – 8.45pm – Residents

Workshop 3 – Tues 4th Feb 2020; 9.30am – 10.45am – Parish & Town Councils

Workshop 4 – Tues 4th Feb 2020; 11am – 12.15pm – Residents



Participants heard a 20 minute [presentation](#), outlining the background to the workshop, some ideas and potential solutions in order to inspire a discussion. Participants were then divided into topic groups.

Topics were:

- Renewable energy, heating & buildings
- Transport
- Waste
- Green district and tree planting



In their topic groups, participants discussed the following questions:

Q1 - What is going well in the District?

Q2. What could be done better in the District? List key priorities

Q3 - We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?



Participants fed back their thoughts to the facilitators and Council Officers, and had some Q&A regarding certain points

Group 1 - 3rd February 2020



Photos show the 6pm-7.15pm session attended by Town and Parish Councils



Group 2 - 3rd February 2020



Photos show the 7.30pm - 8.45pm session attended by residents.

Group 3 - 4th February 2020



Photos show the 9.30am - 10.45am session attended by Town and Parish Councils.



Group 4 – 4th February 2020



Photos show the 11am – 12:45pm session attended by residents.

Workshop 1 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious, What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 1 were divided into three groups. They covered Renewable Energy & Heating, Transport and Waste. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy & Heating:

Battery technology and incorporating solar panels; Community ownership of future technologies; Education in green technologies.

Transport:

School buses that are subsidised by parents who choose to drop-off themselves; Open disused rail lines which are flat, direct and could be developed. Combine this with promoting use of electric bikes; Planning decisions - if it has a detrimental impact don't allow it to be built.

Recognition that many planning laws are bound by national guidelines - lobby Government.

Waste:

Education - food waste, attitudes, local coupled with national campaigns; Terracycle; Eat local initiative.

Workshop 2 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious, What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 2 were divided into four groups. They covered Renewable Energy & Heating, Transport, Waste and Green Districts & Tree Planting. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy & Heating:

Energy switch - point people towards 'green suppliers'; Solar panels on all new housing; Lobby Government; Hydrogen power; Battery storage for electricity.

Transport:

Explore Greenham Park to Vodafone Park and Ride via dedicated bus lane; Make sustainable modes more attractive than driving; Integrated approach to public transport - integration of bus and rail stations; Strategic planning of cycle routes and desire lines.

Waste:

Increase recycling of all types of plastic; More water fountains to avoid disposable bottles; re-instate compost withdrawn by council due to cost; introduce school compost bins (for school food waste). Cut verges less often.

Green District and Tree Planting:

Seed funding community groups; Supporting local farmer clusters - soil health; Use of extracted ground land; Use local planning process to get communities involved; Restoring gravel land; Create new bonds; Effective management of woodlands; Sustainable drainage systems; Assisting in the integrating of wildlife; Education for people to have a more green mindset; Landscape experts; Looking at our biodiversity; Encourage regenerative agriculture

Workshop 3 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 3 were divided into three groups. They covered Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings, Transport and Waste. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

Utilising schools and community halls for solar panels; Selling energy back to schools; expanding solar panels on to all buildings; Council advertising what grants are available; use any ground unsuitable for housing development for renewable energy sources.

Transport:

Properly integrated transport & park and ride; Cooperation between parishes and WBDC and neighbouring boroughs e.g. Basingstoke and Deane; Free public transport for those in education. Promote car clubs ; only allow electric taxis; Speed limits reduced from 70mph to 60mph; Parish EV charging made available; Introduce idling as a traffic offence; Bus to school that parents pay as you go; More cycle paths and electric bikes.

Waste:

Well designed green bins - rewards / points system / council tax deductions; Consistency in recycling practices across the district & collaboration with neighbouring boroughs; Communicate key successes in waste management; Electric vehicles charging points at the parish level; Council more proactive with supermarkets and local businesses; Look at historic methods e.g. milk floats & recycled bottles etc; Do more to promote refillable businesses.

Workshop 4 Discussion Outputs

We want to be ambitious. What practical actions (deliverable) do you feel the Council should use to enable people to take action/change behaviour/participate?

Group 4 were divided into four groups. They covered Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings, Transport, Waste and Green Districts & Tree Planting. Some key ideas that emerged were:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

Local community action - Community Interest Company / sharing profits / investing in community bonds; Wind turbines with solar panels around the base; Passive house- energy efficient house design; Capital fund set up by WBDC to enable schools to improve energy efficiency; pool of things where people are able to purchase e.g. insulation; Local governments together as one voice; zero carbon new build houses and schools; Building infrastructure for biomass; Voice the need for battery technology; Conserve water - underground storage for re-use in new houses.

Transport:

Ban idling (including buses at bus station); Run electric-vehicle shuttles between train and bus stations; New housing provision for charging; Local authority planning decisions taken with Climate Change in mind; Monitor travel plans effectively (including school); Why is new development allowed if there's no footway? Don't allow dumping electricity; Taxi licenses only given for electric vehicles (and no idling of old stock); Work with parishes to install EV charging on street; Promote car clubs.

Workshop 4 Discussion Outputs Continued

Waste:

Design of recycling bins (lids and wheels); More options for recycling large materials / reduce charge to encourage proper disposal (could reduce fly tipping); More high street recycling; Repair Café's instead of disposing items; education about climate change; Plastic bag free Newbury - share best practice; More degradable bin liners; Terracycle; Business rate reductions to incentivise more recycling; Hungerford Hopper - expand across the district; Review current waste contractors/contracts; Champion local businesses with good practices; Food waste initiatives (e.g. community fridges); Better communication around waste initiatives (e.g. food waste) & public education and engagement in relation to the science behind the climate; Disincentivise buy one get one free.

Green District and Tree Planting:

AONB & WBDC needs to work together to be more progressive and flexible; Multi use land, biodiversity, soil quality, solar farm; Education (bee hives & bug hotels, dirty hands, growing plants); Promoting what we have already; Trees - planting public / private land; conserve water/ river / flood management; Roof planting; Land owners to collaborate.

Key Themes

The shortlist below outlines recurring themes from two or more of the workshop groups:

Renewable Energy, Heating & Buildings:

- Expand solar panels to as many places as possible incl. all new build roofs and schools.
- Education / communication about best practice & community involvement.
- Storage for energy (batteries).

Transport:

- Bring back school buses as 'the norm'.
- Integrated public transport - enable smooth transition between modes (e.g. train and bus).
- More strategic planning when thinking about cycle routes (and walking desire lines) especially in rural areas.
- Address idling - taxis, buses and the public.

Waste:

- Education and engaging certain parts of the community with large outputs e.g. schools.
- Increase what can be recycled, and make it easier to recycle small and large items (and possibly incentivised).

Green District and Tree Planting:

- Education and engagement, especially from a young age.
- Collaboration between organisations (e.g. AONB), Councils and community groups.

Overall:

- Lobbying Central Government and a coordinated approach with other Districts/Boroughs came up in nearly all of the discussions. All participants seemed to agree that taking action NOW was very important. Better planning laws, better strategic thinking, and improved building regulations were also brought up several times across the groups.

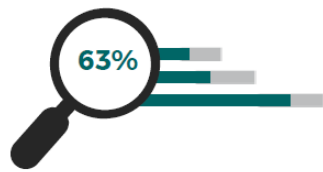
I

We asked the participants for their feedback on the Workshops



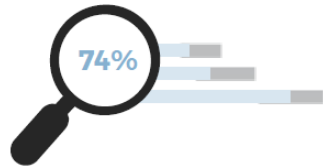
	Please circle one				
<i>Did the workshop meet your expectations?</i>	Exceeded	Yes	No		
<i>Overall how much did you enjoy the workshop?</i>	Really enjoyed	Enjoyed	Did not enjoy		
<i>Could you describe what you enjoyed about the workshop in one word? (open question)</i>					
<i>Overall how well was the workshop delivered?</i>	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor
<i>Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the workshop? (open question)</i>					

Feedback (56 respondents)



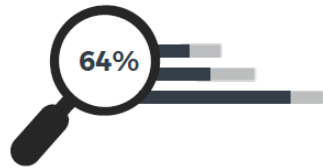
63%

Of respondents said the workshop met their expectations, while 5% said it exceeded their expectations. 27% said it didn't meet their expectations and 5% said 'other'.



74%

Of respondents said they enjoyed the workshop. 13% of respondents said they really enjoyed the workshop. 8% did not enjoy it and 6% said 'other'.



64%

Of respondents felt that the way in which the workshop was delivered was good. 5% thought it was excellent and 25% ticked neutral. 4% of respondents thought it was poor or very poor. 1 person (2%) selected other.

Feedback

Feedback from participants included

Many of the comments on the feedback forms related to not feeling as though 1 ¼ hours was long enough to get the discussion going and to develop ideas about how the concepts could be developed across Parishes / with WBDC and other Boroughs (and nationally).

Other feedback included:

Would have liked to know agenda/have reading-materials in advance so they could prepare more and discuss with others.

Would have preferred if some individuals had taken their points up privately with WBDC rather than during discussions as it limited others' ability to share ideas.

Would have liked groups to be targeted per Parish so ideas could be more specific.

Limit individual questions during presentation to enable more time for discussion.

There was also a full set of feedback on specific projects that will be incorporated into the Delivery Plan process.

General public drop-in sessions

As part of wider public engagement around the Environment Strategy the Council undertook a number of drop-in sessions across the district utilising our libraries. There was positivity expressed about the Council meeting residents outside of Newbury.

- Thatcham (Monday 11:00 – 12:15) 2 conversations
- Mortimer (Monday 13:00 – 14:15) 2 conversations
- Pangbourne (Monday 15:00 – 16:15) 5 conversations
- Newbury (Tuesday 10:00 - 11:15) 2 conversations
- Hungerford (Tuesday 12:00 – 13:15) 3 conversations
- Lambourn (Tuesday 14:00 – 15:30) 7 conversations

There were common themes raised:

Transport

- local bus services featured in conversations in Mortimer, Pangbourne and Lambourn. Dial and Ride electric buses perhaps a viable solution.
- Accessibility for disabled users at certain train stations makes using public transport challenging.
- Electric taxis only should be licenced.
- EV charging points – rapid chargers and need to be part of planning infrastructure

Waste

- Residents commonly expressed strong dissatisfaction with Veolia and limited recycling options offered. Frequently compared with South Oxfordshire provision.
- Food waste collection in communal buildings.
- Taking tin trays and foil.
- More emphasis on reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Education on achieving higher recycling rates.
- Explain why things can't be recycled (shredded paper etc).
- More co-operation between local authorities on waste sites.
- Anxiety around litter and fly-tipping (anti-social behaviours).
- Cross about Chieveley Waste Incinerator not going ahead.

Tree Planting

- Huge appetite for tree planting (30% cover to align with France and Germany).
- Working with land owners to allow planting on their land.
- Richard Benyon to use his influence to co-ordinate farmers and land owner.
- Direct communities what to do and they will do it.

-
- Deeper grass verges and wild flowers/tree planting.
 - Deeper grass can also become a litter trap.

Renewable Energy

- PV all available roofs.
- Solar farms accepted as part of solution.
- AONB and renewable energy not mutually exclusive.
- AONB need to modernise or become obsolete.
- No room for NIMBY.

Buildings

- Don't build on flood plain.
- High quality new builds.
- Make it policy that new builds have solar panels.

General

- Council should seize the opportunity to be exemplar.
- Talk positively about the Environment.
- The influence of the Council should not be underestimated.
- Celebrate community success in measures other than economic growth.
- Enable communities to do the right thing.
- Tell communities how they can help and they'll do it.
- Educate our young people on environment.
- Educate residents on their carbon foot print.
- Ask residents to make three small changes to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Effective communications and keep repeating them.
- Use village news letters to get information out to the public.
- Not all residents are internet or social media connected.
- Lobbying government on planning especially.
- Walk the walk, not just talk the talk.
- Don't be afraid to take difficult decisions.
- Keep the district updated about milestones achieved

Overall Feedback

It was an extremely worthwhile exercise and provided residents a non- confrontational way to talk about what concerns them about climate and environment and West Berkshire's response.

Residents expressed their views with moderation and acknowledgement that the Council can't do it all. They are extremely willing to support but want direction. There was also degrees of misunderstanding around how Councils work.

The community has excellent knowledge, skills and connections which the Council can tap into as free additional resource.

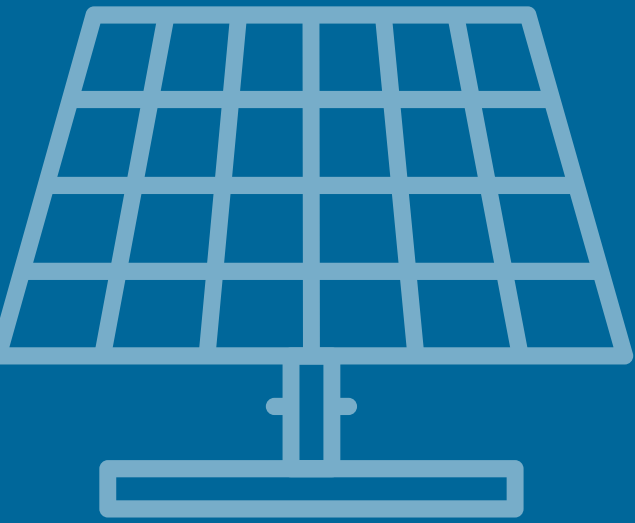
Although the document was 'imperfect' two different sources said we should be applauded for creating the Environment Strategy to address climate change.

Revised Environment Strategy

Appendix G

Environment Strategy

2020-2030



Contents

1.	Foreword	3
2.	Introduction	5
3.	Context	7
4.	Our Vision for the West Berkshire Environment in 2030	13
5.	Strategic Objectives to Deliver the Environment Vision	15
6.	The Path to a Greener West Berkshire in 2030	21
7.	Governance	30
8.	Measuring and Reporting Progress	31
9.	Conclusions	33
10.	Achievements	34
11.	Glossary	35



1. Foreword

The challenge we all face with regard to climate change is recognised across the globe. There is an increasing need for action if we are to respond to the danger this poses to our people, our wildlife and our environment. Locally, we took an important step by acknowledging this when West Berkshire Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency on 2nd July 2019. In doing so we highlighted the fact that the Council, our partners and our local communities all needed to play their part in response.

On 28th October 2019 we held our first West Berkshire Climate Conference at which we committed to taking a leading role locally. We asked for comments and suggestions at the conference which have now been built into the strategy that follows.

There are some initiatives we have already committed to making a start on since January 2019 which we know will make a positive contribution to protecting and preserving our natural environment as well as to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. These include:

- installing more solar panels across our estate, aiming for a significant contribution from solar energy towards the Council's energy consumption and beyond;
- continuing to increase the number of charging points for electric vehicles in West Berkshire;
- conducting a Council carbon audit so we understand our challenges and be better placed to become carbon neutral by 2030;

There are also other projects that we intend to explore in the coming years which, alongside offsetting and mitigation activities, will help us along the path to a greener and carbon neutral West Berkshire by 2030. These will be turned into a detailed delivery plan to accompany this strategy.

We also recognise the vital role the government has in creating an environment to enable delivery and we will lobby for changes to national planning policies and building regulations which will be key to our success.

While we want to lead on this important issue, we know the Council cannot deliver this strategy alone: everyone in West Berkshire has a role to play. The changes we are all able to make will vary in size but all are important as we work towards our shared aspiration. A comment was made at the recent conference that we all need to consider our own priorities and behaviours if we are to rise to the challenge that climate change presents to us all. The Council wants to do precisely this through the publication of this strategy, which we hope will act as a catalyst to residents, businesses and interested groups.

This Council, over successive administrations, has a strong record of responding to green issues. However with the declaration of a Climate Emergency we recognise that we need to accelerate activity in the face of growing concern for our planet's future. This will mean being bolder, and prioritising investment in environmental projects to a much greater extent than we have to date.

Most importantly, we know that trying to reach carbon neutrality without the active involvement of the residents, businesses and communities of West Berkshire would not be possible. I would therefore urge you to read this strategy and to join with others across our community to think about what action you can take to make its aims a reality.

Cllr Steve Ardagh-Walter
Portfolio holder for Environment





2. Introduction

The delivery of this document, West Berkshire Council's new Environment Strategy, has been accelerated as a result of the Council declaring a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and committing to the creation of a strategic plan to work towards carbon neutrality in the district by 2030.

This declaration was as follows:

This Council notes that:

1. All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a responsibility to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. It is important for the residents of West Berkshire and the UK that we commit to working towards carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be of the utmost urgency.
3. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved health and wellbeing) but will also require changes in individuals' lifestyles and have a cost implication to both the individual and the state.

West Berkshire Council therefore:

- Declares a Climate Emergency.
- Will create a strategic plan for West Berkshire that aims to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Calls on HM Government to provide the Council with the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
- Will work with other authorities to determine and implement where practicable best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

This document reflects the comments made at the council's first Climate Conference on 28th October 2019 as well as evidence we have about the district's current carbon footprint. It has been made available to the whole community for a period of consultation. This detailed consultation and engagement has brought about changes to the strategy to form this final document, which has been approved by the Council's Executive.

This strategy sets out a Vision for the local environment in which we would like our communities to live by 2030. We have linked this to the needs for a strong local economy supported by responsible growth, and for our local population to be healthy and have a positive sense of wellbeing. Central to this Vision is the expectation that all of the district's residents and businesses will contribute towards the aspiration of becoming a carbon

neutral district by 2030. Achieving this goal will need all of us to prioritise care for the environment in our actions and decisions.

The strategy also contains a number of proposed actions which give an indication of how we are proposing to put the strategy into action. There is a lot to do and the Council will have neither the resources nor the time to do everything at once, or in isolation. Some of the issues that need to be addressed locally will be outside our direct control needing action by our partners and local communities. In recognising this, our aim is to be ambitious but also realistic in terms of what can be achieved in the face of a deliberately challenging target: carbon neutrality by 2030.

Over time, this strategy will adapt to reflect changes to the local and national picture. The impact of COVID19 will also be central to our thinking along with maximising the environmental benefits through our recovery plans.

Perhaps most importantly, the strategy highlights the need to engage all of our communities in taking action. The Council will seek to take the lead by putting our 'own house in order' but this strategy cannot be delivered by us alone. Throughout the lifespan of the strategy we will review progress annually to ensure the direction we have chosen is still appropriate.





3. Context

The Paris Agreement, which was signed on 12th December 2015, was the first time that the overwhelming majority of national governments acknowledged that climate change was a

tangible, severe and, importantly, man-made threat to the prosperity and wellbeing of current and future generations in all countries across the world.

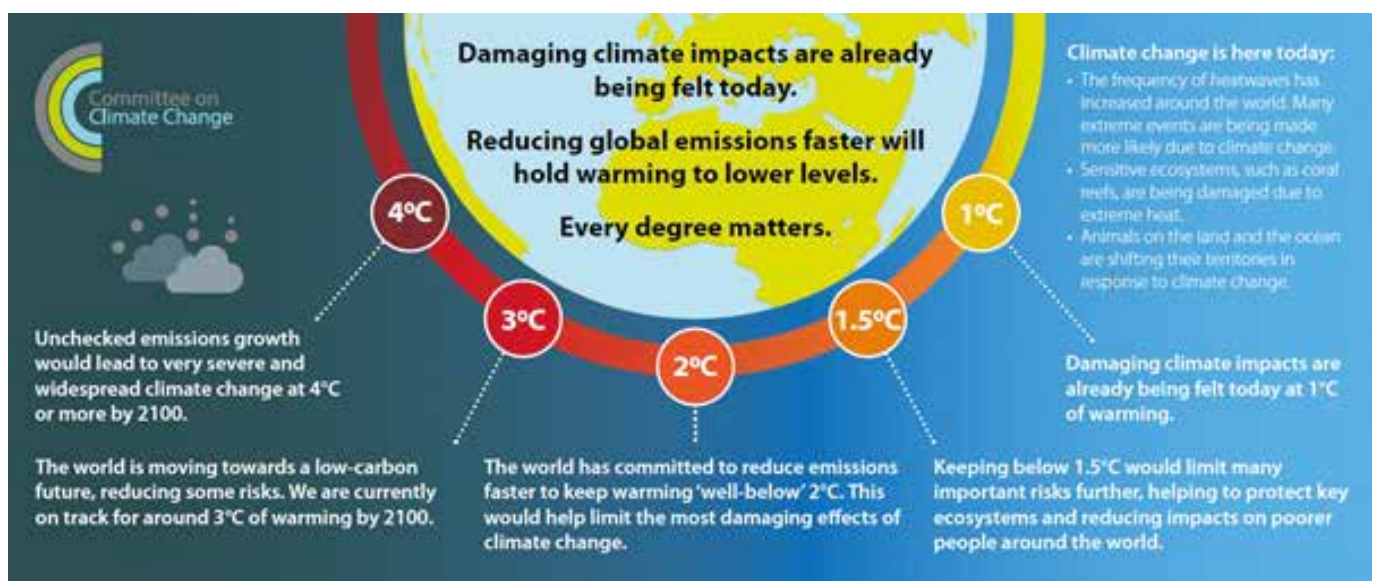


Figure 1. CCC Infographic¹

[1] https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/05/ar4_wg1_full_report-1.pdf

Whilst it is true that the climate has and will continue to change naturally, the scientific evidence is clear that it is changing rapidly, primarily as a result of human activity. Global warming is evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising sea levels. Records also show that there is now almost 40% more carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere, than there was before the industrial revolution. This represents a level not experienced for at least the last 800,000 years. Consequently, the global average temperatures continue to rise. Indeed 2000 – 2009 was the warmest decade for over 150 years whilst 2010-2019 was the second warmest.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 produced a very comprehensive and detailed scientific assessment of past, present and future climate change. As a result of this work, it was recognised that an average global temperature rise of no more than 2°C is required to avert the worst potential consequences of climate change.

The Paris Agreement formalised this recognition and has as its central aim to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C .

Nationally, the Climate Change Act 2008 provides the framework for UK climate change policy. Long term targets were subsequently set and the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) was established as an independent body to advise Government. The Government produced its Clean Growth Strategy in 2017 and the CCC has also produced a comprehensive range of reports about the issue. A central recommendation was a new emissions target for the UK – net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In May 2019 a motion was passed by the UK Parliament seeking to declare an environment and climate emergency. This effectively endorsed the net zero by 2050 target previously recommended by the CCC. In addition, the CCC commented in response to the declared environment and climate emergency that:

- delivery must progress with far greater urgency;
- challenges that have not been confronted must now be addressed;
- were imports considered, statistics suggest that emissions would be much higher as countries increasingly import the goods that they consume;
- clear leadership is needed, right across Government, with delivery in partnership with businesses and communities; and
- overall costs are manageable but must be fairly distributed.

Encouragingly, national figures show that UK greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years, with the exception of 2012 where emissions were 3.5% higher than in 2011, and that it has been possible to decouple economic growth and carbon emissions. However, these figures only take into account emissions produced in the UK, not the emissions from all the goods and services imported and consumed in the UK.

West Berkshire has not been immune from the impact of climate change. Flooding has become more prevalent with notable events in 2003, 2007, 2012 and 2013 impacting on thousands of residents and homes. The scale of the flooding was at a level which had not been witnessed in a generation. Whilst such events have been challenging, the general trend has been towards warmer and drier conditions with drought becoming an increasing concern. This has perhaps been most evident in the River Kennet where in recent years the river has run dry in its upper reaches.

One of West Berkshire's biggest strengths is its strong, balanced economy. This is, however, reliant on the district's several major transport arteries, most notably the M4 and A34. These two roads alone account for over 50% of all the CO² generated from transport activity each year, and around 30% of the district's total CO² emissions. This is a significant proportion and yet it is something that is entirely outside of the control of West Berkshire Council. For this reason, we will explore later on in the strategy what we have the power to actively change and, where this is not the case, how we can consider the power of persuasion to influence external factors such as these.



Figure 2: Council Strategy Framework

Another one of West Berkshire’s greatest assets is its predominantly rural nature, with 74% of the district sitting within a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As well as the lifestyle opportunities this offers, it also increases the potential for carbon capture and the exploration of carbon-free and renewable forms of energy. Not only this, but it will play a vital role in supporting and further enhancing the biodiversity of the district. We know that we will have to find better ways to engage with our many landowners, farmers and wider agricultural businesses to ensure a joined up approach.

Importantly, this strategy does not sit in isolation from what we are seeking to do to make West Berkshire a better place to live, work, learn and visit. Instead, it seeks to complement our wider work, as illustrated in Figure 2, which began with the development of the West Berkshire 2036 Vision and will continue with the publication of a range of strategies for the district’s future.

Carbon reduction and wider environmental objectives will influence all aspects of the Council Strategy.

Risks and uncertainty associated with our journey are significant and as knowledge of and access to technical data increases, some assumptions may have had to be made along the way. As part of our journey through the delivery of this strategy there will need to be significant development of our knowledge, particularly on how both individual carbon reduction and carbon offset projects will contribute to the vision and our targets.

Information and data²

Inevitably it can be challenging to establish the right datasets to rely upon when making decisions or setting strategic direction. The government produced a ‘National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory’³ to help design carbon reduction strategies and this, in our opinion, is the best overall summary to guide us at this stage in our journey. According to this, West Berkshire produced 1,294.5 ktonnes of CO² in 2017, or 8.2 tonnes of CO² per resident. The figure represents a 26.4% reduction since 2005 which represents a significant amount of progress.

When compared to the rest of the UK, however, CO² production per capita⁴ is at the higher

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

[3] <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/>

[4] i.e. ‘per person’ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_capita

end of the table i.e. England’s average is 5.1 tonnes per capita, the South East average is 4.8 tonnes per capita. The range across the country includes Stockton-On-Tees at 15.6 tonnes per capita down to Argyll and Bute at

0.3 tonnes per capita. Chart 1 below shows how West Berkshire is currently in the upper quartile of local authorities.

In reviewing the types of emissions and

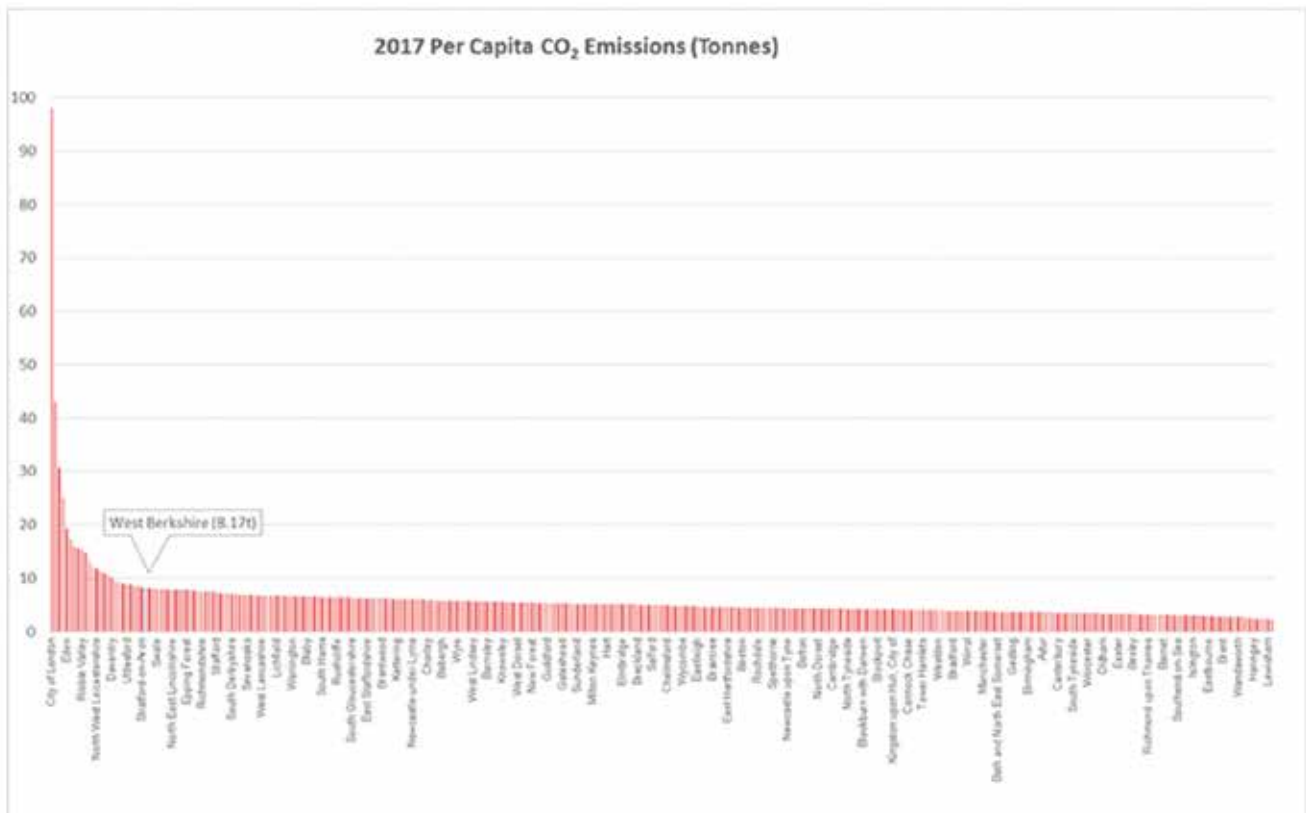


Chart 1: Local Authority CO2 Emissions

their comparative scale, it is clear that in West Berkshire electricity from Industry and Commercial and gas from domestic are key

areas to address. This is best reflected in Chart 2 below:

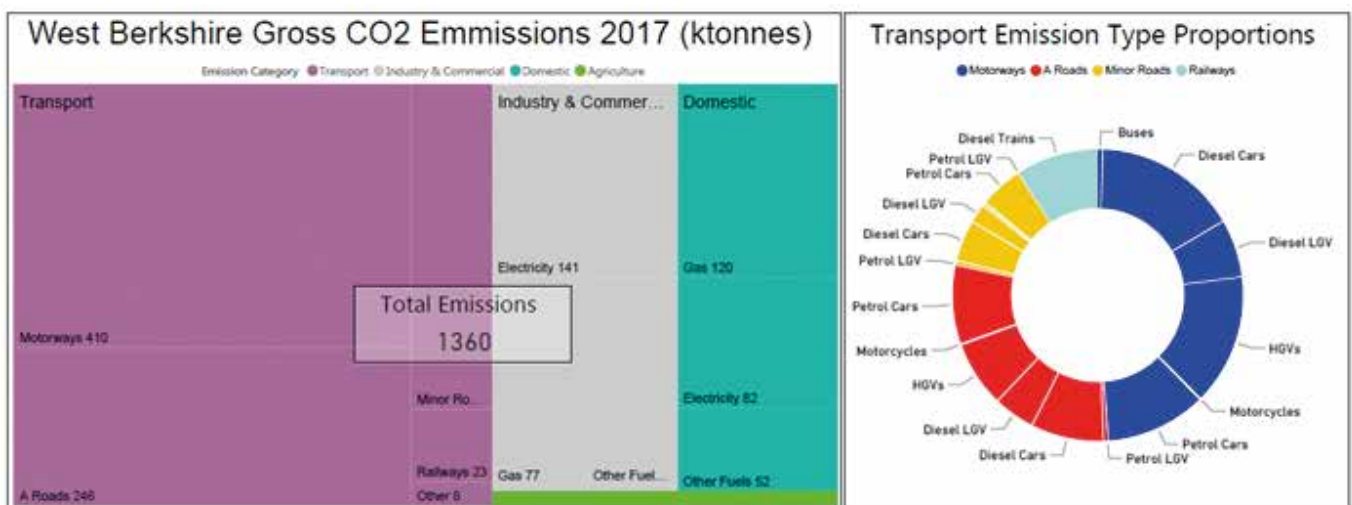


Chart 2: Emissions breakdown within West Berkshire.

Emission estimates within the scope of Local Authorities⁵

Inventory the Government also published a 'subset dataset' which represents CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities. This amended dataset removed motorways (M4), EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) sites (e.g. AWE and other larger industrial sites), diesel railways and what are known as Land Use (direct human-induced land use such as settlements and commercial uses⁶), Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Chart 3 shows the significance of the impact on the picture for West Berkshire.

These amendments affect different Local Authorities in different ways but overall no local authority had an increase in emissions within this scope between 2005 and 2017. Table 1 gives a comparison with neighbouring Local Authorities.

[5] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>
Local Authority CO₂ emissions estimates within the scope of influence of Local Authorities 2005-2017 (kt CO₂) - Subset dataset (Excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use)

[6] <http://unfccc.int/fr/processus-et-reunions/la-convention/lexique-des-changements-climatiques-acronymes-et-termes#>

Table 1: Full Set and Sub Set* Per Capita Carbon Dioxide emissions (tonnes) at local authority level in 2017, listed by difference

LA area	Full Set data	Sub Set data	Difference
West Berkshire	8.2	5.8	2.4
Windsor & Maidenhead	5.7	4.5	1.2
Wokingham	4.7	3.6	1.1
South Oxfordshire	6.2	5.1	1.1
Slough	5	4.1	0.9
Reading	3.4	3.3	0.1
Vale of White Horse	6.5	6.4	0.1
Bracknell	3.7	3.7	0
National	5.3	4.5	0.8
England	5.1	4.3	0.8
South East	4.8	4.2	0.6

* The Full Set data contains all measured emission sources for each LA area whilst the Sub Set removes those that the LA has no influence over



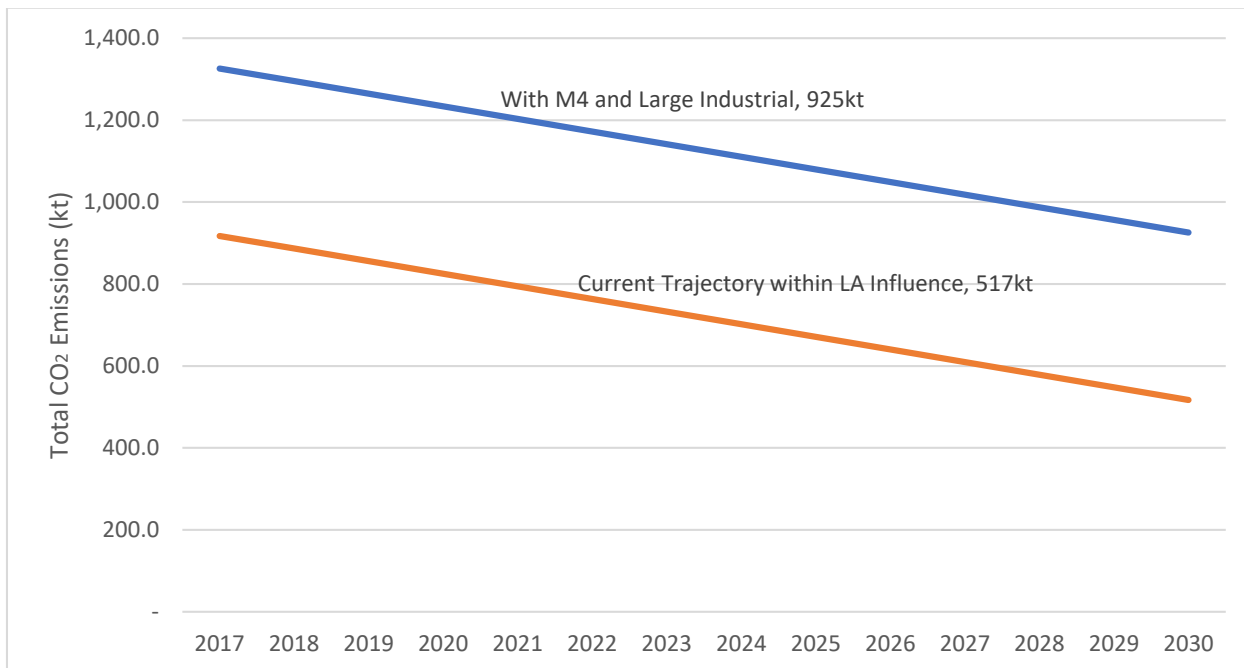


Chart 3: Current rate of Improvement in CO2 Emissions

Chart 4 below shows how, in West Berkshire, both Industry, Commercial and Domestic have seen a reduction in emissions since 2005, but transport has been steady since 2013, with small increases in recent years. This will help inform the Delivery Plan.

In 2005 West Berkshire’s emission estimate was 1,317 ktonnes of CO2 and by 2017 this reduced to 917.2 ktonnes of CO2 (30%) expressed in per capita terms this is 5.8 tonnes of CO2. The average reduction since 2005 has been 0.25 tonnes of CO2 per year (9.0 down to 5.8 tonnes per capita), this is slightly ahead of the national average at 0.22 (7.4 down to 4.5 tonnes per capita).

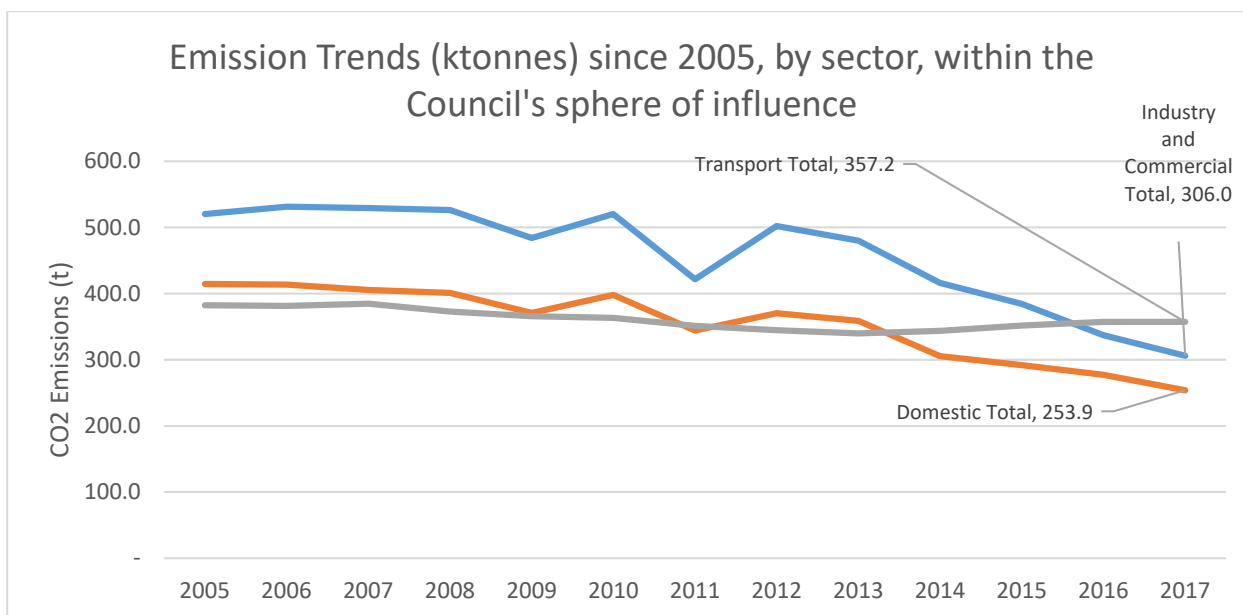


Chart 4: Per Sector Emissions Trends

In summary, the figures presented in this section go some way to highlighting the scale of the challenge in West Berkshire, as well as offering some global and national context. What follows in this strategy is a representation

of what we feel we must do, in partnership with our local residents, businesses and stakeholders, in order to address this.



4. Our Vision for the West Berkshire Environment in 2030

This strategy has a primary target of achieving carbon neutrality in West Berkshire by 2030.



*Mitigation of the effects of climate change and the restoration and protection of our environment will have **shaped our policy making and actions**, as well as those of our partners, and will have made a significant impact on the district's carbon footprint.*

*Our **environmental assets will have been protected** for future generations.*

*The **residents, businesses and communities** of West Berkshire will continue to be **active partners** in delivering positive change. These*

will have included lifestyle changes, more effective use of energy, the adoption of new technology, efficient running of our public services and new, or adapted, infrastructure.

*Progress towards carbon neutrality will have been made **alongside the district's other strategic priorities**, including protecting and supporting the vulnerable, improving educational outcomes, maintaining a high quality of life for residents, and a strong local economy.*

4.1 Key targets to deliver the Vision for the Environment

4.1.1 We will aim to reduce annual total emissions to less than 350 ktonnes by 2030

(Based on emission estimates within the scope of influence of Local Authorities)

- Per person, this is a reduction from around 6 tonnes (level in 2017⁷) to 2 tonnes of CO².
- This equates to an average annual reduction of more than 40 ktonnes over the period.
- This would leave total emissions, before additional activities, at 350 ktonnes in 2030.
- Information will be drawn from the Governments national and regional emissions dataset but we will seek to supplement this with wider data gathering with the support of technical advise and academic advice.

4.1.2 Carbon Neutrality will be achieved by a range of local energy generation and carbon sequestration⁸ projects equivalent to the projected emission level of 350 ktonnes.

- We will, at the same time as progressing our carbon reduction projects, implement a number of measures which aim towards a target of 350 ktonnes for carbon offset⁹.
- Examples will include solar and wind energy generation; tree planting; and other techniques
- This target needs to be achieved by the whole district: local residents, landowners and business will be encouraged to engage in energy generation or carbon sequestration where reduction is not possible.

4.1.3 The Council will be a carbon neutral operation by 2030.

- This will be established using a suitable methodology¹⁰.
- This does not include all Scope 3 emissions (indirect emissions are excluded but will be closely monitored to ensure we know where to focus our efforts when lobbying the government and influencing behavioural change initiatives).

[7] 568 ktonnes compared with 917 ktonnes. West Berkshire's population is forecast to grow over this period.

[8] Is the long-term removal, capture or sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric CO₂ pollution and to mitigate or reverse global warming? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_sequestration

[9] Is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_offset

[10] ISO 50,001 for example.

5. Strategic Objectives to Deliver the Environment Vision



CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

- AMBITIOUS BUT REALISTIC TARGETS.
- DELIVER A RANGE OF LOCAL ENERGY GENERATION AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECTS.
- THE COUNCIL WILL BE A CARBON NEUTRAL OPERATION BY 2030.
- TECHNICAL AND ACADEMIC ADVICE TO BE SOUGHT TO INFORM THE DELIVERY PLAN.



RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

- INVESTIGATE HOW GREEN INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO THE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.
- EMPHASISE FARMING AND AGRICULTURE IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY.
- INVEST IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE SKILLS OF YOUNG PEOPLE
- DESIGN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS TO HELP GROW NEW AND EXISTING LOCAL GREEN BUSINESS



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING OUR GREEN AND BLUE SPACES AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO USE IT.
- FOCUS ON IMPROVING LIFE OUTCOMES FOR THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS IN OUR DISTRICT.
- MAXIMISE ACTIVE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY.
- DELIVER PROJECTS WHICH ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRAVEL.



RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE FOR NEW AND EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.
- EXPLORE ADAPTATION MEASURES TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE.
- DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION ON RISK.



WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS

- IMPROVE THE OVERALL COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS TO ENSURE OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO MAKE GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS.
- IMPROVE OUR USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION, EVENTS AND DEBATE.



5.1 Carbon Neutral by 2030

Most of the actions driven by this strategy will be to reduce local CO2 emission levels as much as possible. Achieving zero emissions is not a realistic target, so we will also seek to generate clean energy or sequester an equivalent amount of CO2 in order to achieve net zero.

Firstly, we need to better understand the district's and the Council's emissions. We have started this process as part of the research for this strategy i.e. What are they, where are they, how are they measured and reported, who is responsible for them and how can these be influenced. We know that we will need to have answered these before we can move forward with any certainty and ability to measure how we are doing.

As mentioned earlier in the Context section, the Government already produces national and regional CO2 emissions data down to level of local authority administrative areas. This data helps identify the key sources of CO2 emissions in each area and allows changes in

CO2 emissions over time to be monitored and can help mitigation actions to be targeted.

There are two limitations to this dataset. The first is that it is solely concerned with carbon dioxide emissions and doesn't take into account other greenhouse gas emissions. The second is that the various sources of information, coupled with the complexity and amount of data collected, all takes time to analyse and calculate for each Local Authority area. As a result, the final statistics are only released a full two years after the actual year they concern. This means that we won't have confirmed data for 2030 until 2032.

We recognise these limitations but feel that this dataset is the best currently available method for measuring the district's carbon footprint and will work with it for now.

The actions and detail behind what will need to be implemented in order to achieve the 2030 target will come later with the creation, adoption and launch of the associated 'Delivery Plan'.

Actions currently being considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exploring the use of 'Climate Change Bonds' to help deliver a wide variety of infrastructure projects;
- Energy Mapping and Master Planning - It has been established that one of the key areas to significantly reduce the districts carbon emissions is decarbonising the way in which the district's homes and businesses are heated;
- Replacing existing internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles on the Council's fleet with Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) along with the early development and adoption of a low emission vehicle strategy.
- Waste reduction activities;
- Setting individual 'Carbon budgets' for Council based operations (see 'Managing our own carbon budget');
- Implementation of Council and district wide energy efficiency schemes;
- Increasing the deployment of renewable energy technology across the Council's estate; and
- Carbon sequestration such as large scale tree planting e.g. through schemes such as the Woodland Carbon Code and Associated Fund¹¹.
- Renewable energy infrastructure will be installed on all Council sites where it is feasible to do so.

5.2 Responsible Economic Growth

In the West Berkshire 2036 Vision and in our Economic Development Strategy, we made it clear that our local economy is strong, diverse and resilient. This is at the heart of our success as a district and is something we are committed to maintaining so that everyone is able to benefit from it.

The emerging threat of climate change and the need to address it need not change this stance. Decoupling emissions and economic growth is already a reality in the world's major economies. In recent years, most of the countries that have cut their emissions have also grown their economies. The UK cut its emissions by 128m tonnes of CO₂ between

2000 and 2014, a 20% reduction whilst experiencing GDP growth of 27%¹².

Making this leap was no accident. It came as the result of a combination of deliberate environmentally friendly policy making and a shift of the UK economy from more carbon-intensive manufacturing to less carbon-intensive service-based industries.

Although the shift in our local economy's industrial makeup has not moved as significantly as this national trend given that manufacturing is not one of the district's primary industries; we are committed to using our own policy making and influence locally as we work alongside our businesses to accelerate this at a local level.

In April 2018, the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership assessed Berkshire's future energy needs relating to economic growth¹³. The study assessed both the impacts of the future energy needs of existing communities and businesses and the potential impact of new growth. The results showed that the success and speed of economic growth in the area is likely to out-pace energy infrastructure provision as currently planned. This presents a significant risk to our local economy and we will need to redress this.

Although much of this activity will be market-led, there are a number of ways in which we are able to influence the direction of the economy and the behaviour of our businesses to ensure that our target of carbon neutrality can be combined with continued economic success.

For instance:

- We will continue to use our planning system to ensure that all commercial developments meet a minimum environmental standard so that any adverse impacts associated with new buildings are minimised.
- We will lobby Government to enforce higher standards and encourage the adoption of modern building techniques e.g. factory built eco housing, where possible.

[11] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-woodland-carbon-code-scheme-for-buyers-and-landowners>

[12] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/uksectoraccounts/compendium/economicreview/october2019/thedecouplingofeconomicgrowthfromcarbonemissionsukevidence>

[13] <http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/getfile/Public%20Documents/Programmes/International/Sector%20propositions/Energy%20and%20Environment.pdf?inline-view=true>

- We will invest in digital infrastructure and Smart Cities initiatives so that businesses are able to take advantage of the benefits this brings, such as at home working and connected devices.
- We will improve signposting on our website and social media channels as well as through the literature we publish so that businesses of all sizes are able to access the information they need in order to make the most environmentally conscious choices available to them.
- Through investment in the skills of our young people, we will also ensure that employers have access to a workforce which is well-informed about the impact of climate change and is equipped to carry out the green jobs of the future.
- We will provide designated business advice to new and existing green businesses so that those who are innovating in this area are given the opportunity and support to grow.
- We will explore initiatives to incentivise good practice among our businesses such as business rate reviews, environmental excellence awards or accreditations and the use of 'greening' bursaries.
- We will investigate how 'Green Incentives' for businesses may be applied within West Berkshire and incorporated in the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

Through the development of the delivery plan we will set out how we intend to carry out these actions; securing inclusive and responsible economic growth for our district.

5.3 Healthy Communities

As we mentioned in the West Berkshire 2036 Vision, we are committed to continuing to support the achievement of healthy communities and positive life outcomes by every single local resident.

Given that the links between an active lifestyle, good air quality, access to green and blue space and health are clear, we intend to promote and continue to deliver these benefits by working alongside our Health and Wellbeing Board.

As we have mentioned in other chapters,



we have seen significant investment in infrastructure that enables residents to use more sustainable transport options. Integral to this is Cycle Route 422, which runs east to west through Berkshire, as well as our work to ensure that our footpaths are kept in good order. We have also implemented (in partnership with Reading Borough Council) a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme (LCWIP), introduced as part of the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, which will enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks.

Alongside this infrastructure, we have rolled out a number of initiatives to encourage active travel, such as Go Kinetic, Walk to School Week and Bikeability. Encouraging active travel in this way is beneficial for the overall health and wellbeing of children and also results in reduced vehicle emissions and improved local air quality. Through better use of communications and engagement, we will build on this work to further enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Maintaining and enhancing our green and blue spaces so that future generations are able to enjoy them and, importantly, are equipped to take on their stewardship will also be vital to the continuation of good health and wellbeing opportunities.

This will then further improve the life outcomes for the children, young people and adults in our district.

We will work with schools, businesses, charities and other partner organisations to:

- Help our residents to improve their health and wellbeing by using our green and blue spaces, taking advantage of our outstanding natural environment and by working in partnership with available wellbeing and mental health services;
- Encourage more people to spend time in our green spaces to benefit their health and wellbeing;
- Encourage children to be closer to nature, in and out of school;
- Plan a year of action for the environment, working with our partners to encourage local children and young people to interact with nature and help

- improve the natural environment;
- Continue to provide active travel (e.g. cycling) training to school children
- Use available LCWIP funding to further expand the provision of cycling infrastructure

5.4 Resilient to Climate Change

The ability to adapt to a change in climate is at the forefront of work being conducted by the Adaptation Committee¹⁴ (part of the Committee on Climate Change) and has resulted in long-term planning for flood risk and water resources management, increased investment in flood defences, changes in policy to improve sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reviewing policies related to overheating in buildings through the Building Regulations and National Planning Policy Framework.

- Help our residents to improve their health and wellbeing by using our green and blue spaces, taking advantage of our outstanding natural environment and by working in partnership with available wellbeing and mental health services;
- Encourage more people to spend time in our green spaces to benefit their health and wellbeing;
- Encourage children to be closer to nature, in and out of school;
- Plan a year of action for the environment, working with our partners to encourage local children and young people to interact with nature and help improve the natural environment;
- Continue to provide active travel (e.g. cycling) training to school children
- Use available LCWIP funding to further expand the provision of cycling infrastructure

West Berkshire has experience of this and, through the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy¹⁵, there has been a concerted effort to minimise the effects of future flood events on residents and businesses because we have seen the direct impact on people's lives, possessions, and their physical and mental health.

A series of flood management plans have been developed, looking at site specific risks and the different types of flood risk that West Berkshire

[14] <https://www.theccc.org.uk/our-impact/resilience-to-climate-change/>
 [15] <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement>

is likely to experience (ground water, river, surface water, sewer and highway). We have worked with all of the affected communities in developing these plans and there is a comprehensive response plan in place should such an event happen in the future. As with all major incidents, this is a multi-agency response and we work through the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum¹⁶ to ensure that communities are provided with the very important information they need to prepare themselves.

We have also progressed a comprehensive approach towards SuDS and policy has been developed to ensure adequate protections are in place for new development¹⁷, this is a key part of our work to improve adaptation and resilience.

Adaptation measures will be explored to help reduce vulnerability – for example by lowering sensitivity or building adaptive capacity – as well as allowing communities and partners to benefit from opportunities of climatic changes.

5.5 Working with Our Communities

We recognise that we have an important part to play in achieving carbon neutrality but we cannot fulfil this ambition alone. From everyday behaviours and lifestyle choices such as the mode of transport we use and the food that we eat, to longer term investments in new buildings and infrastructure, all of our decisions need to consider the carbon impact.

We will therefore work closely and inclusively with those that represent the diverse nature of West Berkshire to not only understand what their priorities are and to learn from these but also to increase awareness and enable informed decisions. In doing so our Town and Parish Councils will be important partners, as will our businesses.

We will also work closely with landowners and farming/ agricultural communities to explore opportunities for natural sequestration through environmental land management techniques.

If we are to meet our target of carbon neutrality by 2030, however, it will be necessary to accelerate our work. As such, we will continue

to use available tools e.g. social media platforms and info-graphics as well as events and a strategic communications strategy to engage better with our residents, businesses and visitors about transport, waste and resource use in the future as we look towards a carbon neutral future in West Berkshire.

6. The Path to a Greener West Berkshire in 2030

6.1 Key Themes



6.1.1 Sustainable Transport

West Berkshire has a successful local economy which owes much to its strategic location within the Thames Valley with its close proximity to the M4, good- and improving- rail links and access to Heathrow Airport and London. Living in the district also brings with it excellent lifestyle opportunities, many of which are linked to its rural nature and proximity to the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

What is clear, however, is that these advantages bring with them carbon emissions.

As indicated in our context section, local transport currently accounts for a significant proportion of our emissions and we know this is something we can seek to influence. The M4 and A34, our two most important strategic roads, account for a large amount of emissions from transport yet sit mainly outside of Local Authority control. As such, the further development of sustainable transport solutions will be key as we look to reduce the district's carbon footprint and fulfil our ambitions to

preserve and enhance our natural environment.

Much of this work has started as part of our Local Transport Plan (LTP) to 2026. The Vision of this plan is:

“To deliver effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion”

We have already made progress in this area. For instance, we have installed a large number of electric vehicle charging points in residential streets across the district and have one of the highest numbers per capita in the country, far exceeding any other Berkshire Local Authority area. We have also, with the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, seen significant investment in cycle paths and, with the help of a Department for Transport grant, established a car club in Newbury. That said, there is scope to do more.

We will review our Local Transport Plan in order to build on the progress we have made. As part of this, we are considering a number of projects which will reduce carbon emissions

and environmental harm whilst offering a greater number of transport options to our residents. These include:

- Working with public transport operators to improve the use of public transport.
- Establishing greater connections between sustainable travel options.
- Encouraging more sustainable car travel options where use of public transport and active travel is not practical.
- Supporting active travel especially for shorter journeys.
- Working with local businesses to promote sustainable travel by staff.
- Encouraging uptake of electric vehicles by continuing to provide exemplar levels of charging points.
- Increasing our use of more sustainable road surfacing options e.g. low-temperature asphalt.
- Working with our stakeholders and partners to develop and adopt sustainable transport innovations
- Working with the Government, regional and local partners to enhance rail infrastructure.
- Lobbying national Government and relevant agencies in areas where emissions are outside of our control (e.g. Highways Agency in the case of the M4 and A34).

6.1.2 Buildings

The Council currently buys green energy for its buildings and will seek to influence others to do the same. All our own services and support functions will be encouraged to review their use of buildings with a view to improving our chances of success in achieving carbon-neutrality within our infrastructure.

All of our new build or refurbishment projects shall take into consideration the carbon impact of their proposal, both in construction and operation. The positive and negative impacts, in line with the intentions of this strategy, will be measured and managed in a move towards 'whole life' carbon costing and decision

making. We acknowledge that there will be difficult decisions to make in achieving this, but want to show ambition and determination in our approach. To help achieve this we will:

Energy used to heat homes accounts for a substantial percentage of the Districts carbon emissions. Whilst we will commit to lobbying government to improve energy performance standards in new builds, we are also conscious that huge reductions in carbon emissions and energy requirements of current housing stock is achievable and needs to be done. Retrofitting insulation and energy efficient heating systems will deliver multiple benefits to homeowners and the environment and we will engage, lobby and support for the necessary changes to make retrofitting economical.

- Review and assess emerging technology and share our knowledge with stakeholders and communities.
- Communicate with local landlords (in our capacity as enforcing agency for the Energy Performance of Building Regulations 2012) and owners/occupiers of public buildings to ensure they are aware of their obligations to improve energy efficiency.
- Advise residents and businesses of best practice where possible.
- Explore ways to make retrofitting insulation and energy efficient heating systems more economically viable.

6.1.3 Energy

The Council's electricity consumption in 2018/19 was estimated to be 11,630 MWh, equivalent to 3 kTonnes CO₂. Across West Berkshire as a whole, the Industry and Commercial sector emitted 141.0 kTonnes CO₂ as a result of electricity consumption compared with the Domestic sector which emitted an equivalent 81.7 kTonnes of CO₂.

We recognise, therefore, that of the district's total of 222.7 kTonnes of CO₂ in 2017 (resulting from electricity consumption) our CO₂ emissions only account for 1.35% and we need to show leadership to positively influence others.

The UK's plans to reduce carbon emissions

[18] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-40198567>

[19] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

have relied on ensuring that we generate our electricity and heat from low or zero carbon sources instead of the coal and gas currently used. Good progress is being made nationally. In June 2017¹⁸ National Grid reported that for the first time power from wind, solar, hydro and wood pellet burning supplied 50.7% of UK energy for a brief period during 1 day. Renewable sources provided a third (33.0 per cent) of the total electricity generated in the UK in 2018 compared to 29.2 per cent in 2017¹⁹

West Berkshire is a rural authority and this brings its own particular challenges and opportunities when considering the impact of the district's existing energy consumption and the potential for renewable energy.

As a district, in 2018, for renewable energy sources, West Berkshire had 34.2 MW installed capacity, the vast majority of which came from solar photovoltaics (33.1 MW)²⁰. Table 3 on the right shows how this compares with others.

Whilst the potential for renewable energy generated from solar photovoltaics appears to be well established, things are not so clear with regards the ability to provide low and zero carbon heat for homes and businesses. A large proportion of the district's existing homes are reliant on liquid fuels and have no cost efficient way of connecting to the local gas grid, a less carbon intensive method to heating homes. To overcome this we will:

- undertake energy mapping and master planning for the district in order to better understand what opportunities and limitations there are for district heating schemes with existing buildings and future developments. The results of this exercise would be used to inform any relevant future policy for the district
- work with local suppliers, community energy co-operatives and similar groups to invest in renewable energy in the district, and will lobby Government to change the tax system to favour low and zero carbon solutions.

6.1.4 Waste and Resource Efficiency

As the world's population has grown in recent decades, and with it material consumption and waste generation, it has become increasingly obvious that major changes are required to conserve the earth's finite resources.

As a unitary authority, we have statutory duties for both waste collection and disposal. We have set out a Waste Strategy 2002 – 2022²¹, but we recognise a lot has changed in the UK waste sector since it was published. We are committed to providing residents with a good quality of waste collection and recycling service. In the medium term, we will

LA area	MW
Wiltshire	593.5
Vale of White Horse	149.6
South Oxfordshire	46.3
West Berkshire	33.1
Wokingham	28.3
Windsor & Maidenhead	8.3
Reading	5.7
Bracknell	4.2
Slough	3.4

Table 3: Solar PV Installed Capacity (MegaWatt, MW) at local authority level - as at end of 2018

also have to ensure that our collections and recycling approach is compliant with emerging government requirements, which are expected to apply from April 2023.

According to the United Nations²², if the global population reaches 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be needed to provide the natural resources required to sustain current lifestyles. For this reason, there has recently been greater emphasis on the need to transition economies from the historical linear (“take, make and dispose”) model of resource use, to a more circular economic model where materials are kept in use for longer to minimise the need for raw materials. This is demonstrated in Figure 3 overleaf:

[18] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-40198567>
 [19] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>
 [20] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>
 [21] <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHhttpHandler.ashx?id=36818&p=0>
 [22] <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

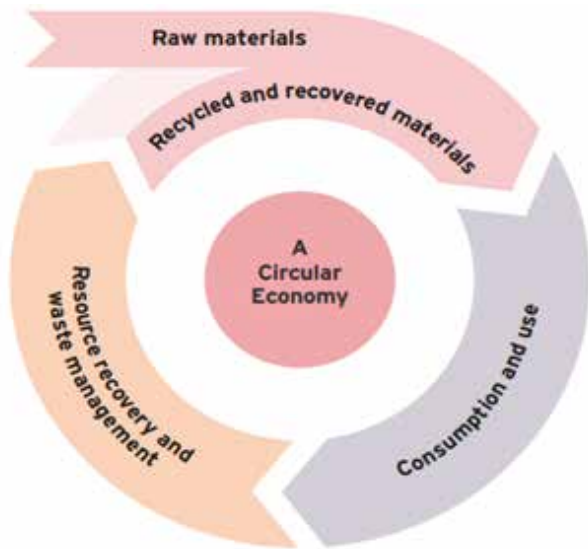


Figure 3: A Circular Economy (Image source: Resources and Waste Strategy, Defra)

The Resources and Waste Strategy for England (RWS)²³ was published in December 2018 and seeks to deliver the waste and resource management elements of the UK Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan. The RWS has the overall aim of making the UK a world leader in resource efficiency and to facilitate the transition to this circular economy.

Two of the key targets set out in this RWS are:

- for all plastics to be reusable, recyclable and compostable by 2025; and
- to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042.

In addition, according to information available in the Government’s initial consultation on the RWS during spring 2019, some of the changes that may be required to our existing collections include:

- A requirement to collect food waste separately from the kerbside on at least a weekly basis; and
- A requirement for all English local authorities to collect the same core set of dry recyclable materials

We know that plastic waste is something our residents feel very strongly about. We intend to look at how we can tackle this locally.

We are aware from compositional surveys of the residual waste bins in West Berkshire that about 25% of the contents is comprised of

food waste. By providing separate food waste collections, we have given the community the tools they need to improve this statistic. We will therefore encourage them to consider how changes might be made to their own recycling habits so that the amount of waste unnecessarily sent to landfill is minimised.

Recycling in the commercial and industrial sector has traditionally been much lower than for household and municipal waste so it is likely that there is scope to undertake significant work in this area. Major UK business are adopting numerous initiatives to reduce plastic pollution such as the launch of the Plastics Pact²⁴, whose signatories include some of the leading UK retailers, producers and Non-Governmental Organisations but, as always, there is a pressing need to do more. Effective communications and engagement will be key to this, as we discuss in other parts of this strategy.

We already have some strong examples of good practice in our waste operations. In 2018/19, about 50% (c. 37,000 tonnes) of the waste we collected was either recycled or composted, about 34% (c. 25,000 tonnes) was sent to an energy recovery facility and 16% (c. 12,000 tonnes) was landfilled. This places us among the better performing local authorities in England. Nevertheless, we are determined to recycle even more in the lifetime of this strategy. We are also committed to ensuring that only materials for which a proven offtake market exists are collected for recycling and that, wherever practicable, waste is sent to facilities within the UK for treatment and/or disposal.

In order to work towards the aim of carbon neutrality by 2030 and to ensure that we are mitigating the effects of waste and resource management on our natural environment, we will:

- Reuse, recycle and compost at least 60% of municipal waste we handle by 2030;
- Implement a kerbside collection system that is fully compliant with the minimum service standards required by the UK Government by 2025. This commitment includes:

[23] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf

[24] <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/the-uk-plastics-pact>

- Separate food waste collections to all eligible households by 2025, subject to the availability of funding from the Government.
- Collection of at least the core set of dry recyclable materials by April 2025.
- The continuation of the provision of separate garden waste collections from households.
- Increase our reuse figures by 2030 (current rate is 0.16%).
- Landfill less than 10% of municipal waste by 2030.
- Work with local businesses to improve resource efficiency in the commercial sector.
- Work with our key stakeholders and partners to develop a new waste strategy for West Berkshire before 2022.
- Continue to monitor the introduction of new technologies and innovations for future waste collections and management.
- Explore the ability to shred bulky waste and send this stream to Energy from Waste facilities for energy generation instead of landfill
- Review the potential to collect more plastic waste streams.
- Explore the feasibility of using Anaerobic Digestion for the treatment of separately collected food waste in future.

These commitments, in combination with the other factors outlined in this strategy, will help us to move towards a circular economy in which West Berkshire's natural environment is protected and its carbon emissions are minimised.

6.1.5 Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Environment

West Berkshire has a beautiful and diverse natural environment. It is one of our biggest assets. The benefits it offers for our wildlife, our habitats and our health and wellbeing cannot be questioned. As a council, we want to work with others to protect and enhance it so that it can be used by, enjoyed, and cared for by everyone.

We have several existing strategies and plans that are relevant for protecting and enhancing

the natural environment but also recognise that a significant amount more must be done in order to meet our targets.

The UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) , which we mentioned earlier in this strategy, provides the strategic framework for good environmental stewardship in England. At its heart is the aspiration for "improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it". This is an aspiration that we support and are looking to fulfil locally through the implementation of this strategy.

As with all of the measures contained in this strategy, this is not something the council can do alone. We must work with our partners to protect and enhance our natural environment. We must also use land and soils sustainably to ensure that they are preserved for future generations, deliver cleaner air and water in our towns and rural landscapes and protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats.

Biodiversity is a key component of the natural world, but it is being eroded around the globe. Our Local Plan provides the planning framework for conserving and enhancing the natural environment in the district and covers the period up to 2026. More balanced ecosystems are more robust when faced with environmental changes and it is therefore imperative that we all as individuals and communities protect and preserve what we have currently in and around the district. The actions outlined later in this section will explain how we intend to do this.

Earlier in this strategy, we mentioned that we intended to undertake carbon sequestration measures. One of these will be a programme of tree and wildflower planting in our open spaces and on our urban highways, which will also add to the character and the biodiversity of our district. This will include:

- Schools tree planting;
- Woodland creation;
- Street tree planting and management;
- Orchard planting;
- Role of tree wardens;
- Role of volunteers; and
- Links with the North Wessex Downs AONB organisation.

In terms of Public Rights of Way, we have a large network of approximately 1,100km of footpaths, byways and bridleways. We have a duty to assert the rights of the public to the use and enjoy the network. The primary aim of the network is to provide easy recreational and functional access to the countryside and opportunities for contact with nature. We actively encourage residents and visitors to use these routes for health improvement purposes and produce a number of walking leaflets for this purpose. Through our delivery plan, we will outline how we can continue to maintain this and enhance it where possible.

As we have mentioned throughout this strategy, we are committed to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. In order to do so, we will work with partners to:

- Safeguard and enhance the beauty of our distinctive landscape and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.
- Expand our tree planting programme in suitable locations across the district to enhance the natural environment and help reduce greenhouse gases and impurities in the atmosphere.
- Develop a Nature Recovery Plan which will further improve biodiversity and wildlife in the district.
- Encourage our residents to explore the natural environment, to become active partners in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and to take ownership of the management of the natural environment.
- Apply emerging Government requirements for environmental protection and improved biodiversity through the planning process.
- Continue working with volunteers and partners to take care of the natural environment.
- 'Green' our towns by supporting the creation of more green zones and planting more urban trees.

This is by no means an exhaustive list but we look forward to using these projects, and others as new suggestions emerge, to better protect

and manage our natural environment so that those who follow us can enjoy it and care for it as we have done.

6.2 How we will deliver

6.2.1 Obtaining and utilising environmental information

This strategy provides us with a clear vision and we need to consolidate key information to help make better environmental decisions. We will signpost the work of partner organisations, government research and any data sources that increase the likelihood of positive behaviour change on the journey to carbon neutrality in 2030.

We will ensure that all future proposed policy is aligned and supports the move towards carbon neutrality. We know that broader assessment of our environmental impact of our own operations, policies and projects is needed and that transparency will be key to getting communities and business to contribute. It is important to us that we are knowledgeable in the key areas and research is already underway, working with partners, to understand how all forms of effective carbon capture, storage and offsetting could work for our own activities and encourage all members of the community to routinely consider how they can do the same. We know we need to improve in capturing our own environmental information and development work to produce this has started. Feedback from the 2019 Climate Conference demonstrated that this was important for our residents and businesses, they wanted to feel that we are all in this together.

6.2.2 Managing our own carbon budget

It is acknowledged that we must show ourselves as a leader in the difficult shared challenge of working towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

We will therefore review current best practice within the public sector and engage with sector specific experts to agree the boundaries of the organisation:

- Define the types of emissions that should be included;
- Understand these emissions by our operations;

- Provide greater certainty on how emission levels will change in a business as usual scenario; and
- Develop a series of options and actions for delivery of a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

The accepted practice, and one that we will be adopting for our own footprint, is that when measuring, the resultant values will be expressed in carbon dioxide equivalents or CO₂e. CO₂e is used to express the impact of each different greenhouse gas in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would create the same amount of warming. Therefore, our carbon footprint will consist of lots of different greenhouse gases expressed as a single number.

Once a suitable baseline for our own emissions has been established, one of the first actions we are proposing is to introduce a series of 'Carbon Budgets' for our own activities and estate. For example we know that we consume about 11.6M kWh which if we were to ensure that was generated in district with 100% renewable energy we would save just under 3,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year, which demonstrates the scale of the challenge i.e. this is less than 0.5% of the total carbon offset target for West Berkshire as a whole.

The concept is to allocate an allowance of tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions for each financial year. We will then be required to keep within this allowance in each of our operational areas. The CO₂e allowance will be reduced each year in order to achieve carbon neutrality for the Council by 2030.

In order to monitor performance against the Carbon Budgets, CO₂e emissions will be reported annually through our Key Performance Indicators and published on our website.

6.2.3 Communicating with and influencing our stakeholders

As we have discussed in this strategy at length, we are not in a position to deliver our aims and targets in isolation. We must bring our community along with us and give them the tools and knowledge they need to take their own actions.

As a council, we regularly consult our residents and our business on the policies we implement and seek feedback about the work we do. After we declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, however, we decided early on that the extent of the challenge facing us meant that we had to do as much as possible to bring the public with us on the journey to carbon neutrality by 2030.

When we hosted the inaugural Climate Conference in October 2019 we took the first step towards this. Over 300 local people joined us to hear from experts, to share ideas and to start the conversation about what action we can, and must, take locally to meet our target. Much of what we heard at the conference made it clear that although carbon neutrality and the actions it will necessitate are likely to be challenging, many people locally are ready to play their own part.

We will hold similar events at regular intervals in order to inform residents and businesses of our progress and the projects we are likely to be undertaking as well as to hear about their own progress, ideas and feedback.

Alongside our efforts to communicate with and engage our residents and businesses, we must also look at ways to improve accessibility to greener options. Much of this will be about ensuring that our own services, such as Waste and Recycling, are as low carbon and user friendly as possible. It will also mean we must aim towards having partnerships, such as with the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, which help the community to access technologies and infrastructure that will mitigate the impact of their daily activity on the district's carbon footprint.

We will actively encourage residents, businesses and our partners to engage in carbon audits, footprint assessments and ongoing carbon budgeting. In doing so, we will encourage data sharing and best practice exchanges to ensure the whole of West Berkshire benefits from the collective effort. We will also explore how to use our existing financial models to encourage grant funding sensible environmental projects through, for example, the Community Infrastructure Levy, Elected Member grant bids and third party grants.

Our delivery plan will show how we plan to do this and will adapt over time as we engage with our residents and the impact of all of our actions become clearer.

6.2.4 Working with young people

What has perhaps been most impactful both before and since the declaration of the Climate Emergency is that the district's young people are engaged with this cause. It is clear that they feel it is their future that is most in jeopardy if we do not take meaningful action to address the effects of climate change and to protect our natural environment.

The interest our young people have taken in climate-related issues in recent years is unprecedented and is something that we as a council are keen to highlight. The enthusiasm and knowledge of our young people is something we want to use and to develop over time so that the quality and scope of the local debate on climate change reflects the needs of all generations who live in West Berkshire.

The Climate Conference in October 2019 was deliberately timed to take place during half term so that our young people could attend and we will continue to ensure that they are able to become involved with our decision making and our actions. We feel there are more possibilities to explore, linking with groups such as Newbury Youth Council and those who organised recent youth protests to find a platform that encourages constructive debate.

We will also, through our schools, communicate with them, seek their views and work with them to bring about the greener district they deserve. Embedding an understanding of climate change in their studies from a very early age will be key to this as they will be equipped to become custodians of our natural environment in the future.

6.2.5 Planning and development

Addressing the issues and impact of industrial, transport and domestic carbon emissions requires a robust and ambitious Local Plan (LP) for West Berkshire. The LP sets out the local planning policies for West Berkshire and is currently going through a process of review, in preparation for submission to the Secretary of State and independent examination. Once adopted it will guide planning and development

up to the year 2036, beyond the 2030 date for carbon neutrality in West Berkshire. It is therefore vital that we take this opportunity to put in place policies that will help the district achieve its aims.

As part of this review process we will look to challenge our existing policies and approaches, and work with local area specific stakeholders, to evaluate the potential for adoption of broader renewable technologies. We will also consult our peers across the country to determine what they are doing with regards to sustainable transport and development, and look to adopt best practice.

We will also explore the possibility of including 'allowable solutions' which seeks to use financial measures e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy where on-site measures are not considered viable and instead contribute to a carbon sequestration/offset funds such as re-forestation. This is an approach that has been explored by other local authorities but requires careful consideration in relation to our developing Housing Strategy and existing planning policies.

On a wider point, we will lobby government to ensure that the National Planning Policy Framework and Building Regulations take into account the latest Climate Change scientific evidence, the increased public awareness and concern and provide us with the tools to affect change.

6.2.6 Nature Recovery Network

The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) proposes the creation of a Nature Recovery Network²⁶. A Nature Recovery Network is a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and at sea. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move around more freely and enables the natural world to adapt to change. It provides plants and animals with habitats to live, feed and breed. The Network would include nature reserves and local wildlife sites. It would also contain peat bogs, heaths, meadows and cliffs; road verges, parks, gardens, hedges and woods; and rivers, streams, ponds and lakes.

We have recently reduced our grass and verges cutting frequency to aid wildlife establishment. The current regime is to cut the urban highway 8 times a year, which is

[25] <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/3368102/>

Carbon+Offsetting+in+the+West+of+England.pdf/894f7c11-33e4-a8b4-ec89-383828553184

[26] https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/Nature_recovery_network_final.pdf

already down from 10 in 2017 in most urban areas, this appears to be acceptable to the residents and keeps the majority of the grassed areas under control.

In more rural locations and in areas of open spaces, across the district there are opportunities to reduce this cutting regime and introduce space for a mix of wildflower and natural regeneration .

6.2.7 Working with business

Just as our residents need support to make responsible choices, so do our businesses. It is clear that businesses of all sizes in West Berkshire appreciate the scale of the challenge with respect to climate change and that they recognise that they too have a role to play in meeting it.

West Berkshire's businesses vary in size, industry and scope. Across our district there are examples of businesses taking responsibility and showing leadership on this issue and grasping the market opportunities arising from a low carbon global economy.

Our larger employers, such as Vodafone, AWE and Microfocus, are taking action to minimise their own impact through long-established environmental corporate social responsibility schemes. Other West Berkshire businesses such as Fuel Cell Systems are at the forefront of developing new technology which will be vital to the local, and global, response to climate change. At the other end of the spectrum, innovative start-ups such as Thatcham Refillable are promoting choices with a lower environmental impact and plastic free living to their growing community.

The policy decisions we make and the infrastructure we provide should enable our businesses to grow in a responsible and sustainable way. To support this, facilities such as remote working, a wider range of travel options and access to sustainable utilities will be made readily available to them. Equally, the

existing support offered to businesses through our work with the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership will help new and existing green businesses to grow and develop within the district.

Emerging technology and the accompanying infrastructure, including 5G connectivity, electric and autonomous vehicles and the Internet of Things will be integral to this. So too will be a transport network that helps employees to travel to work in sustainable way. Similarly, through our work on the education and training agenda we will give the workforce's next generation the skills they need to thrive and carry out the green jobs of the future as they respond to the Climate Emergency.

Not only this, but we will actively seek out examples of innovation or new ways of working among our businesses to consider whether these could be used in or adapted for our own activities. Collaborating and sharing learning in this way will be increasingly important in the coming years as we work towards this shared target.

Through adaptation and resilience planning we can reduce risks from weather related and safeguard business productivity, as identified in the government's risk assessment for business.



7. Governance

Work is underway, to develop a more comprehensive and technically robust discussion on how we measure and report progress to work towards achieving the vision and the associated objectives.

We recognise, however, that this needs to evolve; bringing together voices from a variety of backgrounds and listening to experts to complement the work of the Council. Our first Climate Conference has given us valuable insight and we see it as a first step towards conducting a more open conversation with our community. We also recognise that future events must drill down into the details that matter in West Berkshire, with clearer links to the work of the council and how we can share our learning.

It is widely acknowledged that, when it comes to environmental engagement, we have an active community which we see as a strength for West Berkshire. Effective and positive contributions from this network will be key to our success and every effort must be made to enable people be part of the solution.

We will make sure there is ample opportunity for this to take place and everyone feels part of the conversation.

An annual report will be produced to set out progress against the Delivery Plan. This will help to monitor the achievement of the objectives of this strategy and be another opportunity for dialogue between all those coming together to deliver the shared vision.

8. Measuring and Reporting Progress

We recognise that the continued inclusion of the wider community is vital to achieving the aims of this strategy. Our first Climate Conference has given us valuable insight and we see it as a first step towards conducting a more open conversation with our community. We also recognise that future events must drill down into the details that matter in West Berkshire, with clearer links to the work of the council and how we can share our learning.

It is widely acknowledged that, when it comes to environmental engagement, we have an active community which we see as a strength for West Berkshire. Effective and positive contributions from this network will be key to our success and every effort must be made to make people feel part of the solution.

The vision demands a clear progress check on the path to carbon neutrality by 2030 and while this is an ambitious target that we are determined to achieve, we have to acknowledge that there are a number of unknowns and risks in the journey ahead. Chart 5 below will help guide our understanding on progress and gives a demonstration of the level of uncertainty we are facing. Where we identify that our projects are not delivering what we need, we can re-assess and look for more effective alternatives. The key should be to find a balance between constant re-evaluation, which is resource intensive, and avoiding waiting until 2030 only to find out we didn't do enough. To ensure progress is tracked we will report annually to full Council against the milestones in the Environment Delivery Plan.

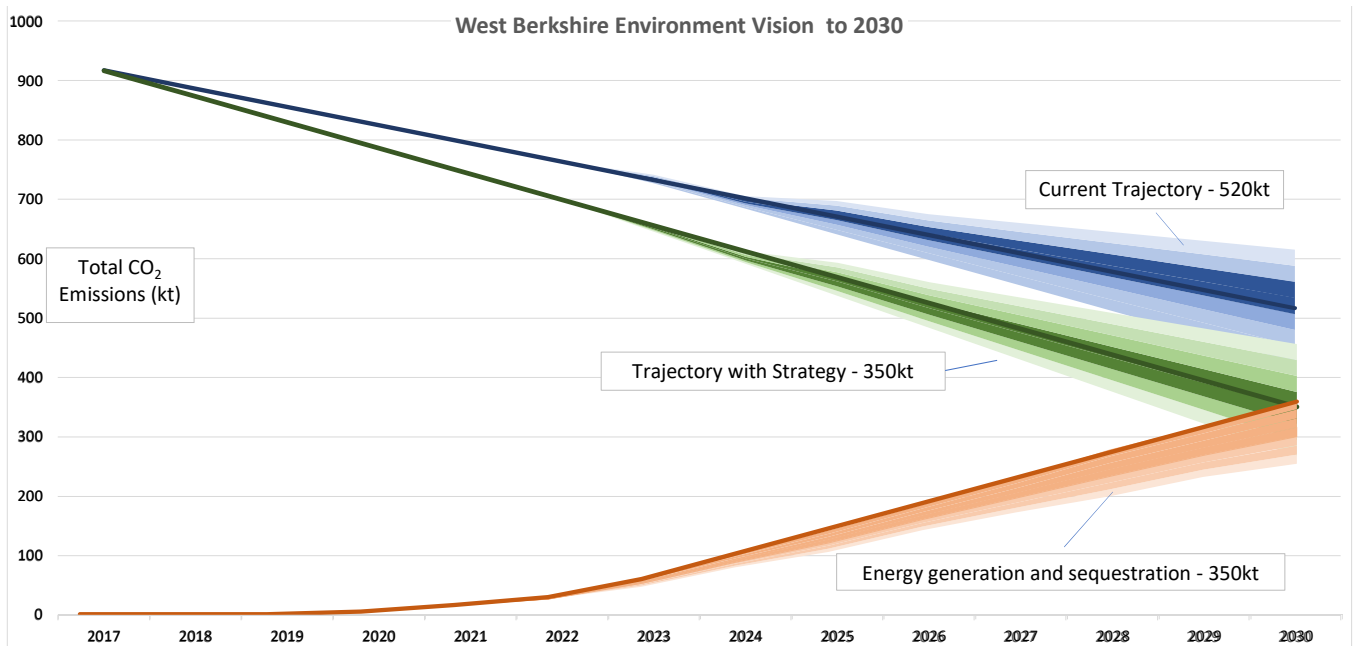


Chart 5: Our Path to Carbon Neutrality

It is important to show an outline of the work we intend to do. Based on the research, knowledge and experience we have to date there are projects we believe will start contributing to the path we have laid out.

Where we have cited numbers, these are to indicate scale and ambition but also a degree of pragmatism about delivery, this is a difficult balance and realise that we cannot satisfy everyone in what we are aiming for.

8.1 Indicative projects to contribute towards carbon reduction targets:

- We will generate 11.5MW (equivalent 2,018 kt CO₂e)²⁷ of renewable energy in the district to use for our own operations (equivalent to current total demand).
- We will work with partners and encourage residents and businesses to produce 20MW (equivalent 3,510 kt CO₂e) of renewable energy in the district to use for their own consumption.
- The number of charge points we will installed will significantly increase (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).
- The number of registered Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) in our fleet will significantly increase (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).
- Carbon emissions related to our travel will significantly reduce (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).
- The number of ULEV vehicles registered in the District will significantly increase (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).
- The amount of our land converted to wildflower verges will significantly increase (A4 trial under way, feasibility of rolling this out to the rest of the District to be commissioned).
- The number of 'impressions' generated by communication projects on carbon reduction initiatives will significantly

increase (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).

8.2 Indicative projects to achieve energy generation and carbon sequestration targets:

- The Council will produce an additional 10MW (equivalent 1,755 kt CO₂e) of renewable energy beyond existing demand.
- The number of hectares of trees planted in the district will significantly increase.
- The number of urban trees planted will significantly increase (actual number to be agreed on first strategy review).
- Working with landowners and agricultural industry to investigate soil sequestration.

8.3 Indicative projects to improve the Natural Environment:

- Establish wild flower verges throughout West Berkshire's highway network;
- Support and encourage community sequestration and carbon reduction initiatives;
- Investigate a joined up approach to natural regeneration including comprehensive mapping of the District to identify opportunities for rewilding, tree planting, carbon capture and habitat conservation and creation across West Berkshire.

[27] based on forecast regional carbon intensity of 234 gCO₂/kWh <https://carbonintensity.org.uk/>



9. Conclusions

Climate change is an internationally recognised challenge and we need to play our part in addressing it. As a result we are aiming for carbon neutrality in West Berkshire by 2030.

The Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019 was an important marker. It was a commitment to leading efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change locally, and to bring our residents, businesses and communities along with us.

We are under no illusions about the level of ambition this will require. The changes to our lifestyles, to our use of resources and to the way in which we deliver our services will be extensive. We recognise, however, that this must be done. This Council is ready to make these changes and to assist others in our district to do the same.

The projects we have alluded to in this strategy will address the impact man-made climate change is having on our environment. We will use our delivery plan to manage these projects, to track their progress and to measure their impact.

Measuring this impact will be fundamental as we embark on the journey towards carbon neutrality. In order to do so, we have developed a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) which we will use alongside the emissions figures that national government publishes annually. This will allow us to transparently show where things are going well and where more needs to be done to keep us on track.

Over the lifetime of this strategy there are likely to be a number of developments which will affect our ability to achieve our target. Some will have a positive impact, some a negative one. Equally, some will be within our control while others are outside of it. We don't currently have detailed answers for getting all the way to our target. Regardless of what happens, however, we must ensure that we are able to respond both proactively and reactively.

We are confident that the work we have done already and the commitments we have made in this strategy are the right ones but it is also important for us to recognise that the impacts of climate change are wide-ranging and not entirely predictable. For this reason, we will track our progress and monitor developments where they affect this strategy.

Working towards this ambition will require us to be creative, determined, and to make use of emerging technology. Most importantly of all, however, it will require everyone in the district to take responsibility for the impact their choices have on the environment.

10. Achievements

What has been achieved since the Council unanimously declared a climate emergency on 2nd July 2019?

As well as developing this Environment Strategy, there have been other actions and changes being made to work towards reducing carbon and enhancing our environment in West Berkshire. Whilst by no means an exhaustive list, a flavour of what has been achieved since the declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019 is set out below.

Projects

- Delivered the A4 wild flower verges project.
- Launched the UK's first Community Municipal Investment - an opportunity to invest directly in a greener future for the district.
- Installed solar photovoltaic panels to the first phase of Council buildings in order to generate and use sustainable energy
- Undertaken a carbon audit of the Council to establish the Council's current carbon footprint

Engagement / information

- Held a successful Climate Conference with over 300 people in attendance
- Wide ranging consultation on a draft Environment Strategy through an online survey, community conversations with Parish Councils, interested groups and individuals, drop-in sessions at selected District libraries and direct responses and representations.
- Set up a new Environment Delivery Team within the Environment Department at the Council to support the work on delivering this Environment Strategy.

Infrastructure

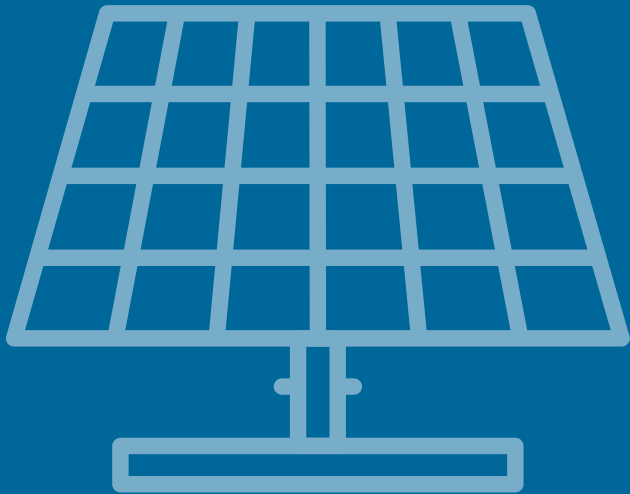
- Progressed the West Berkshire sections of the new National Cycle Network Route 422.
- Completed the Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys foot/cycle link.
- Successfully bid for our full emergency active travel fund allocation.
- Commissioning of 18 on street electric charge points (in addition to the 18 commissioned early 2019).
- Increased the percentage of fully electric vehicles in the Council's fleet from 10% to 20%.
- Introduced an Intelligent Traffic Signal system on the A4 in Thatcham to reduce congestion and improve air quality.
- Continued with the LED replacement of street lighting units (96.13% of total stock).
- Increased our use of recycled materials in road construction (e.g. In our road re-surfacing programme all sites now use asphalts with an increased percentage of recycled material content; Use of recycled rubber speed cushions in Turnpike Road, Newbury).
- Completion of the Dunstan Park and South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation scheme protecting 573 properties from the effects of climate change.
- Increased use of warm asphalts and cold lay recycled asphalts in surfacing works. This provides a significant reduction in CO2 in its production and use. As much as 25kg of CO2 can be saved per tonne of material when used in place of hot mix materials.
- Implemented a more efficient way of identifying areas of carriageway repair in order to reduce waste.
- Purchasing products for particular projects from local suppliers to reduce CO2 delivery emissions

10. Glossary

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation
	Anaerobic Digestion	A process in which organic matter is broken down by micro-organisms in an oxygen free 'tank' to produce fuels.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Area of countryside designated for conservation in recognition of its national importance.
	Baseline	A fixed point of reference used as a starting point for comparison purposes.
	Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life.
	Carbon budget	The maximum amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted over a certain period.
CCS	Carbon capture and storage	Trapping carbon at its emission source, and then storing it long term.
CO2e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent	A term used to describe different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any greenhouse gases and their amount, it is the amount of carbon dioxide which would have the equivalent warming impact.
	Carbon footprint/carbon audit	The total greenhouse gas emissions caused by a person/event/organisation/product, expressed as the carbon dioxide equivalent.
	Carbon neutral/ carbon neutrality	The act of reducing a person's/events/organisations/products carbon footprint to zero through energy efficiency measures and external emission reductions projects.
	Climate change	The long-term shift in the planets weather patterns and temperatures.
CCA	Climate Change Act 2008	Provides the framework for the UK's climate change policy
	Climate Change Bonds	Fixed income bonds, linked to climate change solutions.
	Climate Emergency Declaration	The Declarations vary for each organisation. The Council's Declaration is set out in the Introduction section of the Environment Strategy.
	CO2 emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities	The UK produces a breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions deemed to be within the scope of Local Authorities exclude large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use.

CCC	Committee on Climate Change	Independent body to advise the government on climate change.
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	A charge which can be levied on new developments within the Local Authority's area. It helps deliver required infrastructure.
	Delivery Plan	The Council's plan on how the objectives of the Environment Strategy will be achieved.
	Economic Development Board	Newly formed Economic Board which will oversee the Economic Development Strategy, implementing an action plan to fulfil its objectives.
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System	The first and largest greenhouse gas emissions trading system in the world. It works on a 'cap and trade' principle where allowances are set. Allowances are auctioned off or allocated for free. Emitters must ensure they have enough allowances to meet their emissions or purchase more. Those who reduce their emissions and have spare allowances can sell off their credits.
	Green energy	Definitions would usually mean the gas or electricity were from 100% renewable sources.
GHG	Greenhouse gases	Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and re-emit heat. They occur naturally in the Earth's atmosphere but human activity increases these, leading to increased warming and climate change.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	The total monetary/market value of the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.
	Health and Wellbeing Board	A partnership that brings together West Berkshire's leaders of the health and social care system.
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators	A measurable value/outcome to gauge how well an organisation is meeting its key objectives.
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	A greenhouse gas sector defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
LCWIP	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme	Sets out the Council's long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks
	Local Plan	The plan is part of the overall Development Plan for West Berkshire, setting out our local planning policies.
LTP	Local Transport Plan	Aims to deliver effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion.

NAEI	National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory	The Inventory is compiled by Ricardo. It is the standard reference inventory for the UK and includes emission estimates for a wide range of important pollutants.
	Nature Recovery Plan	The plan defines the objectives and key actions required to improve biodiversity and wildlife in the district
	Net zero	There is no commonly agreed definition. However it is the intention that the activities of the Council should result in no net impact on the climate from greenhouse gas emissions .
	Per capita	The district's emissions divided by the number of people to give a value per person. This can be useful in comparing other areas of differing population size.
SME	Small medium enterprises	Small or medium businesses are generally defined as businesses with less than 250 employees.
SuD	Sustainable drainage systems	Systems designed to manage the drainage of surface water.
	Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership	An organisation bringing together business, public sector, education and community together to drive the local economy.
	Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum	A Forum to help prepare, respond and recover from emergency incidents.
	The National Adaptation Programme	This sets out the actions that the UK government and others will take over the next five-yearly cycle to adapt to the challenged of climate change.
ULEV	Ultra low emission vehicle	A vehicle that emits no more than 75g/km CO ₂ , based on the NEDC test, at the tailpipe. This includes pure electric, hydrogen, range-extender and plug in hybrid vehicles.
	Whole life carbon	The emissions created for every stage of an item/buildings production, use and disposal.



WBC/PP&C/PA/0620

Parking provision for electric vehicles

Committee considering report:	Executive on 16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Richard Somner
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	13 May 2020
Report Author:	Neil Stacey
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3931

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At the Full Council meeting held on 3rd March 2020 a Motion was submitted by Cllr Carolyne Culver requesting “*The Council to designate all current and future electric vehicle charging points that are provided by West Berkshire Council as ‘EV only’ parking spaces.*”
- 1.2 This purpose of this report is to highlight the associated issues and make recommendations as to whether the Motion should be implemented.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that:
 - (a) the Motion to designate all current and future electric vehicle charging points as ‘EV only’ parking spaces is not taken forward at this time in respect of on-street locations.
 - (b) an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) should be implemented at a trial site where an on-street chargepoint has been more frequently used. The exact terms of the restriction will need to be discussed informally with Members prior to making the Order, as will the implications of the proposed order for the appearance, size and number of additional signs that are required. The success, or otherwise of this ETRO will inform future decision as to when, where and how to roll out EV-only parking bays more widely.
 - (c) unless local circumstances dictate otherwise, all chargepoints in public car parks operated by West Berkshire Council will have their own designated and enforceable parking bay.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
Financial:	None, over and above existing commitments to improve provision for electric vehicles. Costs associated with the implementation of parking restrictions for electric vehicles can be met from suitable existing capital budgets.			
Human Resource:	None.			
Legal:	None, over and above the “business as usual” input that Legal Services provide to the Traffic Regulation Order process.			
Risk Management:	None.			
Property:	None.			
Policy:	None.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		The proposed decision will have no impact on inequality.

Parking provision for electric vehicles

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		The proposed decision will have no impact on the lives of people with protected characteristics.
Environmental Impact:		x		Environmental considerations are discussed in the main body of the report but overall the effect of the decision is likely to be neutral.
Health Impact:		x		No impact.
ICT Impact:		x		No impact.
Digital Services Impact:		x		No impact.
Council Strategy Priorities:		x		The provision of facilities for charging electric vehicles directly delivers on the Council Strategy Priority to Maintain a Green District. This report is focussed on the practicalities of one particular aspect of the provision of these facilities and will not have an additional effect.
Core Business:			x	Specific parking restrictions associated with electric vehicles could have an impact on the Council's Core Business, with an increase in workload or a change to working practices, as noted in the report. For example, enforcement of such restrictions would be the responsibility of the Parking team's Civil Enforcement Officers and any implications for existing residents' parking permit schemes would be administered by the Traffic & Road Safety team.
Data Impact:		x		No impact.

Consultation and Engagement:	<p>The issues of parking for electric vehicles was discussed at a meeting of the Transport Advisory Group (TAG) on 30th April 2020. Members of this group were presented with the information contained in the main body of this report and had the opportunity to ask Officers detailed questions and make suggestions.</p> <p>Any Traffic Regulation Orders or Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders which may be proposed as a result of Recommendation (b) would be subject to statutory consultation processes as described in the main body of this report.</p>
-------------------------------------	---

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 At the Full Council meeting held on 3rd March 2020 a Motion was submitted by Councillor Carolyn Culver requesting “*The Council to designate all current and future electric vehicle charging points that are provided by West Berkshire Council as ‘EV only’ parking spaces.*”
- 4.2 This purpose of this report is to highlight the associated issues and make recommendations as to whether the Motion should be implemented.
- 4.3 As the local highway authority, the Council has powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to introduce restrictions on the highway and is therefore able to implement restrictions which would prohibit non-electric vehicles from parking adjacent to chargepoints. The implementation of such restrictions, however, is subject to statutory consultation processes and there are a number of practical issues that must be considered, including:
- A perceived “loss” of parking spaces could result in objections to proposed Traffic Regulation Orders and conflict between residents;
 - Individually marked bays on the highway have the effect of reducing overall parking capacity, due to the need to make the bay large enough for the largest vehicle that could use it;
 - The exact nature of any restriction would have to be determined, for example the hours of its operation and whether a vehicle needs to be charging to be allowed to park;
 - To ensure the legality of the restriction, the correct information must be displayed on roadside signs. The number and size of signs required may have a detrimental effect on the street-scene;
 - Enforcement of the restrictions would be necessary to discourage abuse of the parking bays, with consequences for the Council’s civil enforcement officers.
- 4.4 Whilst the Council wishes to encourage and promote the use of electric vehicles, there is a balance to be struck between encouraging the uptake of this new technology and continuing to provide for conventional vehicles. The recommendations put forward by this report aim to achieve this balance.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.2 At the Full Council meeting held on 3rd March 2020 a Motion was submitted by Cllr Carlyne Culver requesting “*The Council to designate all current and future electric vehicle charging points that are provided by West Berkshire Council as ‘EV only’ parking spaces.*”
- 5.3 This purpose of this report is to highlight the associated issues and make recommendations as to whether the Motion should be implemented.

Background

- 5.4 The provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, including for hybrid vehicles, is part of a local and national strategy to reduce carbon and particulate emissions and improve air quality. In July 2018 the government published the Road to Zero Strategy, which outlined the ambition to end the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040, and by 2030 at least 50% of new car sales and up to 40% of new van sales being ultra-low emission.
- 5.5 Over recent years there has been a rise in the number of electric vehicles in West Berkshire and the rate of increase is expected to increase in time. In many older residential areas, where off-street parking provision is limited, EV ownership may not yet be seen as a realistic option and the level of ownership is currently lower than where residents are able to park on their own driveways and use domestic charging facilities. The Council is, however, determined to support existing EV owners and to encourage more residents to change to EVs in these residential roads, where practical.
- 5.6 To meet and facilitate the expected growth of EVs, further on-street and off-street charging infrastructure is required within West Berkshire. A significant number of the District’s older residential streets include properties that do not benefit from off-street parking, or the properties have garages which are incapable of accommodating a modern family car. These streets invariably suffer subsequent parking congestion, which poses a real challenge in providing electric vehicle charging infrastructure for residents.
- 5.7 In 2018, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) released funding to enable local authorities to provide chargepoints specifically for residential areas which do not benefit from off-street parking to enable residents to charge overnight. The Council submitted a bid to this fund and were awarded £72,950 towards the cost for installation of 36 charging units which are now in place in Newbury and Hungerford (locations listed in Appendix A).
- 5.8 Under the terms of the OLEV funding the chargepoints are required to remain in place for a period of at least three years.
- 5.9 Usage data provided by the suppliers has shown that most of the chargepoints have been only infrequently used, but some have been used more consistently.

Managing the road space

- 5.10 It is the duty of the local authority to manage the road network with a view to achieving the objective of securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network
- 5.11 Local authorities have a duty to take account of the needs of all road users, take action to minimise, prevent or deal with congestion problems and consider the implications of decisions for both their road network and others.
- 5.12 Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are the legal means to enforce these controls and can be made for a number of reasons, including avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road, for preventing damage to the road or any building near the road, for controlling traffic speeds, for preventing obstructions of the road for traffic (including pedestrians) and for controlling and preventing parking.
- 5.13 There is no automatic right to park on the public highway. It is an accepted practice of modern life, but if inconsiderate parking presents a hazard, or if competition for road space from commuters or shoppers prevents residents from parking close to their homes, TROs can be proposed to provide those controls through introduction of formal parking bays and address road safety concerns through the introduction of yellow lines and regulatory signs.

Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

- 5.14 The primary legislation for TROs is the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTA 84). This sets out what can be regulated and gives the powers to do so.
- 5.15 The regulations governing the process of making a permanent TRO are set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (LATOR).
- 5.16 There are numerous stages involved in creating a TRO which must be adhered to in order to ensure that enforcement can be undertaken and prosecutions safely made, where necessary. If the process is not followed it can lead to Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) being challenged at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal in the case of parking restrictions.
- 5.17 The initial process, once a parking scheme has been designed, is that a Notice of Proposals must be published in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the road to which the TRO relates is situated and that statutory consultees, including the police and Town/Parish Councils, are notified.
- 5.18 In addition the local authority must take such measures it may consider appropriate 'for ensuring that adequate publicity about the order is given to persons likely to be affected by its provisions'. This may include the display of Notices in roads affected by the order, the delivery of letters to properties in the affected roads, advertising the proposals on the Council's website and providing copies to view at the Council Offices.
- 5.19 There is no absolute requirement to send letters out to each resident potentially impacted by a proposed TRO and in most instances it is impractical to do so given the

Parking provision for electric vehicles

size of parking schemes and the number of properties involved. Our standard practice is to erect Street Notices and notify individual properties where possible.

- 5.20 Under Regulation 8 of LATOR the Notice of Proposals must allow a period of at least 21 days for consultees and any road user to make objections in writing.
- 5.21 Following the 21 day period all responses and objections are considered through formal report and Individual Executive Member Decision. This process determines whether the proposed scheme should be amended, parts should be omitted completely, or the proposals should be introduced unchanged and as advertised.
- 5.22 As a consequence of the above process parking schemes can take many months to complete before any changes can be made on street, especially if the proposal generates many objections from residents and road users. Officers will often need to make a recommendation which balances differing and competing needs of various road users and it is rarely possible to satisfy all stakeholders.
- 5.23 A quicker process to provide formal parking restrictions on-street is to consider Experimental TROs, which may be more suitable in certain circumstances.

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs)

- 5.24 Many of the issues encountered when creating an Experimental TRO (ETRO) are the same as when creating a permanent TRO and use the same legislation. The key benefit for using an ETRO is the significantly reduced time taken to implement because public consultation is carried out after the order becomes live, with the restrictions already in place on-street. Whereas consultation of a proposed TRO invites objections based on how consultees *believe they may be* affected by the restriction, an ETRO invites objections based on how they *have actually been* affected and is therefore more likely to deal with facts than the fears or perceptions of stakeholders.
- 5.25 An ETRO has a maximum timespan of 18 months. If the experimental parking restrictions prove successful this ETRO can be made permanent inside the 18 month period.
- 5.26 ETROs can be used when:
- (a) Restrictions may need to be removed quickly if the restrictions are found to be ineffective or have unacceptable side-effects.
 - (b) It is anticipated that restrictions may need to be amended in the light of experience.
 - (c) It is considered to be more effective to consult with the restrictions in place than with them simply being described 'on paper'.
 - (d) Restrictions need to be put in place quickly but a temporary TRO is not appropriate.
- 5.27 They should not be simply used to circumvent the usual consultation/Notice procedures for permanent TROs and must be of a genuinely experimental nature otherwise they could be challenged by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.

Parking provision for electric vehicles

- 5.28 The process still requires the police and statutory bodies to be consulted in accordance with LATOR, however there is no requirement to publish a formal 'Notice of Proposals' and invite objections and representations before the restrictions are implemented on-street. All that is required is that a 'Notice of Making' must be published in a local newspaper and the changes cannot come into force until seven days after the publication. It would be usual practice to notify local residents of the proposed changes beforehand, although comments received would not necessarily prevent the ETRO from being introduced.
- 5.29 There is then a period of six months during which time objections can be made and are then considered through the Individual Decision process.
- 5.30 The 18 month period of an ETRO allows a scheme to prove its effectiveness and help determine whether the restrictions should be made permanent, modified, or withdrawn.
- 5.31 If the parking restrictions are to be retained the ETRO can be made permanent under Regulation 23 of LATOR without the need for further consultation, provided this takes place within the 18 month period.

Practical considerations for introducing formal on-street EV parking bays

- 5.32 The current approach to on-street chargepoints is described on the Council's website at www.westberk.gov.uk/onstreetev. On-street chargepoints do not have their own designated parking space, as no TRO or ETRO was made when the chargepoints were installed. The decision to not introduce designated spaces was made on the basis that the chargepoints needed to be installed relatively quickly to satisfy the terms of the grant funding and it was anticipated that the time taken to go through the TRO or ETRO process would be very long due to the likelihood of receiving objections. The disadvantage of this approach is that potential EV owners may perceive that they will face difficulties in finding a place to park next to a chargepoint if non-EVs are allowed to "block" it.
- 5.33 If we were to propose introducing formal EV bays at this stage then either the permanent or experimental TRO process would have to be followed. Unless there is a recognised demand in a specific street there is likely to be significant objection from residents with petrol or diesel vehicles if measures are proposed and a marked parking space was to remain unused and unable to be used by those residents.
- 5.34 If a marked bay was introduced and reserved for EVs only it would have to be marked to a length of around 6 metres to allow for a standard length family vehicle to manoeuvre into that space. Reserving such a length of congested road space for EVs could give the impression that valuable parking space was being 'wasted' on those roads where parking is a problem for residents. Residents often park much closer to each other on congested roads than a formal individual parking bay would allow and by leaving such space it could create conflict from non-EV owners, which would be exacerbated if there were no EV owners living in that street at the time.
- 5.35 A formal marked bay would require road markings and parking signs to be displayed on-street in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD 2016). Parking signs and posts to which they are attached need to be installed

Parking provision for electric vehicles

in the footway, which would add to street clutter, often in streets that may already have heritage/conservation considerations.

- 5.36 Parking bays for EVs could ultimately be introduced in due course as EV ownership increases in individual streets. If the restriction was to apply at all times the associated regulatory sign need not be overly visually intrusive, as per Sign 1 (Appendix B), but if it was necessary to create turnover at a space to ensure that a single EV owner did not monopolise a space without moving their vehicle for long periods the sign could start to become more visually intrusive, as per Sign 2. A parking sign of this type erected outside a property of a non-EV owner could initially create objection, but may be more acceptable once general EV ownership increases in that road.
- 5.37 While EV ownership remains low, for example where there is just one EV owner in a single street, if a chargepoint has a designated bay, it could be suggested that that resident is effectively being given their own parking space on the highway, which is an unfair privilege that the remainder of the street does not receive. The counter-argument to this is that the Council is actively encouraging and rewarding those who make a lifestyle choice which results in less environmental damage.
- 5.38 The majority of chargepoints that are already in place are located within residential streets in continuous lengths of parking bays that are already subject to parking restrictions that favour residents and prevent long term parking by non-residents. If these parking bays were to be split so that a formal EV parking bay could be provided alongside a chargepoint the TRO for the original full length parking bay would have to be amended by due process and the parking bay lengths either side of the new EV bays would have to include a parking sign showing the parking restriction that applied to those specific bays, which could add to street clutter.
- 5.39 Encouraging a more rapid change of ownership to EVs by providing incentives such as reducing the cost of resident permits for EV owning residents has been proposed in other local authority areas, however as the current annual fee for our resident permits is only £30 there is little scope to making this a realistic incentive that would sway a decision for a resident changing their vehicle to EV, unless they were already intending to do so. It may also encourage a perception of unfairness in that individuals who can afford to own electric vehicles, which are currently more expensive to buy or lease than the petrol or diesel equivalent, are unlikely to need a further subsidy.
- 5.40 The issue of enforcement of the TROs must also be considered. Given that the majority of the usage of the chargepoints will be overnight, the issuing of penalty charge notices to non-EVs parked in an EV-only space would require a change to the working practices of the team of Civil Enforcement Officers, who do not normally work in the evenings or into the night. Without regular enforcement, there would be no deterrent to parking a non-EV in an EV-only space.

Off-street car parks

- 5.41 The process for introducing and increasing the number of EV parking bays in off-street car parks does not have the same level of prescriptive legislation as there is for the provision of on-street parking, as the relevant off-street TROs make no mention of the number of EV bays within each car park. The main reference to EV parking within off-

Parking provision for electric vehicles

street TROs relate to ensuring enforcement can take place if a non-EV vehicle parks within the EV bay.

- 5.42 Currently there is just one EV chargepoint available for use by the general public in off-street car parks operated by the Council, which is located in the Kennet Centre multi-storey. This chargepoint has a dedicated bay and in order to park in it, vehicles must be both plugged in and charging. Vehicles that are not plugged in and charging, whether EVs or not, are liable to penalty charges.
- 5.43 With Capital funding allocated for 2020-21 for the expansion of public EV chargepoints, Officers in the Environment Department have begun the process of investigating how many new points can be provided and in what locations. It is anticipated that all new chargepoints in public car parks operated by WBC will have dedicated bays with the same restrictions as the one in the Kennet Centre.

Proposals

- 5.44 It is proposed that the Motion to designate all current and future electric vehicle charging points as 'EV only' parking spaces is not taken forward at this time in respect of on-street locations. At the current time it is considered that there is insufficient demand to require such restrictions and that a blanket restriction applied across the various streets in the District that have EV chargepoints would not be appropriate for the differing needs of these areas.
- 5.45 It is proposed that an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is implemented at a trial site where an on-street chargepoint has been frequently used. The exact terms of the restriction will need to be discussed informally with Members prior to making the Order, as will the implications of the proposed order for the appearance, size and number of additional signs that are required. The success, or otherwise of this first ETRO would then inform future decision as to whether, when, where and how to roll out EV-only parking bays more widely.
- 5.46 It is proposed that, unless local circumstances dictate otherwise, all chargepoints in public car parks operated by West Berkshire Council will have their own designated and enforceable parking bay. This is easier to achieve than in on-street locations due to the requirements of the Traffic Regulation Order process being less onerous. In most cases, there is less competition for spaces than is the case in residential locations and therefore less of a risk of conflict between users.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 The Motion could be implemented in its entirety, but in view of the practical considerations detailed in this report, this is not recommended.
- 6.2 The Motion could be rejected completely, but in view of the need to continue to encourage electric vehicle ownership and the likely rise in the numbers of electric vehicles in the District, there will come a point where some form of designated on-highway parking is required. This would also be at odds with the current approach to chargepoints in public car parks.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Access to public charging infrastructure is a major concern for many people when considering switching to EVs and is vital where owners do not have off-street parking. The location of dedicated EV bays has a strong influence on how often and how easily they are used by residents and therefore how much revenue, or negative feedback, they generate. New street furniture, on-street chargepoints and EV parking bays need to be positioned carefully to be accepted by communities, especially where there are already parking pressures.
- 7.2 Introducing dedicated parking bays for 'EVs only' alongside chargepoints has to follow a strict legal process for traffic orders. The decision on whether and when it is advisable to propose a formal EV bay should be a balance of what is the known local demand and what would be considered acceptable by the majority of residents. If they are brought along and are supportive during the public consultation process it will limit the amount of objection such proposals might face. Dedicated bays should not be introduced too soon or before there are at least a small number of local EV owners that might make use of them, otherwise the bay risks creating resentment amongst local residents about removal of a parking space.
- 7.3 Whilst the Council is trying to support those residents who are opting for EV/hybrid ownership until there is a greater level of ownership locally then there is highly likely to be some opposition from local residents to reserving road space for the exclusive use by EV owners when parking is generally at a premium. It is however something that should be considered in the future subject to local demand.
- 7.4 With respect to off-street parking spaces, the Council is already working on the basis that each new EV chargepoint will have its own designated space.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Locations of existing on-street EV Chargepoints
- 8.2 Appendix B – Examples of regulatory signs for designated EV Parking

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Parking provision for electric vehicles

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

Wards affected: Initially, the wards of Newbury (Central), Newbury (Greenham) and Hungerford are affected but as electric vehicle chargepoints are installed beyond these areas, the issues discussed in this report will become relevant in other wards.

Officer details:

Name: Neil Stacey
Job Title: Network Manager (Highways)
Tel No: 01635 519113
E-mail: neil.stacey@westberks.gov.uk

Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

Appendix A – Locations of existing on-street chargepoints

Nearest address point	Town
1 Enborne Place	Newbury
3 York Rd	Newbury
5 Argyle Rd	Newbury
12 Argyle Rd	Newbury
15 Chesterfield Rd	Newbury
24 Chesterfield Rd	Newbury
9C Chesterfield Rd	Newbury
24 Connaught Rd	Newbury
6 Connaught Rd	Newbury
15 Craven Rd	Newbury
41 Craven Rd	Newbury
67 Craven Rd	Newbury
2 Enborne Pl	Newbury
103 Greenham Rd	Newbury
67 Greenham Rd	Newbury
77 Greenham Rd	Newbury
93 Greenham Rd	Newbury
99 Greenham Rd	Newbury
57 Kings Rd	Newbury
67 Kings Rd	Newbury
1 Rockingham Rd	Newbury
3 Rockingham Rd	Newbury
3 Chesterfield Rd	Newbury
19 West Mills	Newbury
29 York Rd	Newbury
53 York Rd	Newbury
76 York Rd	Newbury
12 West Mills	Newbury
34 Charnham St	Hungerford
27 Charnham Street	Hungerford
1 Canal Walk	Hungerford
77 High Street	Hungerford
40 High Street	Hungerford
30 Park Street	Hungerford
112A High Street	Hungerford
75 High Street	Hungerford

Appendix B – Examples of regulatory signs for designated EV Parking



Sign 1



Sign 2

2019/20 Performance Report Quarter Four

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Jo Stewart
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	8 July 2020
Report Author:	Jenny Legge/Catalin Bogos
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3716

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide assurance that the core business and council priorities for improvement measures ([Council Strategy 2019-2023](#)) are being managed effectively.
- 1.2 To highlight successes and where performance has fallen below the expected level; to present information on the remedial action taken, and the impact of that action.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress and achievements.
- 2.2 To review the appropriateness of any remedial actions taken to improve performance, in particular for:
 - % of WBC provider services inspected by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and rated as good or better
 - % of repeat referrals to Children's Services within 12 months of a previous referral
 - Attainment results for Free School Meals (FSM) cohorts
- 2.3 To consider areas where strategic action may need to be taken.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.
Human Resource:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.

Legal:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.			
Risk Management:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.			
Property:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.			
Policy:	To be highlighted and managed by individual services.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:		x		

Health Impact:		x		
ICT or Digital Services Impact:		x		
Council Strategy Priorities or Business as Usual:	x x			Supports all priorities and core business of the Council Strategy 2019-2023.
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	The information provided for this report, has been signed off by the relevant heads of service and portfolio holder.			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The measures shown in this report relate to the period prior to Covid-19, and the subsequent lockdown from 23 March 2020. The Council's response to the pandemic greatly affected social care and education services, however all services have registered an impact. Although the detrimental effects of Covid-19 to the economy and residents of West Berkshire will take a while to fully emerge, it will certainly have taken a huge toll.
- 4.2 Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19, the influencer measures appear to show a slight upturn in employment, but a stagnation in house prices and a decrease in the number of properties being sold. The number of business rated premises has however, continued to increase slightly, but fewer people are using council run car parks and visiting Newbury Town Centre. Considered as a whole, these could be a sign of a slowing economy, or alternatively an indication of a change in people's purchasing and working behaviour, and uncertainty about the UK's future in Europe.
- 4.3 As concluded in the recent Peer Challenge, carried out by officers from other Local Authorities, performance across the Council remains strong. All but two targets within the Council's core business activities were met by the end of 2019/20.
- 4.4 The Council's relatively strong position is further confirmed when performance is compared with other local authorities. The majority of the Council's indicators rank in the first and second quartiles. It is also clear that this already positive benchmarking position continues to improve in many areas.
- 4.5 The Council Strategy Delivery Plan includes the outcomes for our priorities for improvement, that are often being sought over a four year period and therefore is a

more challenging area and performance is mixed. The majority of indicators are however on track. Particular concerns are emerging in the following areas:

- Rate of repeat referrals to children's services
 - Educational attainment for the 2018/19 academic year, in particular for the cohort who receive Free School Meals
- 4.6 The Council's corporate health indicators highlight sound budgetary control (based on an end of year under spend of £1.461m), an improved position regarding sickness absence and stable staff turnover.

5 Supporting Information

Influencer measures

Refer to Appendix A for more detail

- 5.1 Non-targeted measures of volume are monitored to provide context to the work being carried out across council services.
- 5.2 In the area of economy, the economic activity rate (chart 1) and unemployment rate (chart 2) appear stable and therefore encouraging. Although it is still of concern that the number of empty business rated properties continues to rise (chart 7 & 8). The steep reduction in Newbury footfall, more than the seasonal norm (chart 9) and the equally sharp fall in parking tickets sold may be of significance.
- 5.3 As all benefits become subsumed by Universal Credit, the number of claimants will rise (charts 5 & 6). In addition, a broader span of people are required to look for work compared to previously for Jobseeker's Allowance. Therefore, this measure can't be used to monitor unemployment, but may possibly give an indication of low income.
- 5.4 Crime cases overall appear fairly static (chart 15), with non-criminal domestic violence cases (chart 16) decreasing generally over the last three quarters. However, for domestic violence cases where police intervention was needed (chart 17), there is a steady upward trend. This will potentially rise further in Q1 of 2020/21 as we begin to experience the impact of lockdown.
- 5.5 In the area of social care services, due to the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model, which focusses on family strengths and uses early intervention and joint partnership working, the number of children in need and children subject to a child protection plan have decreased compared to Q3 2018/19 (-20.9% and -7.7% respectively) although the number of children in care has risen slightly (2.3%). Our Contact Advice and Assessment Service has increased their management capacity and are able to deliver intervention at an earlier stage. By intervening earlier in a child's journey, we are able to provide effective support for those who are at risk of poor outcomes. We can also foster personal strengths and skills to help them better prepare for adult life.
- 5.6 There is evidence of falling demand in Children and Family Services with referrals declining slightly. The number of children with Child Protection Plans in place has fallen

more sharply, which may be evidence that the Council's prevention programmes are showing successful results.

- 5.7 The overall number of people receiving a long term service (LTS) from Adult Social Care (snapshot – Q4 1,692) is above the Q4 position for 2018/19. The service is monitoring the LTS cohort closely, alongside the number of new requests for support that are progressing to receive a long term service, as this activity feeds into the ASC modelling and budget forecast work.
- 5.8 The number of households on the Common Housing Register continues to slowly increase. It is expected that this area of demand will change significantly over the next period, due to the impact of Covid-19 on our residents who were rough sleeping. There is also a potential for higher demand as residents are affected by the furlough scheme and possible job losses.
- 5.9 Although, only slightly dipping at Q4, it is expected that the number of volunteers involved in heritage venues, libraries and countryside activities will drop in Q1 2020/21 due to lockdown and the closure of cultural and leisure amenities. However, this has been reassuringly counter-balanced by an excellent response from volunteers and community groups to the Covid-19 challenges. A Community Hub has been set up by WBC, harnessing the previous work of the Building Communities Together team, which coordinates the Covid-19 response at community level.
- 5.10 The number of highways related third party claims received has significantly increased this quarter. This can be attributed to the winter season and the exceptional rainfall that was experienced in January (87 claims), February (64) and March (49), which resulted in the increased deterioration of the road network in general. The number was also inflated by multiple claims being received on individual defects.
- 5.11 The number of fly tipping incidents reported is also steady at Q4, but this will be monitored during Q1 to identify any impact, due at least in part to the HWRCs being closed during part of the lockdown period and with social distancing restrictions in place for the services once re-opened.

Core Business Activities

Refer to Appendix B for Exception Reports

Please note:

R (red): year-end target will not be met

A (amber): behind schedule, but expected to achieve year-end target

G (green): year-end target will be met.

DNA: Data not available

DNP: Data not provided

Category	Measure	RAG	2019/20 YE Outturn	2019/20 Target	Notes
Protecting our children	Ofsted rating of at least Good for our Children and Family Service	G	Pending outcome of next inspection	Good	
	% of Children in Care where the child has been visited in the past 6 weeks (or 12 weeks if this is the agreed visiting schedule)	R	92%	≥95%	YE: 145 / 158
Supporting education	% of maintained schools judged good or better by Ofsted	G	96%	≥91%	YE: 67 / 70 As at 31 December 2019
	% of applications receiving one of their three preferences for West Berkshire children (Primary Admissions)	G	Complete in Q1 (99.1%)	≥95%	
	% of applications receiving one of their three preferences for West Berkshire children (Secondary Admissions)	G	Complete in Q1 (96.6%)	≥95%	
Maintaining our roads	% of the principal road network (A roads) in need of repair	G	2%	4%	

2019/20 Performance Report Quarter Four

Category	Measure	RAG	2019/20 YE Outturn	2019/20 Target	Notes
Collecting your bins and keeping the streets clean	% of household waste recycled, composted and reused	G	50.2% (P)	≥ 49.5% (≥ 2018/19 outturn)	Q3 2019/20 has been updated. All results are subject to change once validated by DEFRA after Q4
	Maintain an acceptable level of litter, detritus and graffiti (as outlined in the Keep Britain Tidy local environmental indicators)	G	Good	Good	NB: target amended following recommendation made by OSMC on 14/01/2020
Providing benefits	Average number of days taken to make a full decision on new Housing Benefit claims	G	18.5	≤20 days	
Collecting Council Tax and Business rates	Council Tax collected as a percentage of Council Tax due	G	99%	99%	
	Non domestic rates collected as percentage non domestic rates due	G	99%	99%	
Ensuring the wellbeing of older people and vulnerable adults	% of WBC provider services inspected by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and rated as good or better	R	67%	100%	
	% of financial assessments actioned within 3 weeks of referral to the Financial Assessment & Charging Team	G	98%	≥98%	YE: 2,181 / 2,228
Planning and housing	% of planning appeals won	G	81%	65% (England average)	Result reported for the full year, not just Q4

2019/20 Performance Report Quarter Four

Category	Measure	RAG	2019/20 YE Outturn	2019/20 Target	Notes
	% of 'major' planning applications determined within 13 weeks or the agreed extended time	G	99%	90% (England average)	
	% of 'minor' planning applications determined within 8 weeks or the agreed extended time	G	90%	86% (England average)	
Supporting local employers	Number of top 10 business sector employers in 2018/19 retained in the district	-	-	10	The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) is due to be considered by the Executive on 30 April. If approved, the Key Performance Indicators, aligned to the EDS Delivery Plan, will be finalised as part of the 2020/21 Service Planning process.

5.12 Performance for the majority of core business activities has been on target.

5.13 The areas that were most affected at the end of the 2019/20 year by Covid-19 pandemic were in Children and Family Service for example, where it was not possible to have face-to-face meetings with clients and multi-agency tasks were challenging to carry out. However, alternative arrangements have been put in place such as using telephone calls or video calls to conduct contact/meetings. The Department of Education is aware of this.

5.14 For provider services in care homes, the pandemic has also taken precedence. A plan has been put in place for Birchwood Nursing home and there had been notable improvements at the last inspection.

National Benchmarking (April 2017- March 2019)

Please note:

R (red): year-end target will not be met

A (amber): behind schedule, but expected to achieve year-end target

G (green): year-end target will be met.

Category	Measure	2017/18 National Qtile/rank	2018/19 National Qtile/rank	RAG	2019/20 YE Outturn	2019/20 Target
Supporting education	% of maintained schools judged good or better by Ofsted	2nd Qtile Rank 46/152 (August) (YE: 94%)	2nd Qtile Rank 38/152 (August) (YE: 96%)	G	96%	≥91%
	% of applications receiving one of their three preferences for West Berkshire children (Primary Admissions)	2nd Qtile Rank 62/152 (YE: 98%)	2nd Qtile Rank 51/152 (YE: 98%)	G	Complete in Q1 (99.1%)	≥95%
	% of applications receiving one of their three preferences for West Berkshire children (Secondary Admissions)	1st Qtile Rank 33/152 (YE: 98%)	1st Qtile Rank 27/152 (YE: 98%)	G	Complete in Q1 (96.6%)	≥95%
Maintaining our roads	% of the principal road network (A roads) in need of repair	2nd Qtile Rank 55/145 (YE: 3%)	1st Qtile Rank 17/146 (YE: 2%)	G	2.0%	4%
Collecting your bins and keeping the streets clean	% of household waste recycled, composted and reused	1st Qtile Rank 24/150 (YE: 52%)	1st Qtile Rank 31/148 (YE: 51%)	G	50% (P)	≥ 49.5% (≥ 2018/19 outturn)
	Providing benefits	Average number of days taken to make a full decision on new Housing Benefit claims	3rd Qtile Rank 77/122 (YE: 19.5 days)	G	18.5	≤20 days

2019/20 Performance Report Quarter Four

Category	Measure	2017/18 National Qtile/rank	2018/19 National Qtile/rank	RAG	2019/20 YE Outturn	2019/20 Target
Collecting Council Tax and Business rates	Council Tax collected as a percentage of Council Tax due	1st Qtile Rank 6/149 (YE: 99%)	1st Qtile Rank 6/123 (YE: 99%)	G	99%	99%
	Non domestic rates collected as percentage non domestic rates due	2nd Qtile Rank 55/151 (YE: 99%)	3rd Qtile Rank 82/151 (YE: 98%)	G	99%	99%
Ensuring the wellbeing of older people and vulnerable adults	% of WBC provider services inspected by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and rated as good or better		England overall = 84%	R	67%	100%
Planning and housing	% of 'major' planning applications determined within 13 weeks or the agreed extended time	4th Qtile Rank 102/122 (YE: 79%)	4th Qtile Rank 108/122 (YE: 78%)	G	99%	90% (England average)
	% of 'minor' planning applications determined within 8 weeks or the agreed extended time	4th Qtile Rank 108/124 (YE: 75%)	4th Qtile Rank 102/123 (YE: 78%)	G	90%	86% (England average)

5.15 In the majority of areas, we compare favourably with our peers (English Local Authorities) in 2018/19, and in others we have improved our position on 2017/18.

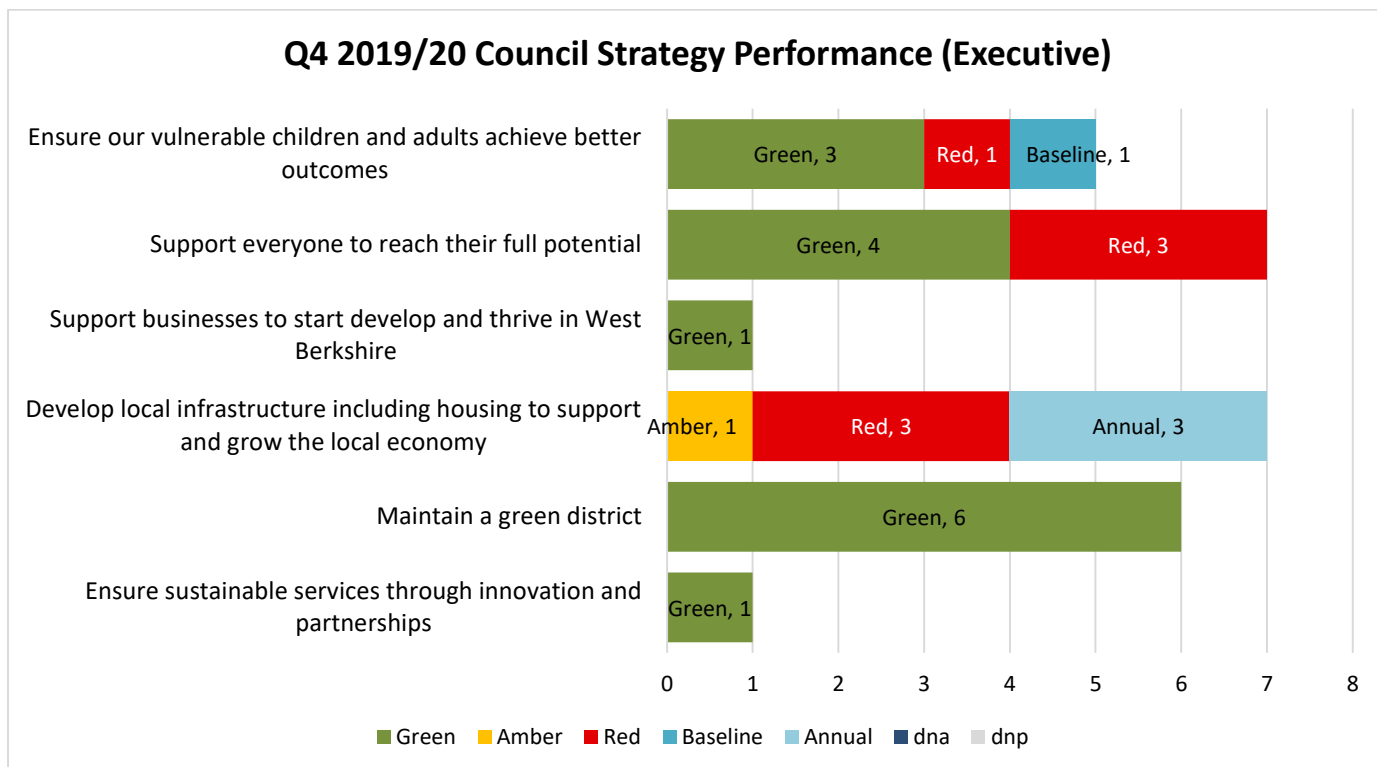
5.16 However, in two areas we remain in the lowest quartile. The first is in the CQC rating of our provider services which at 67% is slightly below the national average of 84%. In practice, this showed that in 2018/19 one out of six settings was not rated as highly as desired. During 2019/20, an improvement plan has been implemented and it is expected that our position will improve.

5.17 In terms of planning applications, the target in 2017/18 was set at 60% for major and 65% for minor applications. As part of the New Ways of Working review in 2018/19, it was noted that targets had been set below similar planning authorities, and they were increased to match the national averages of 88% and 85% respectively at Q2 2018/19. By Q4 2018/19 the service was achieving 93.3% and 96.3%, but this was not enough to bring up the year-end figure and move us into the third quartile. For comparison, 23

authorities were reporting 100%, and the margins between the first and third quartile were slim. As performance has substantially improved during 2019/20, it is expected that this will positively affect our relative position.

Council Strategy:

Refer to Appendix B for Exception Reports



Note: After the middle of Q4, a number of new performance measures have been added and full reporting for these measures will start from Q1.

Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes

5.18 Children and Family Services have recognised an increase in the number of repeat referrals and are investigating the causal factors to reduce the impact on the service. An audit has been completed which identified where recording practices could be improved. Positively, referrers have not reported that any referrals have been blocked.

5.19 The number of older residents who say that WBC services make them feel safe and secure has risen this year from 92.7% to 93.8%.

Support everyone to reach their full potential

5.20 Key Stage 2 (KS2) attainment outturn and KS4 results for the cohort of pupils on Free School Meals (FSM) for the academic year 2018/19 have not been as successful as expected. We have maintained our comparative position for most areas. Although, WBC has moved from the 3rd quartile to the 4th for Average attainment 8 Scores for Free School Meals pupils, we have moved from the 4th to the 3rd quartile for Year 1 Phonics.

Support businesses to start develop and thrive in West Berkshire

5.21 Measures were being developed following the completion of the Economic Development Strategy, however, staff in this area were redeployed to work on the Covid-19 response and therefore this activity has not yet been completed.

Develop local infrastructure including housing to support and grow the local economy

- 5.22 Due to Covid-19, work on Superfast Broadband installation has been delayed as it was not possible for the contractors to continue their activity during the lockdown period.
- 5.23 A new Local Development Scheme (Project Plan) has been approved by Members, setting out a detailed timetable that will see the examination and adoption of the local plan in late 2022.

Maintain a green district

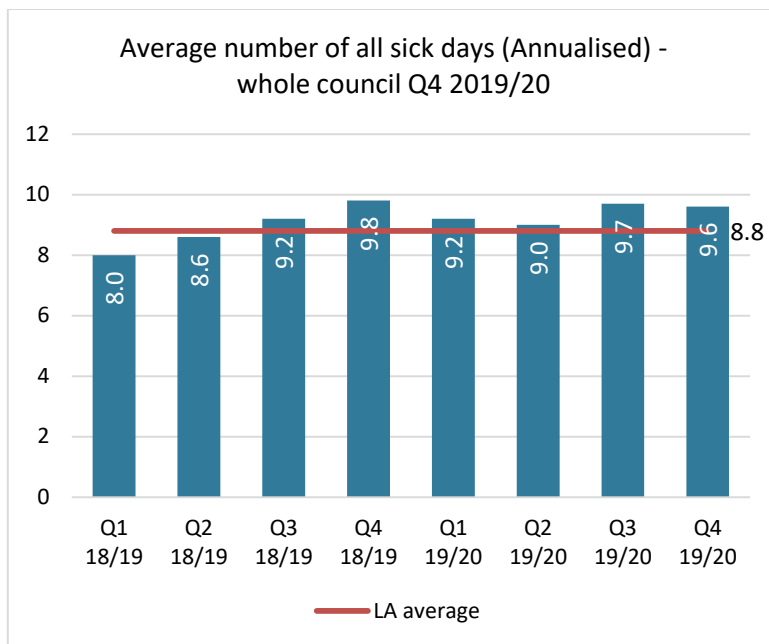
- 5.24 Work is underway to commission feasibility studies and identify sites to generate energy from renewable sources.

Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships

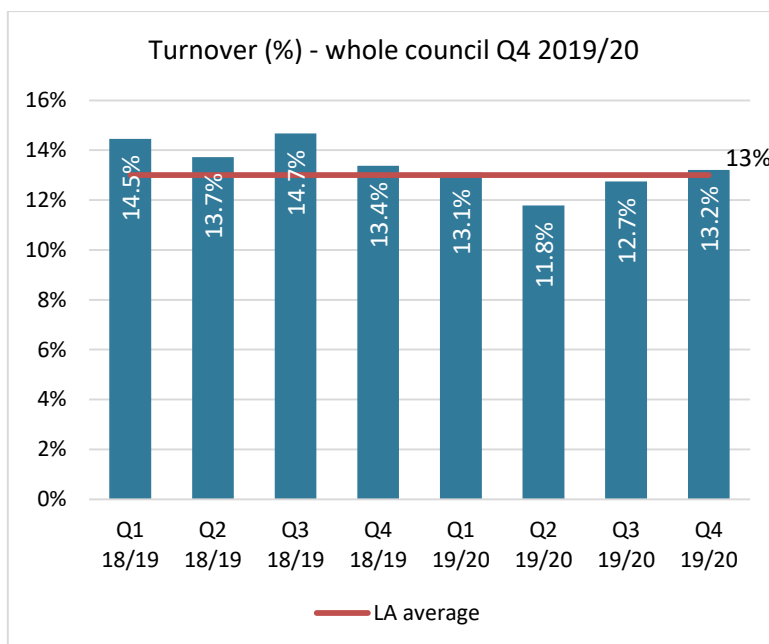
- 5.25 This area of activity has been impacted by Covid-19 as Public Health and Wellbeing and Human Resources have been heavily involved in the response both for staff and the community and the services have not been able to report their Q4 performance. However, the response to the pandemic made great use of and enhanced the existing partnerships arrangements with other public bodies, organisations and communities to support especially the vulnerable residents and local businesses.

Corporate Health

- 5.26 The end of year financial position shows a strong budget management reaching an under spend of £1.461m.
- 5.27 Overall, sickness absence has followed the usual seasonal fluctuations, and is below Q4 last year. Covid19 self-isolation days lost are not included in these figures, as this is not reported via sickness absence. Overall this financial year the sickness levels have been slightly higher than last year but this has changed in Q4.



5.28 Staff turnover has been low for the majority of the year when compared to 2018/19.



Proposals

5.29 To note key achievements and success as detailed above.

5.30 To review the actions taken to address performance below expected levels with a focus on:

- % of WBC provider services inspected by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and rated as good or better
- % of repeat referrals to Children's Services within 12 months of a previous referral
- Attainment results for Free School Meals cohorts

6 Other options considered

6.1 None considered.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Quarter four results show that strong performance levels have been maintained and key services delivered to residents as part of the activities in the Core Business category.
- 7.2 Some of the improvement activities that were underway for achieving the Priorities for Improvement have understandably been paused due to restrictions in place as a result of Covid-19, as staff, customer and partners had to quickly change the way they worked. In some cases projects such as Superfast Broadband, simply had to stop until those restrictions were lifted. A residents' survey and a staff survey are being conducted during Q1 to capture the positive and the negative aspects of the experience to respond to the crisis. Communities, Council staff and members have worked even more closely and more flexibly during the crisis and it is to be hoped that this will continue as we work our way through.
- 7.3 Action plans are in place to address performance of the measures rated 'red' and the Executive is asked to review and approve these actions and to note the overall performance reported.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Influencer Measures dashboard
- 8.2 Appendix B – Exception Reports

Background Papers:

[Council Strategy 2019-2023](#)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only
-

Wards affected: All wards

Officer details:

Name: Catalin Bogos
Job Title: Performance, Research and Risk Manager
Tel No: (01635) 519102
E-mail: Catalin.Bogos@westberks.gov.uk

Document Control

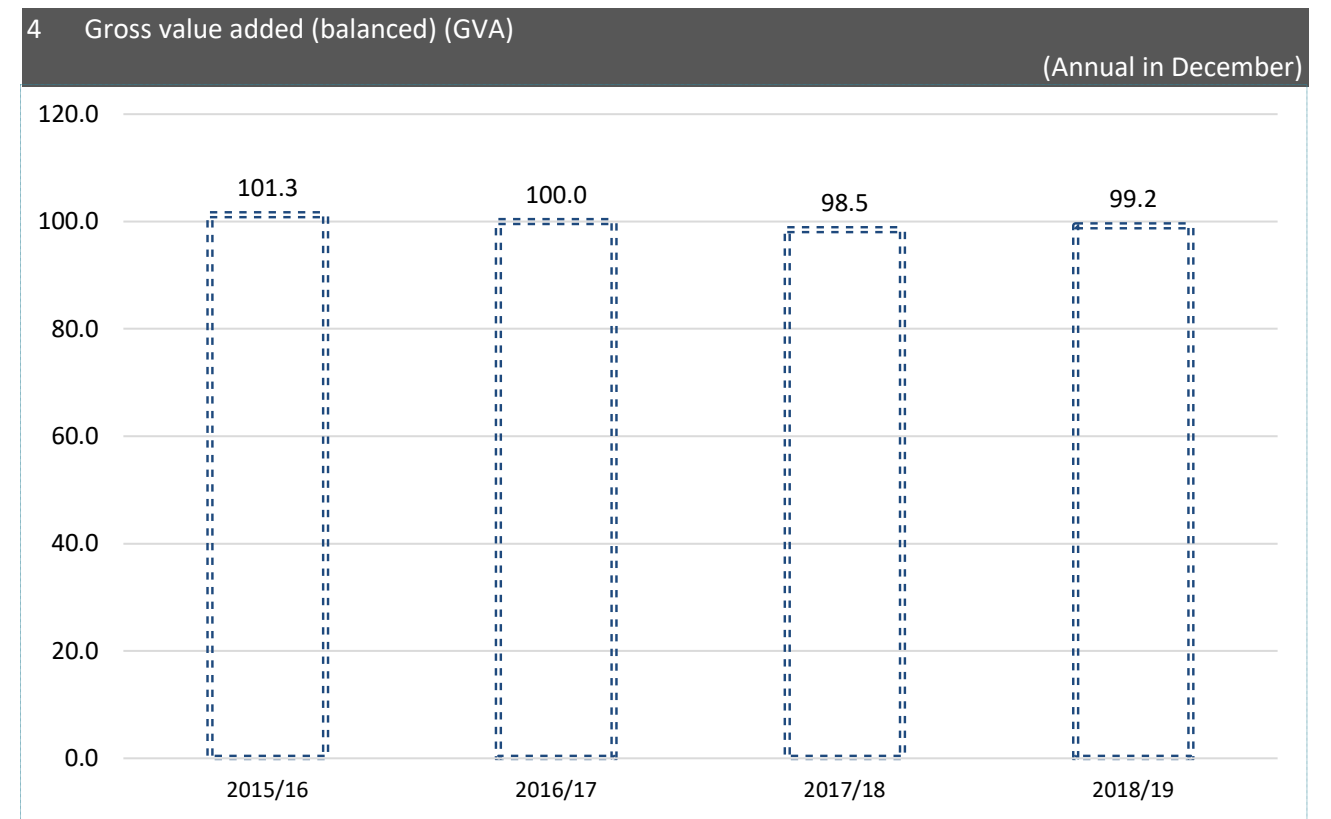
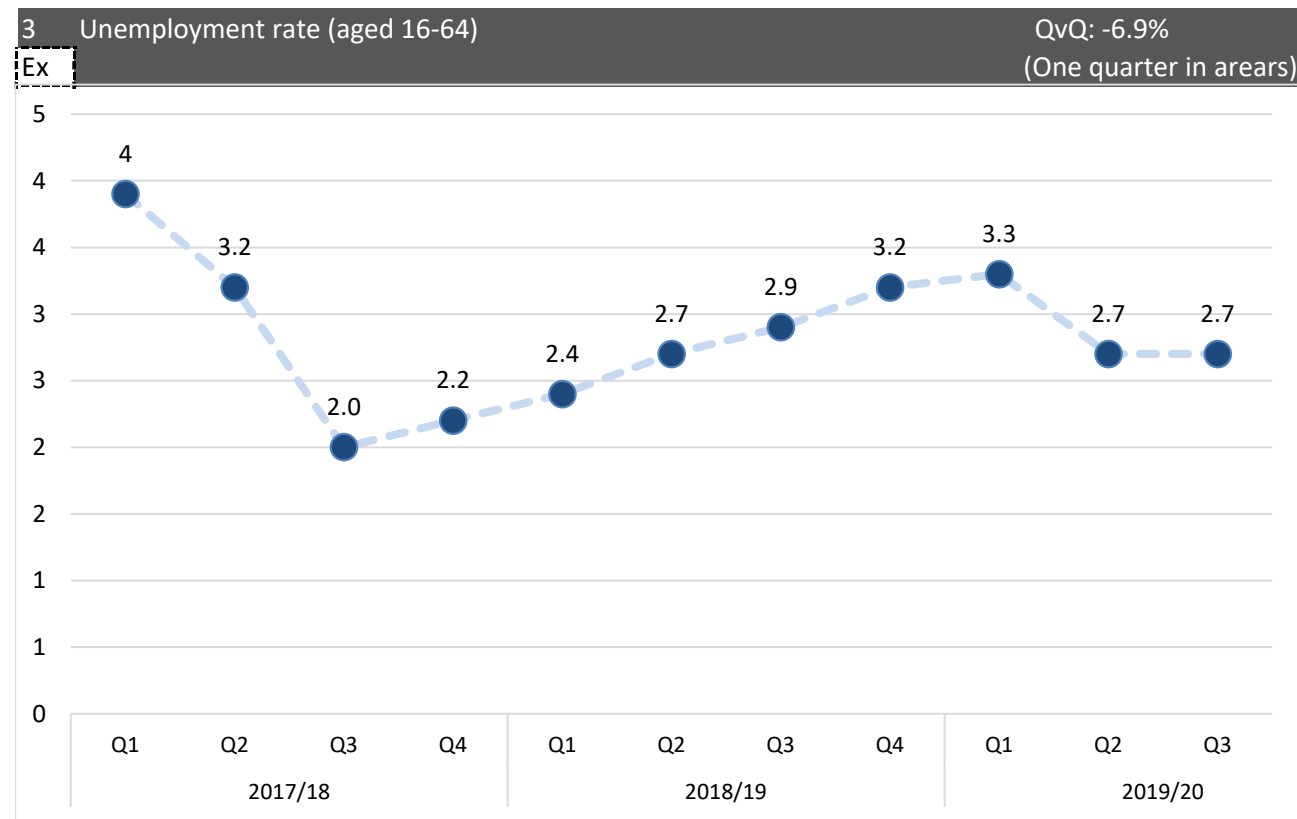
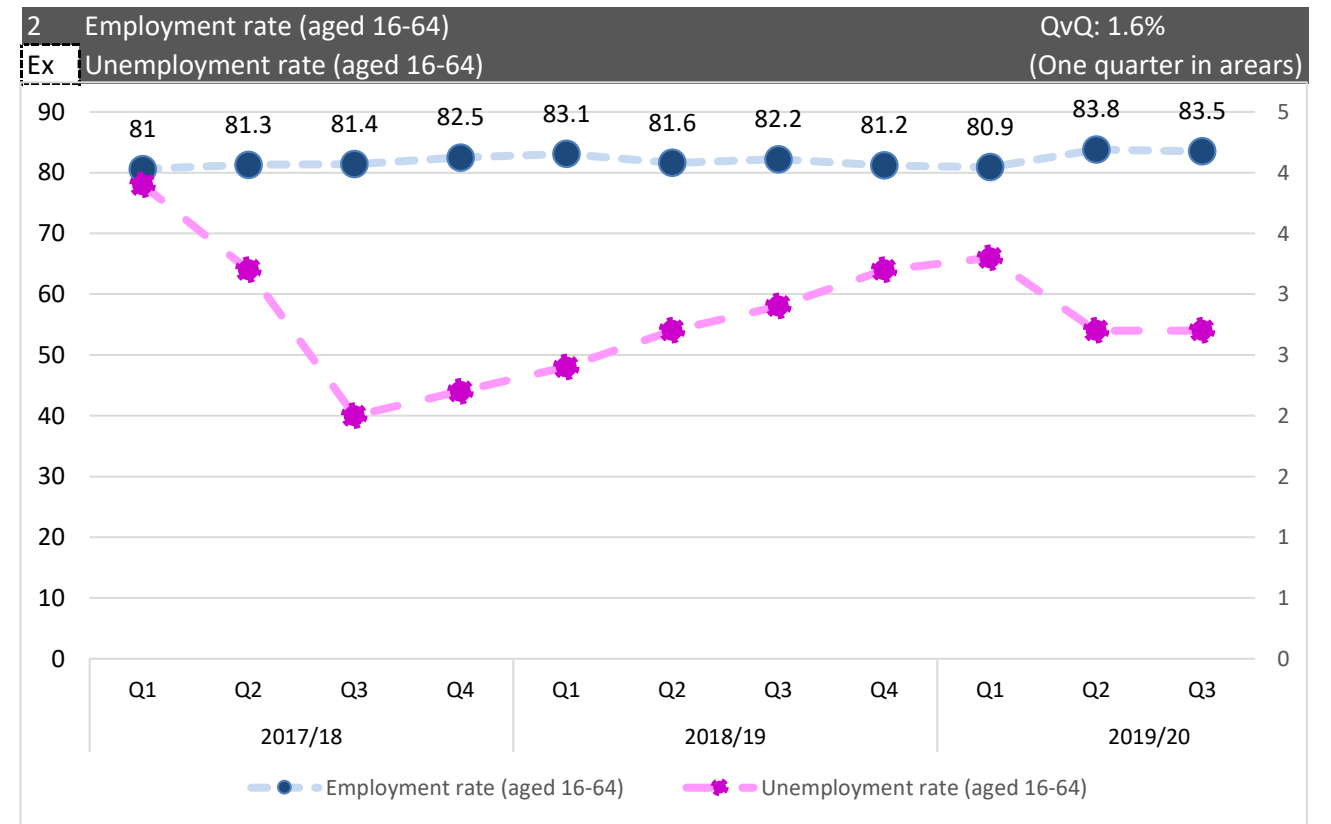
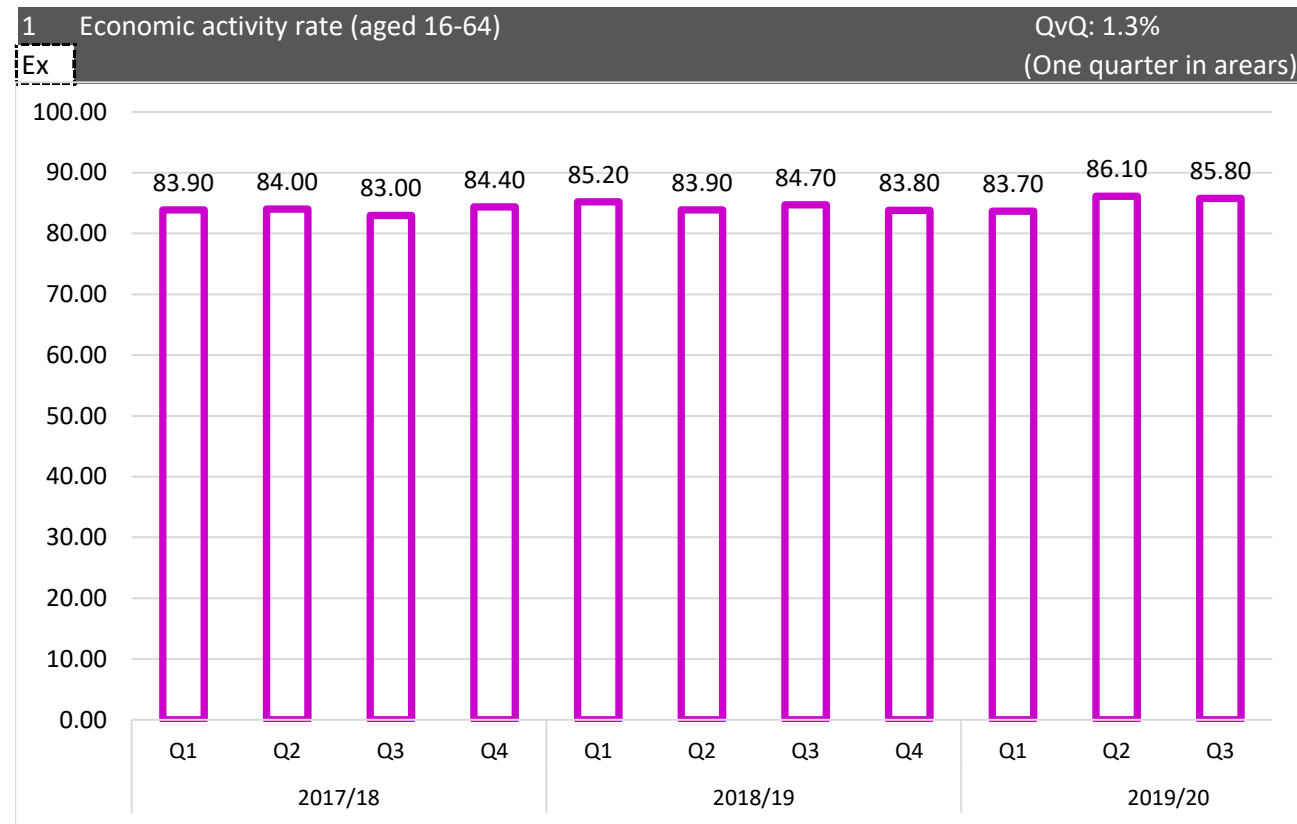
Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

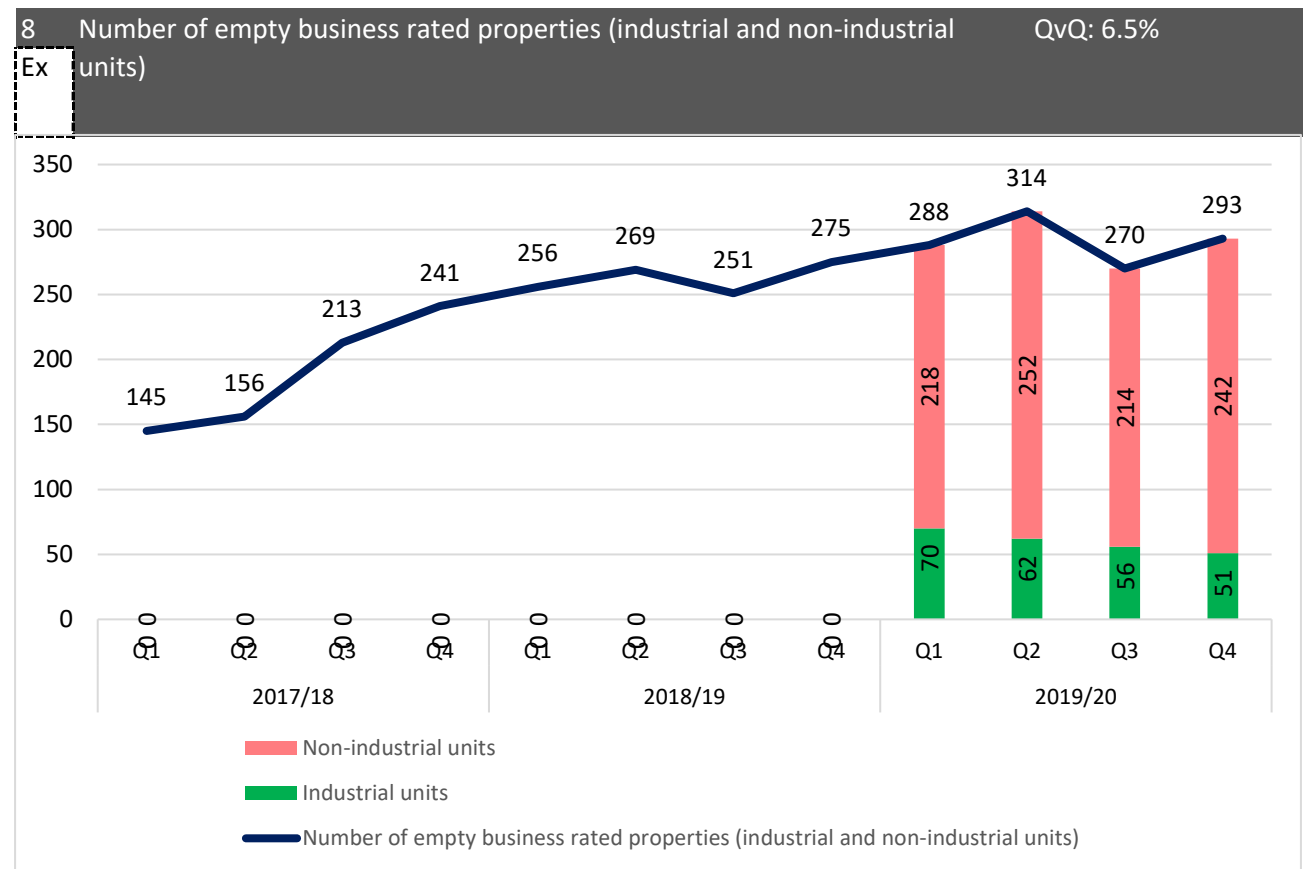
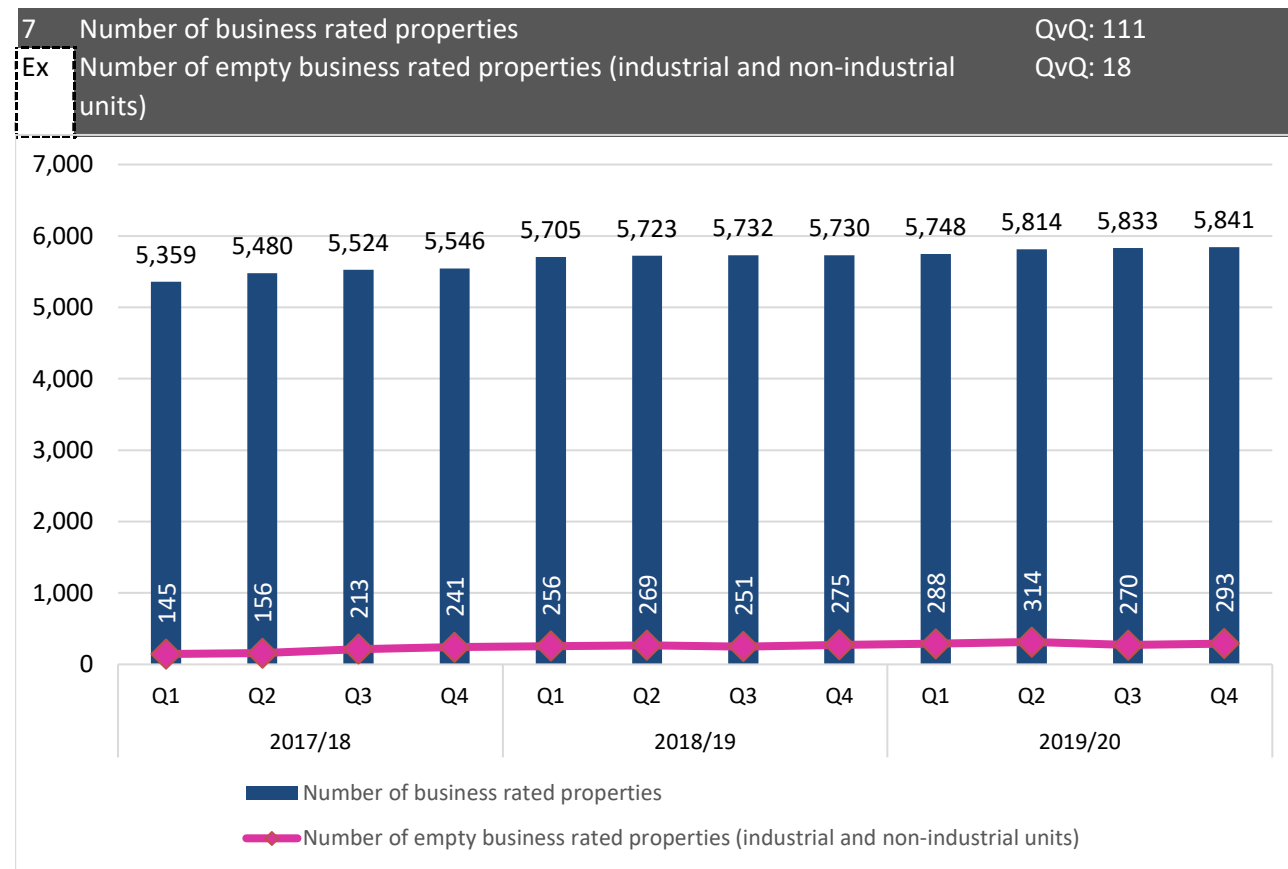
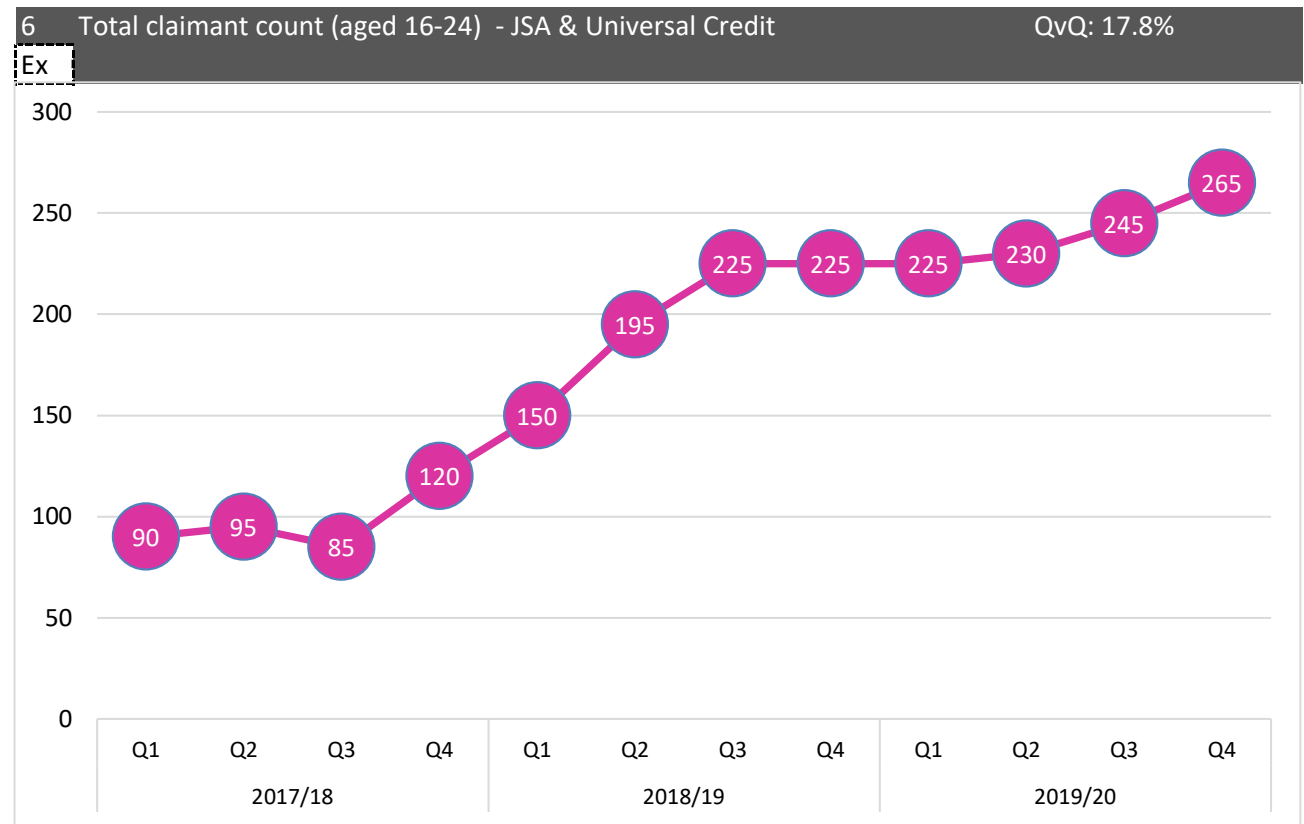
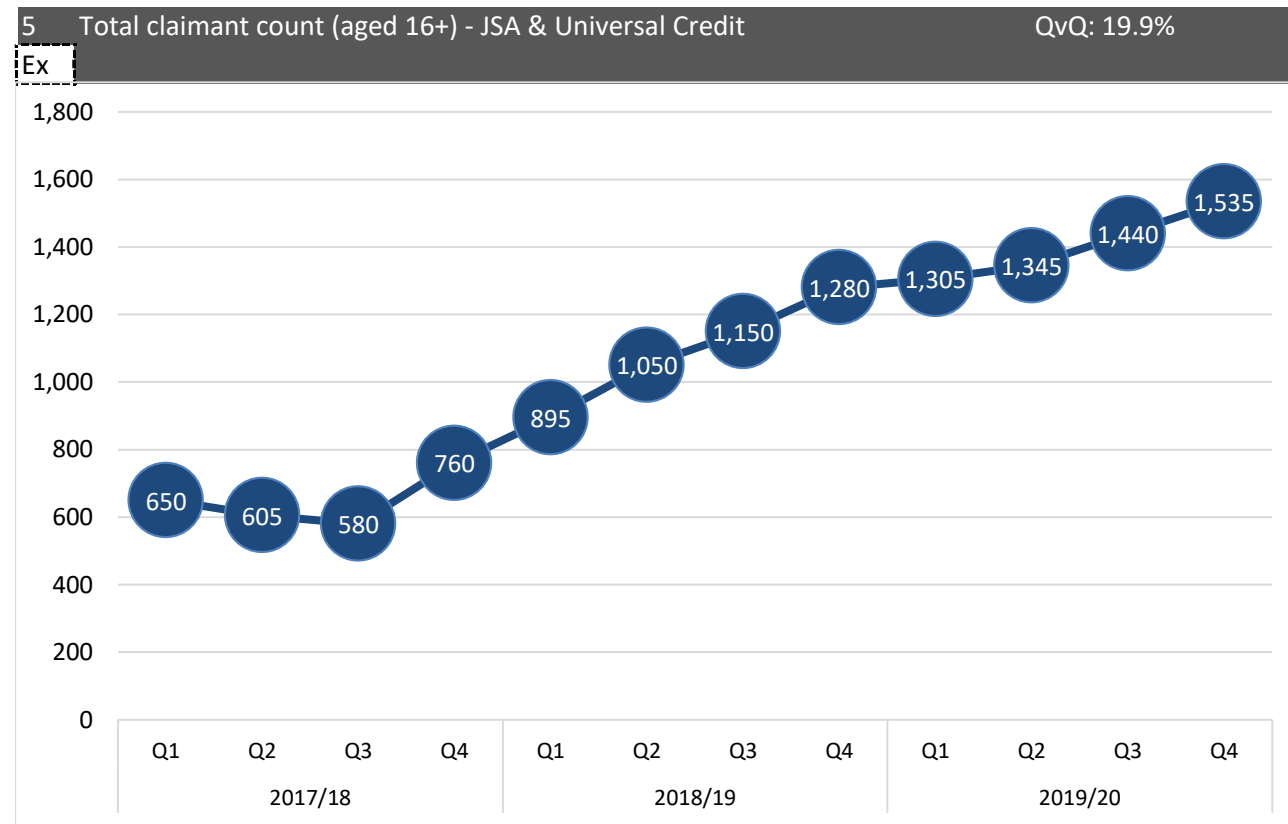
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



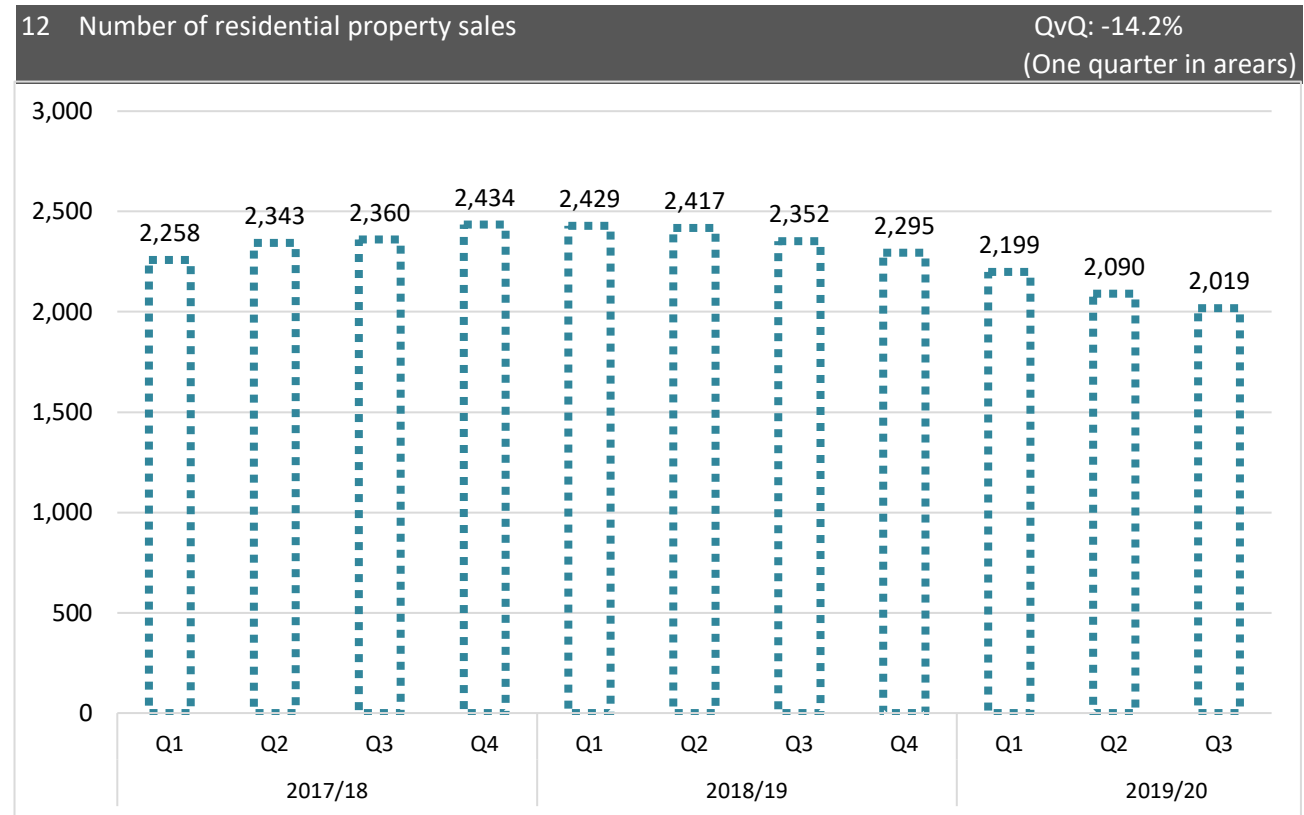
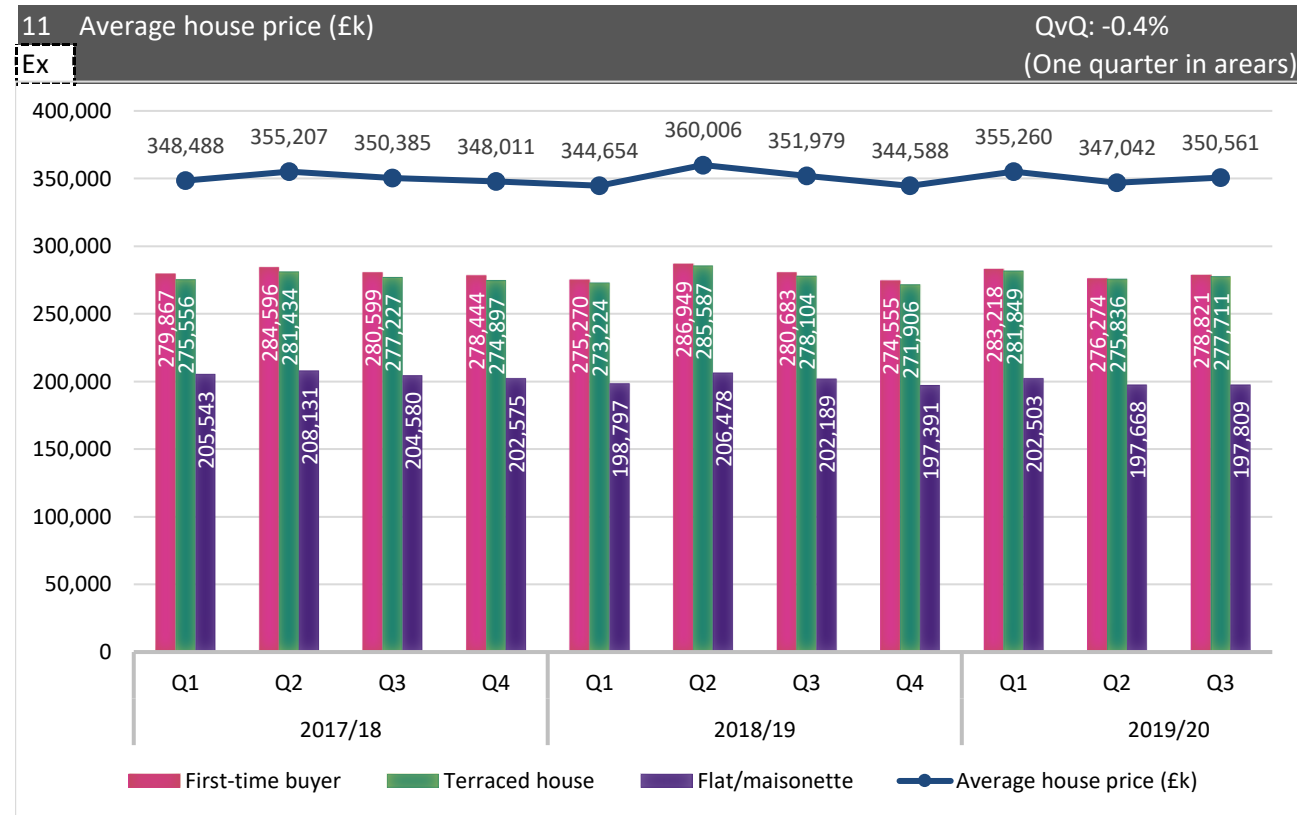
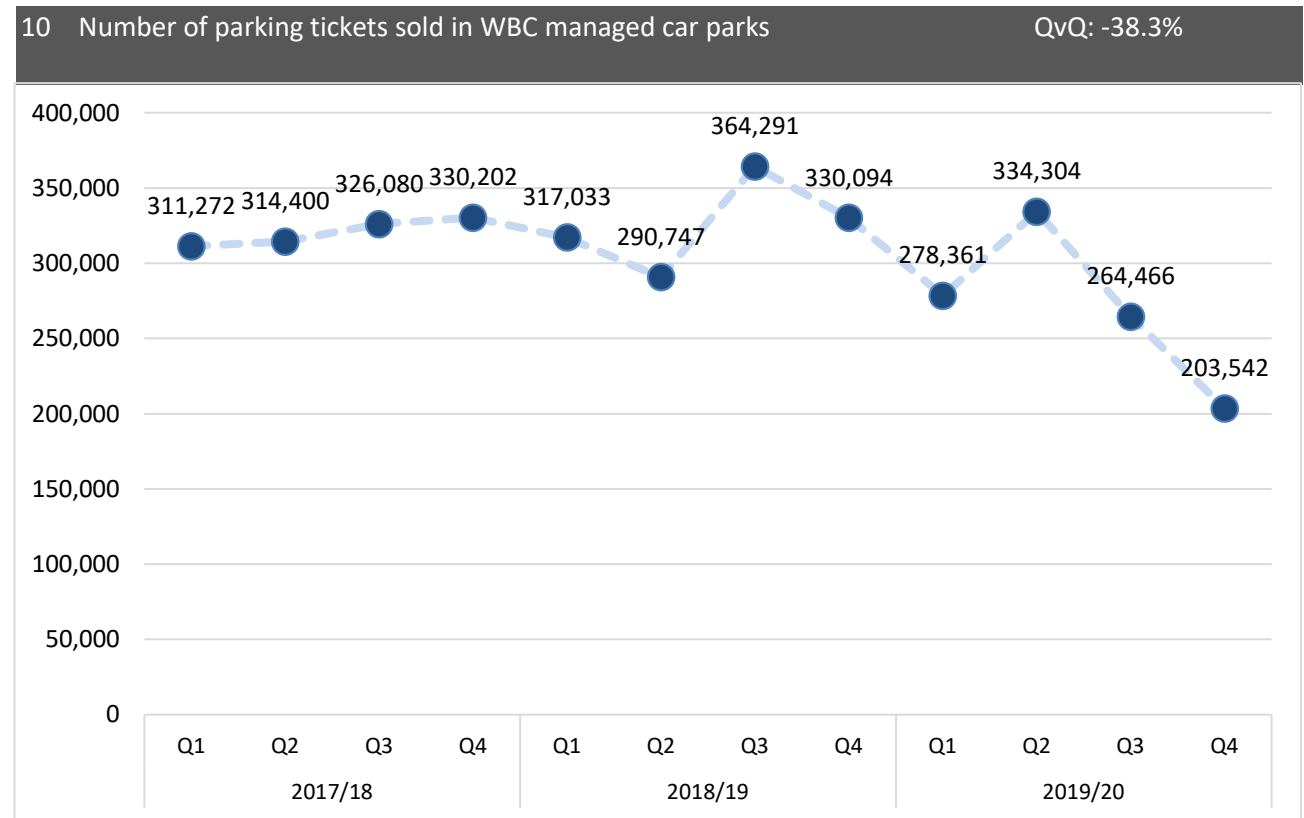
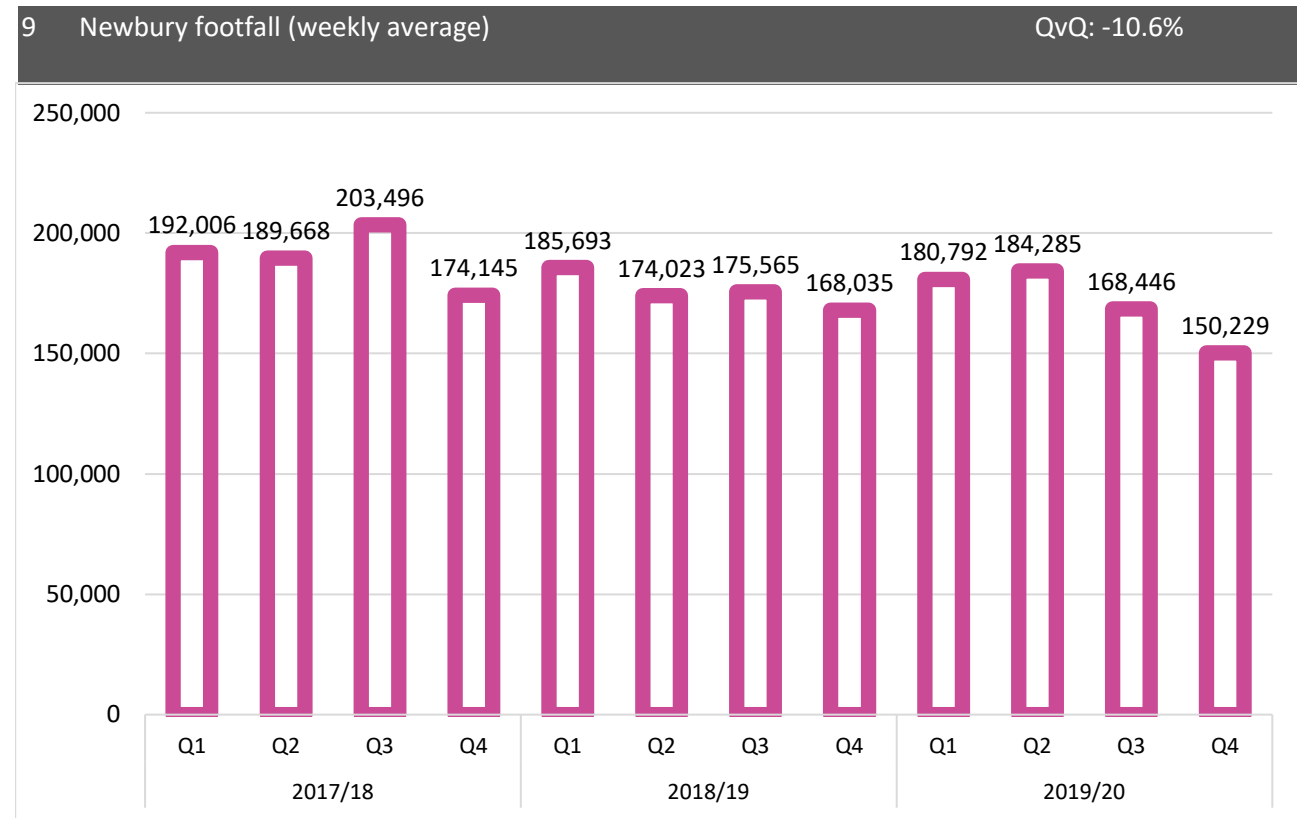
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



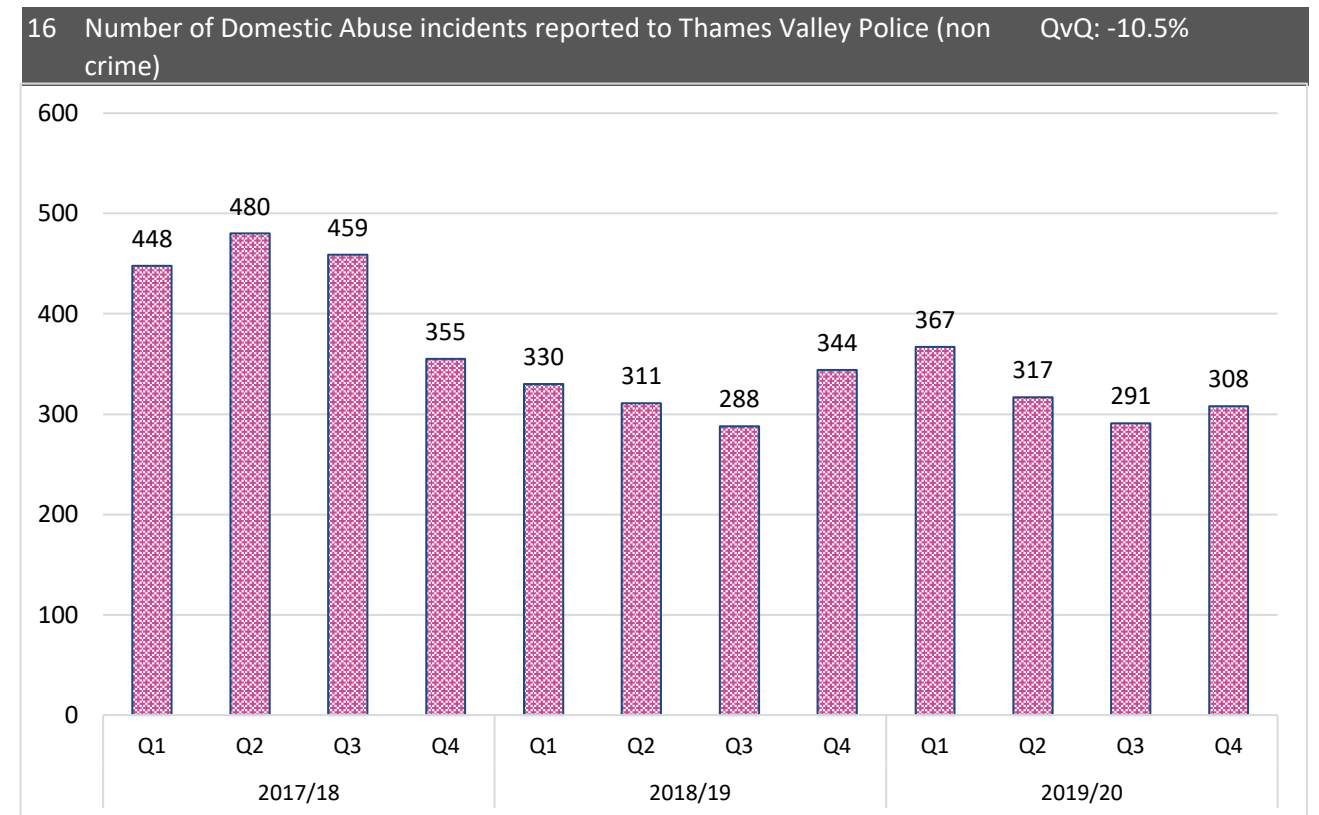
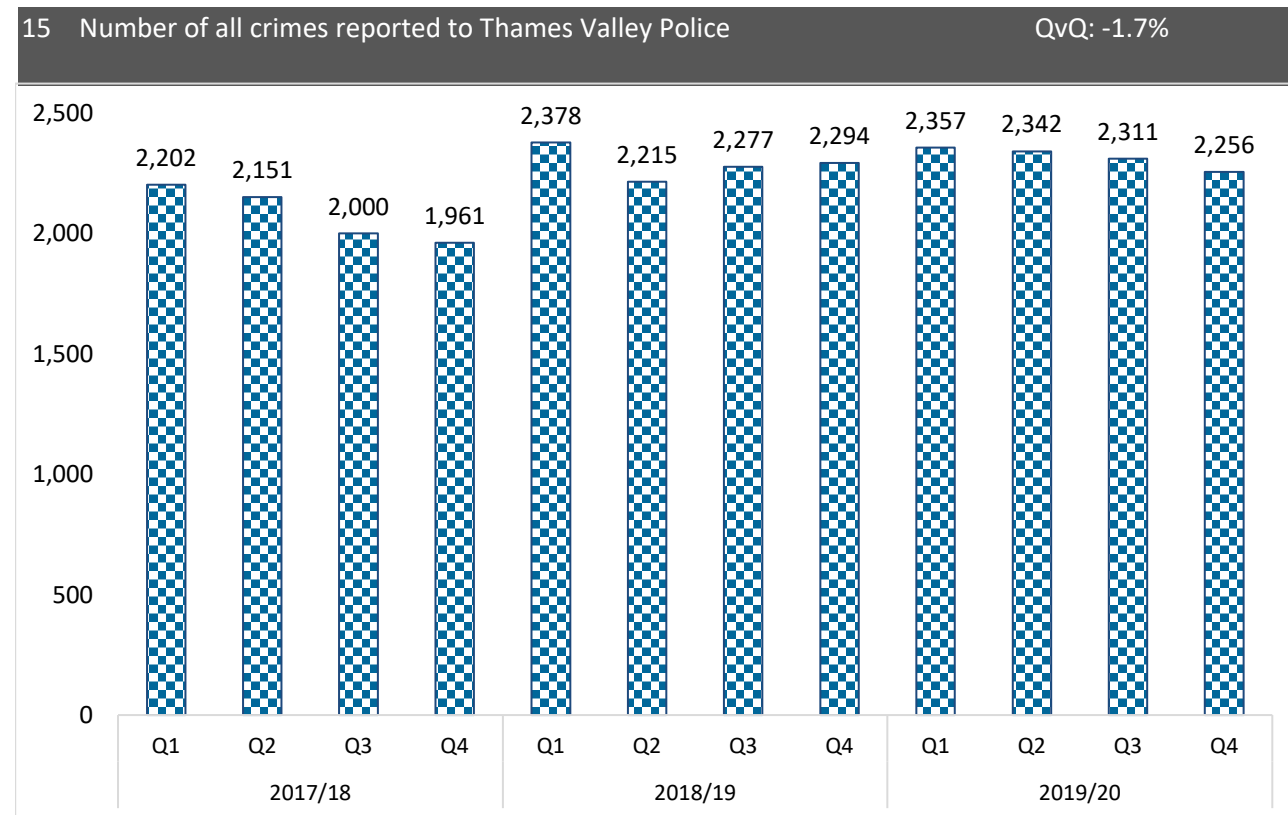
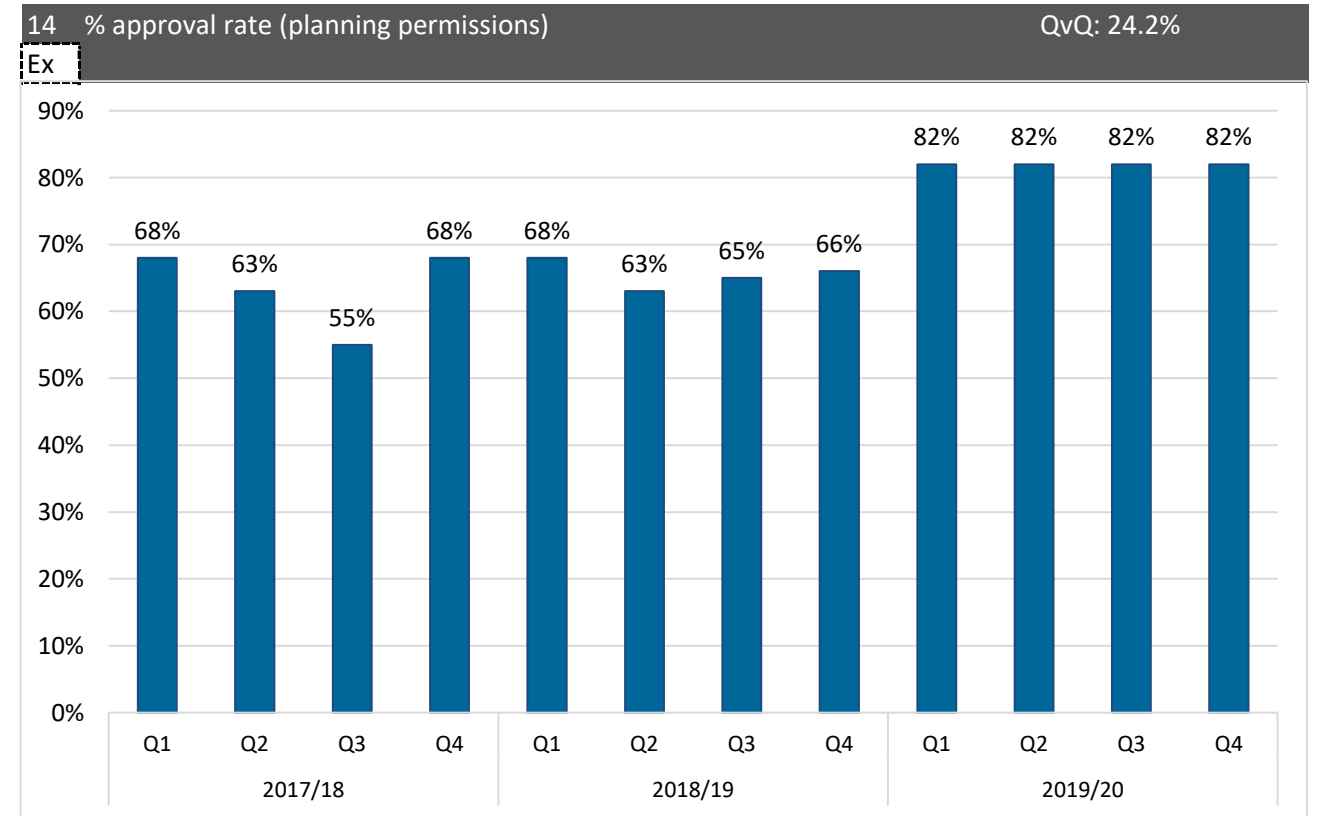
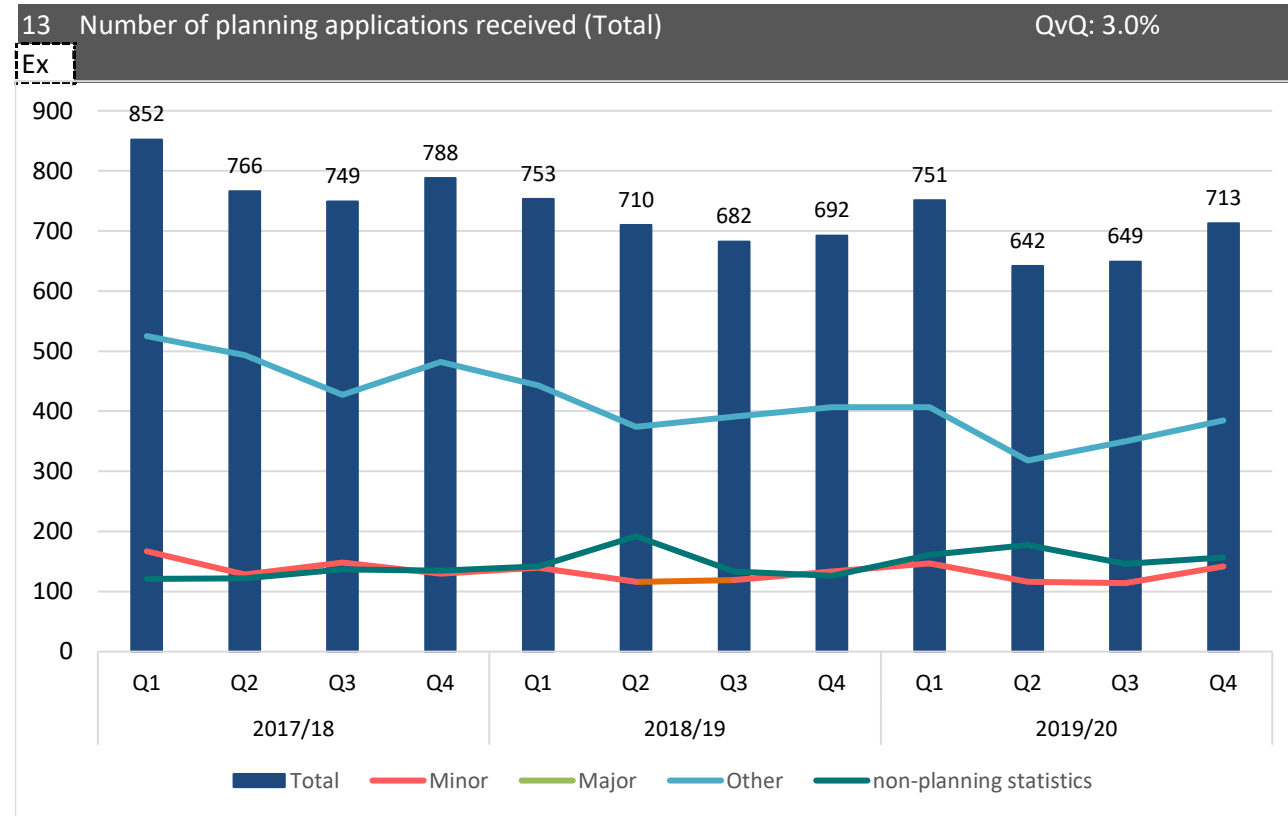
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



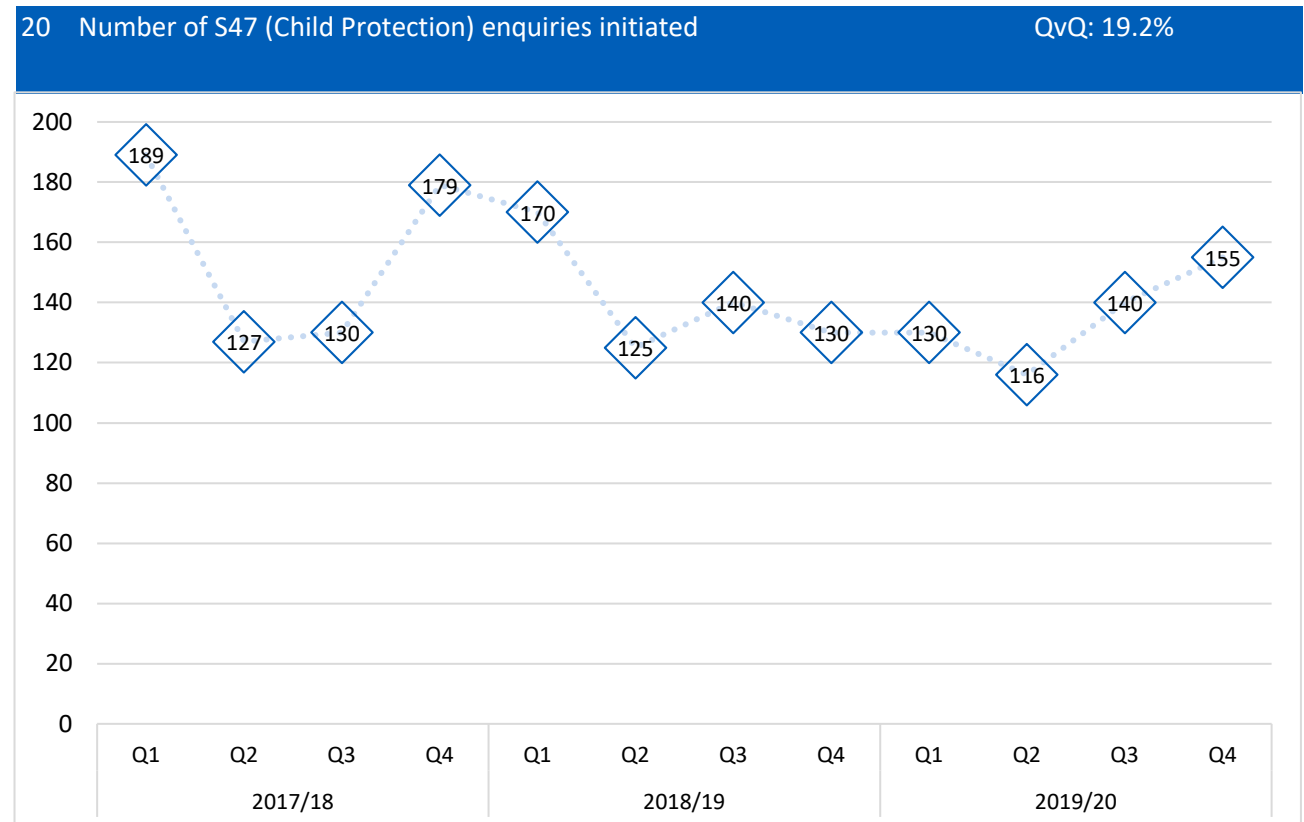
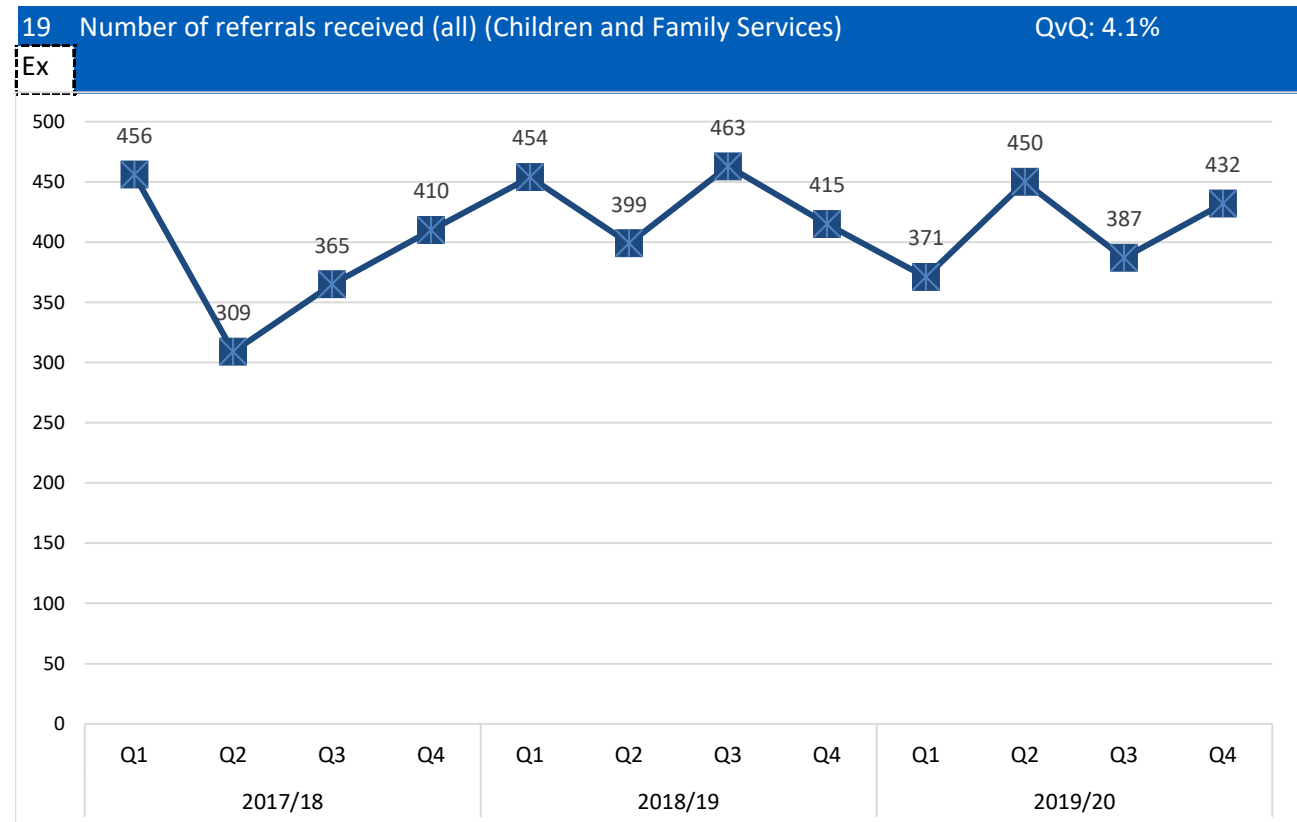
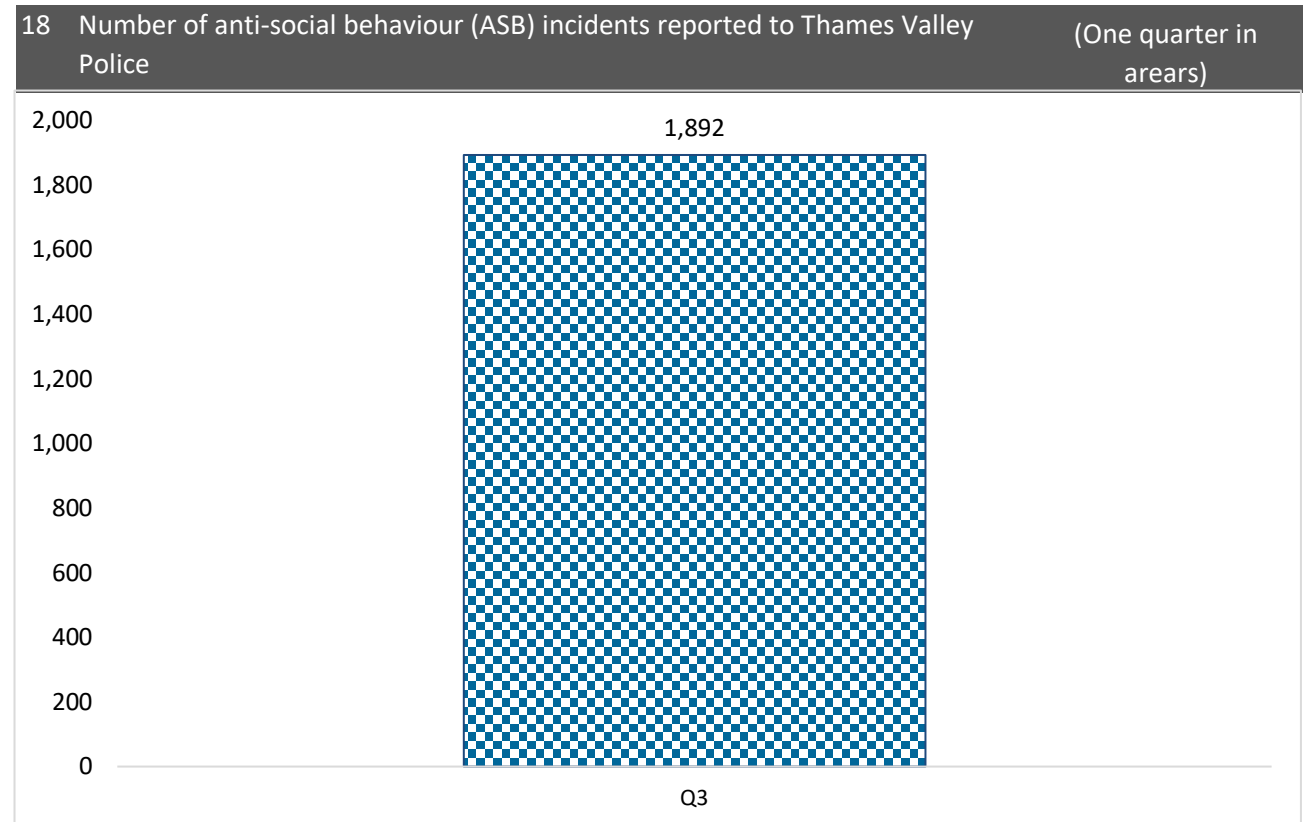
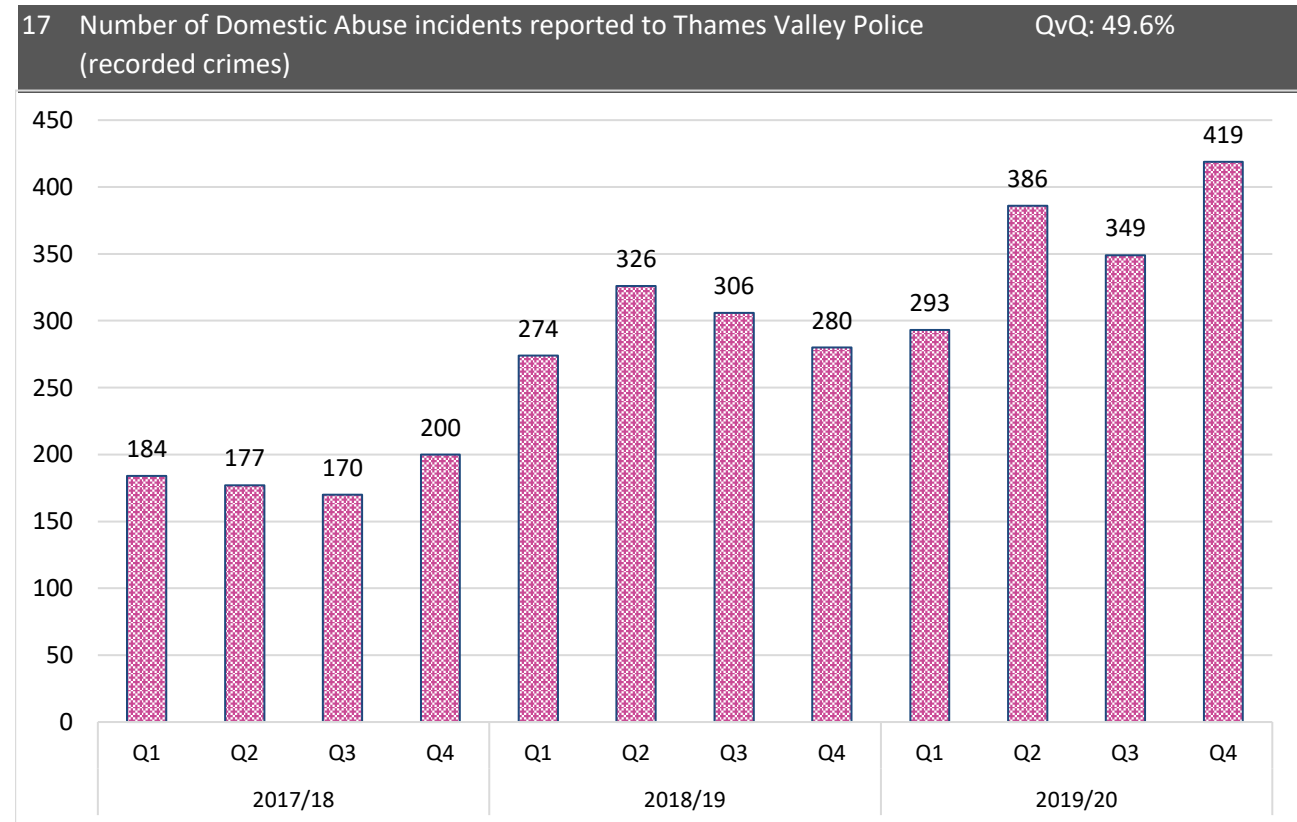
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



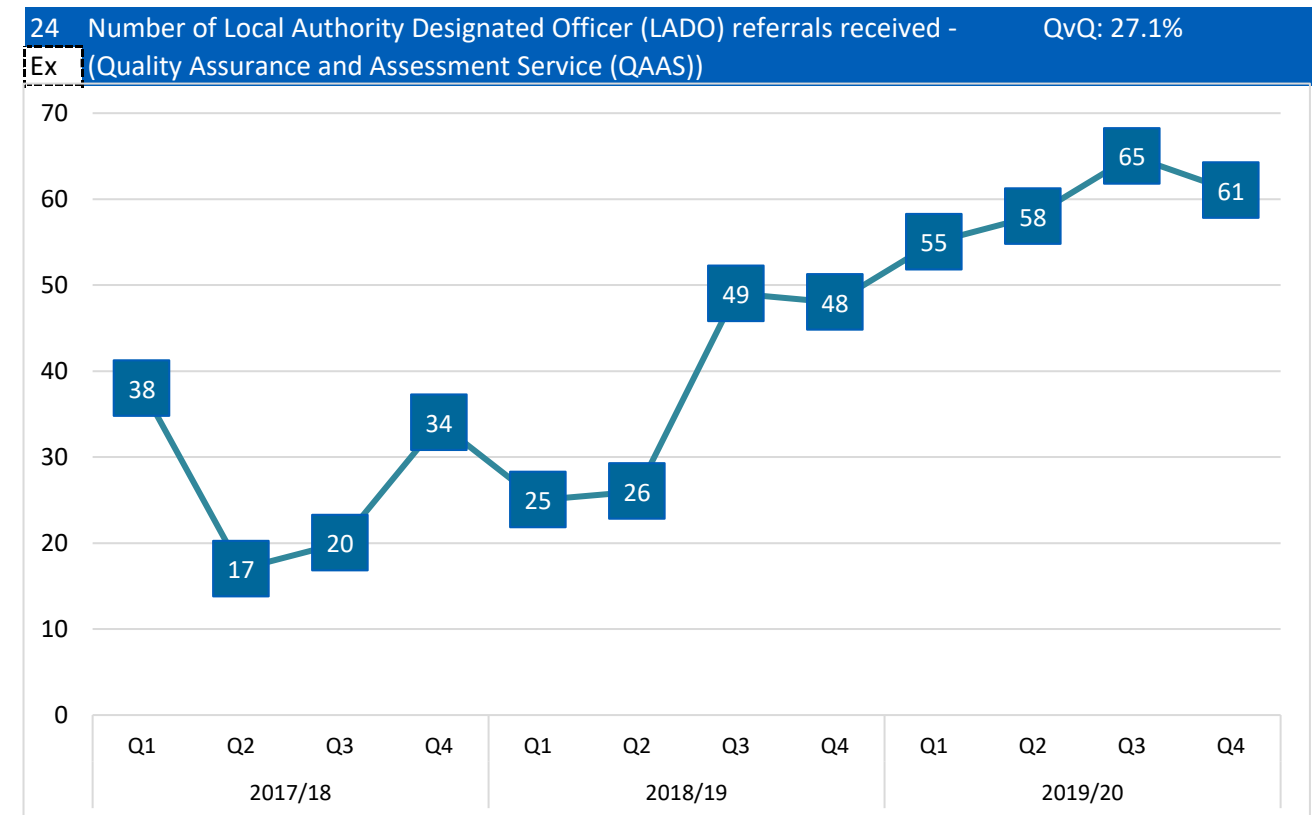
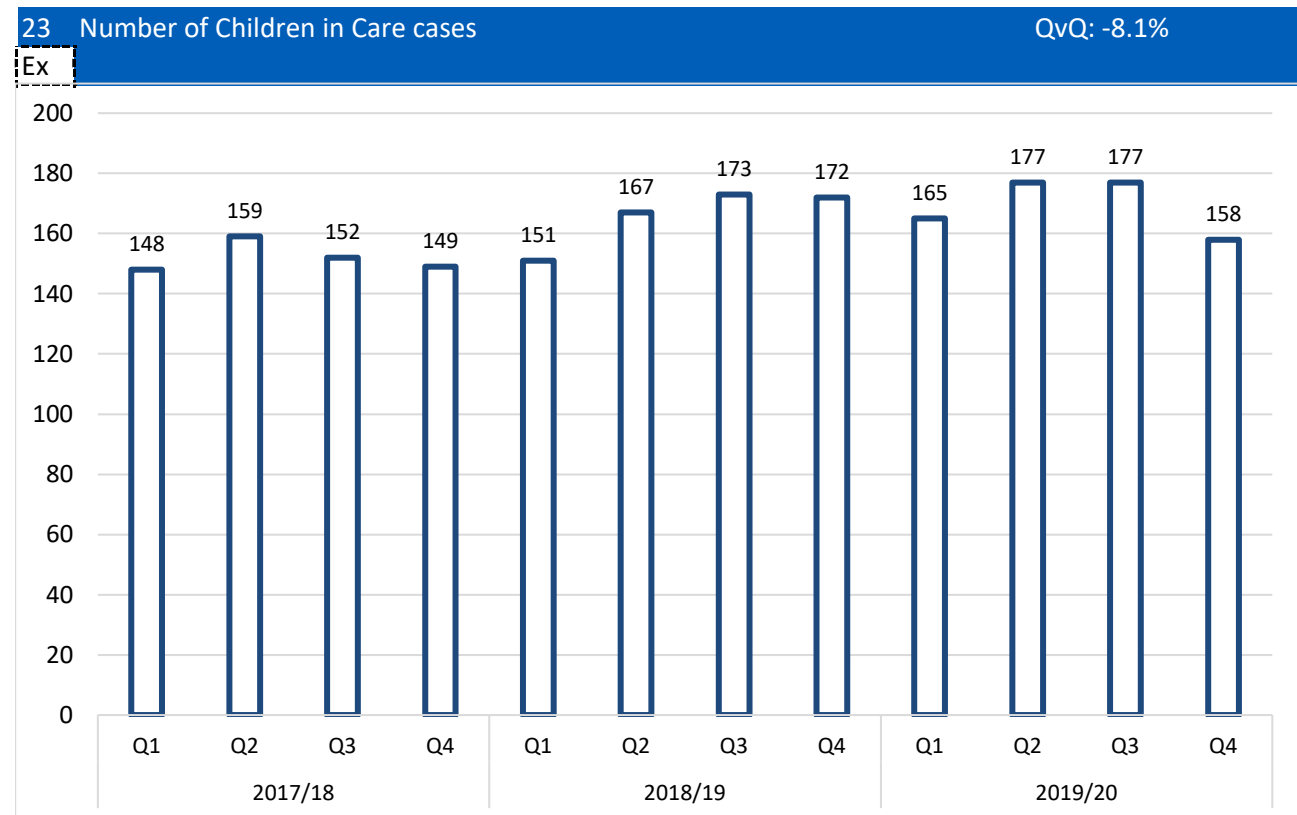
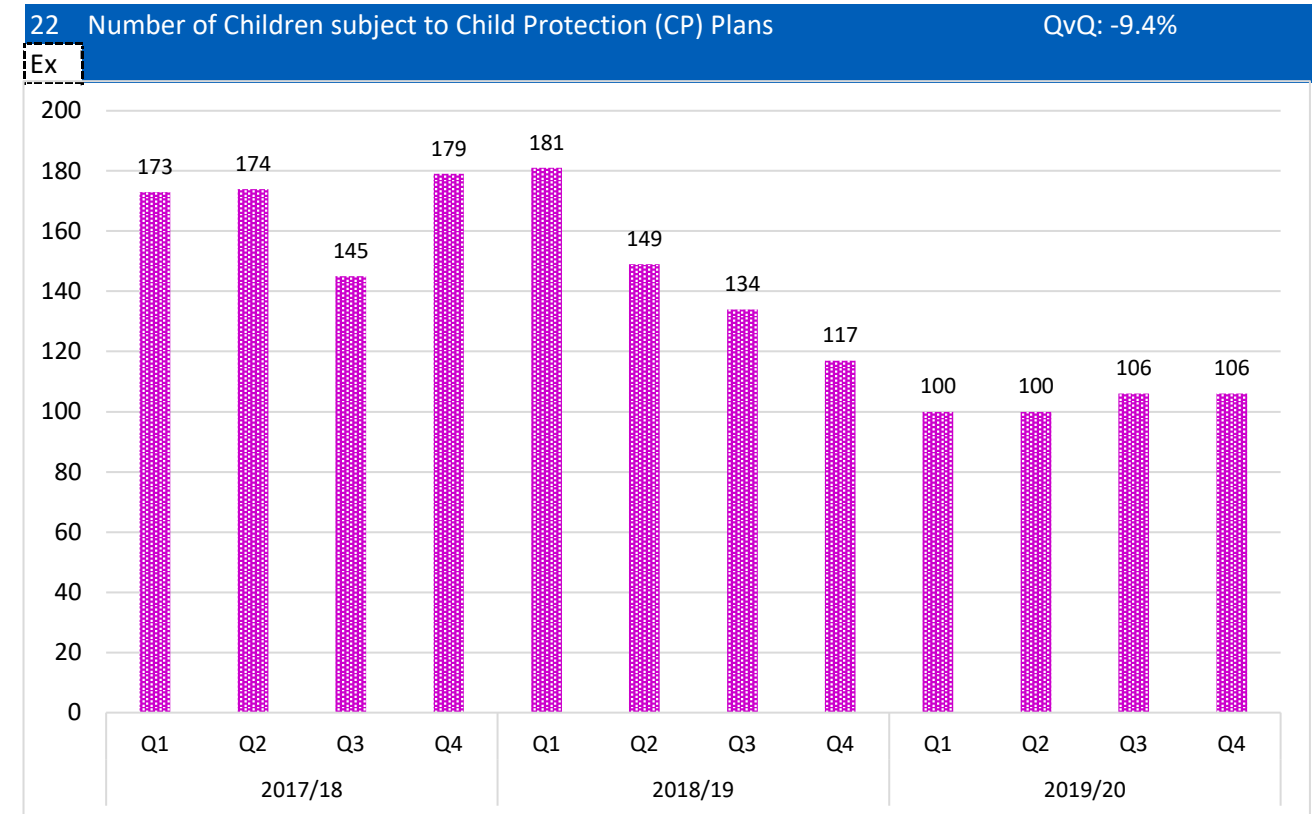
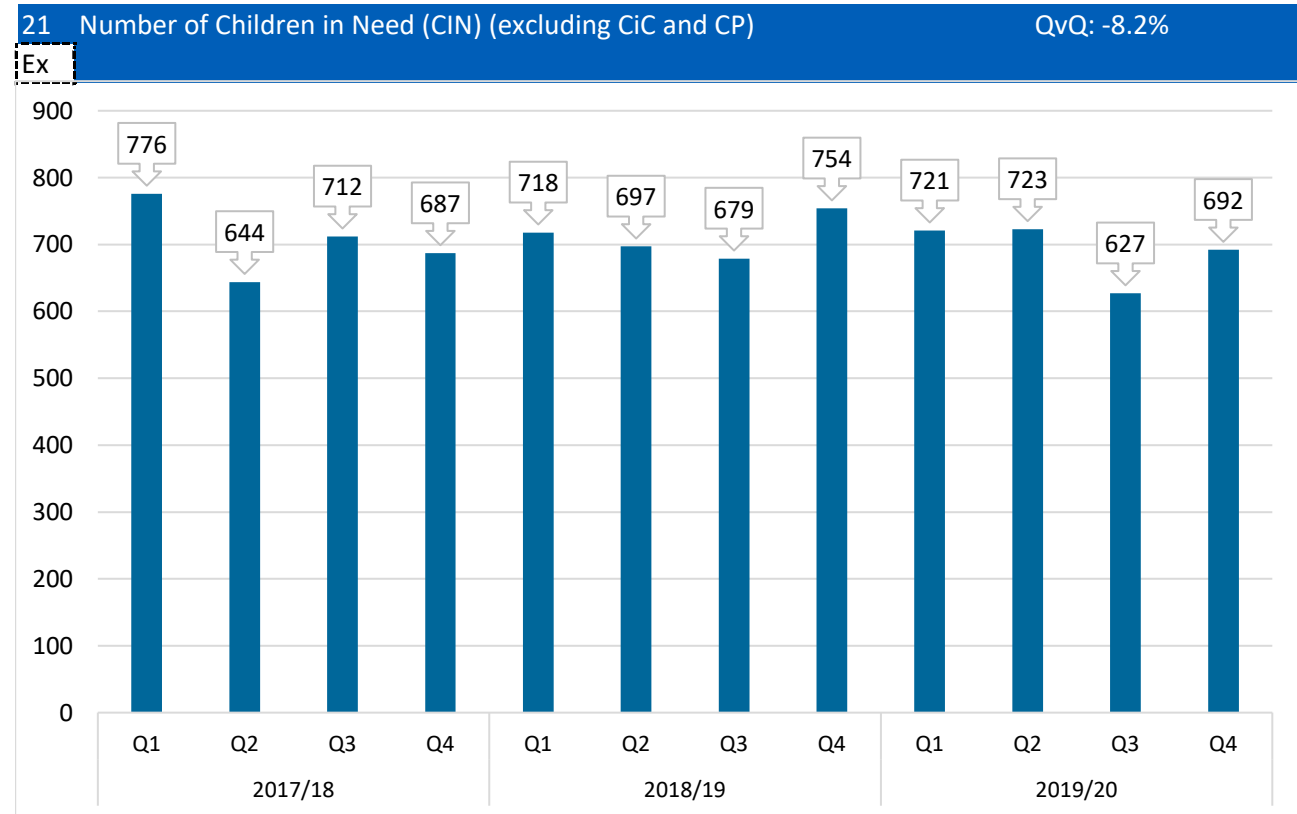
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



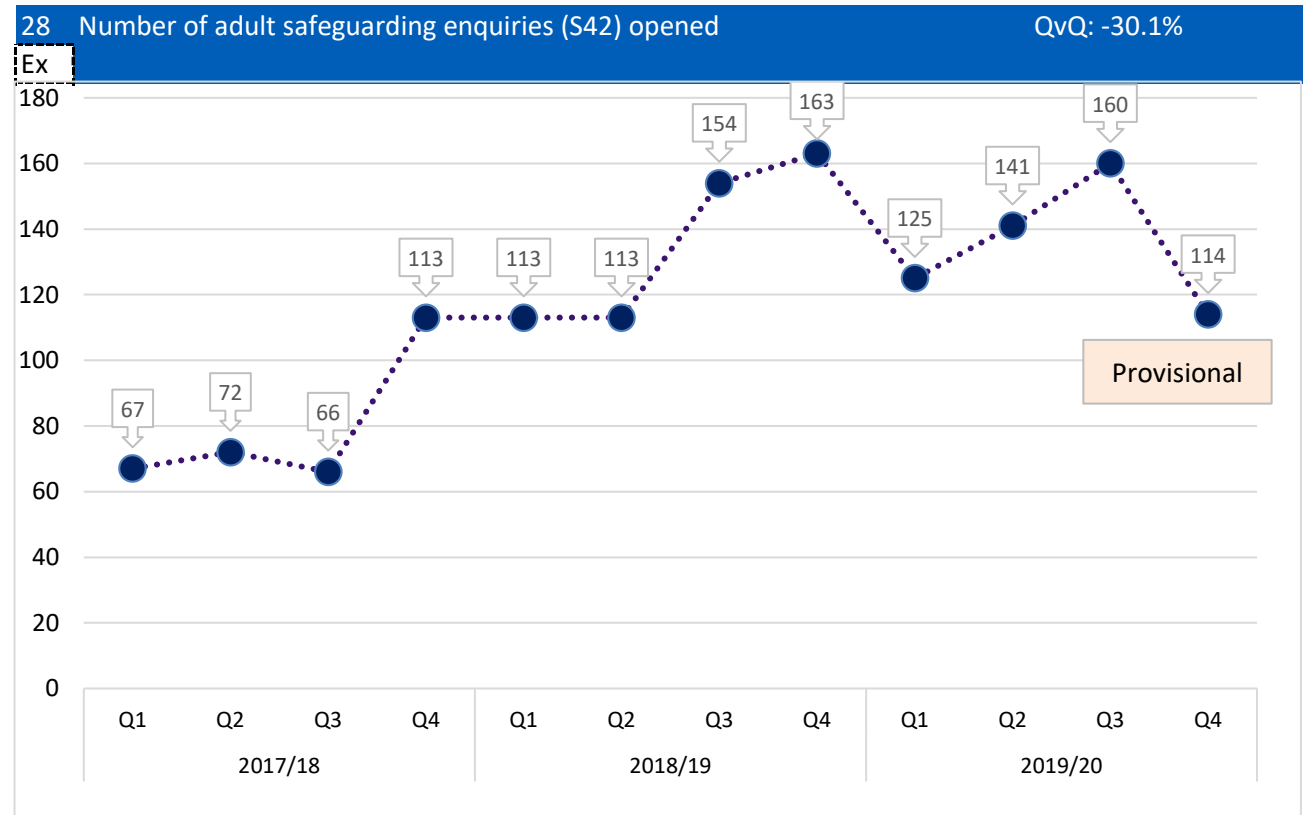
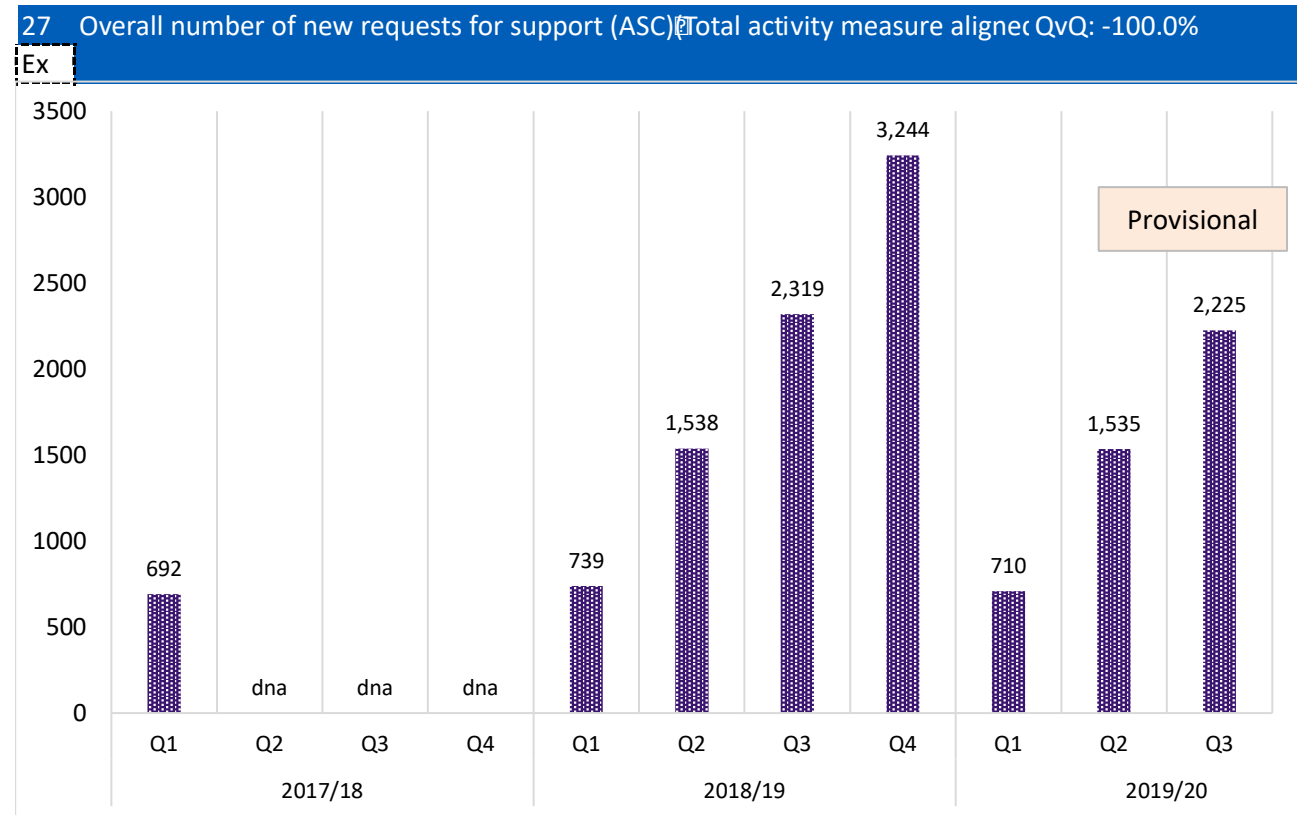
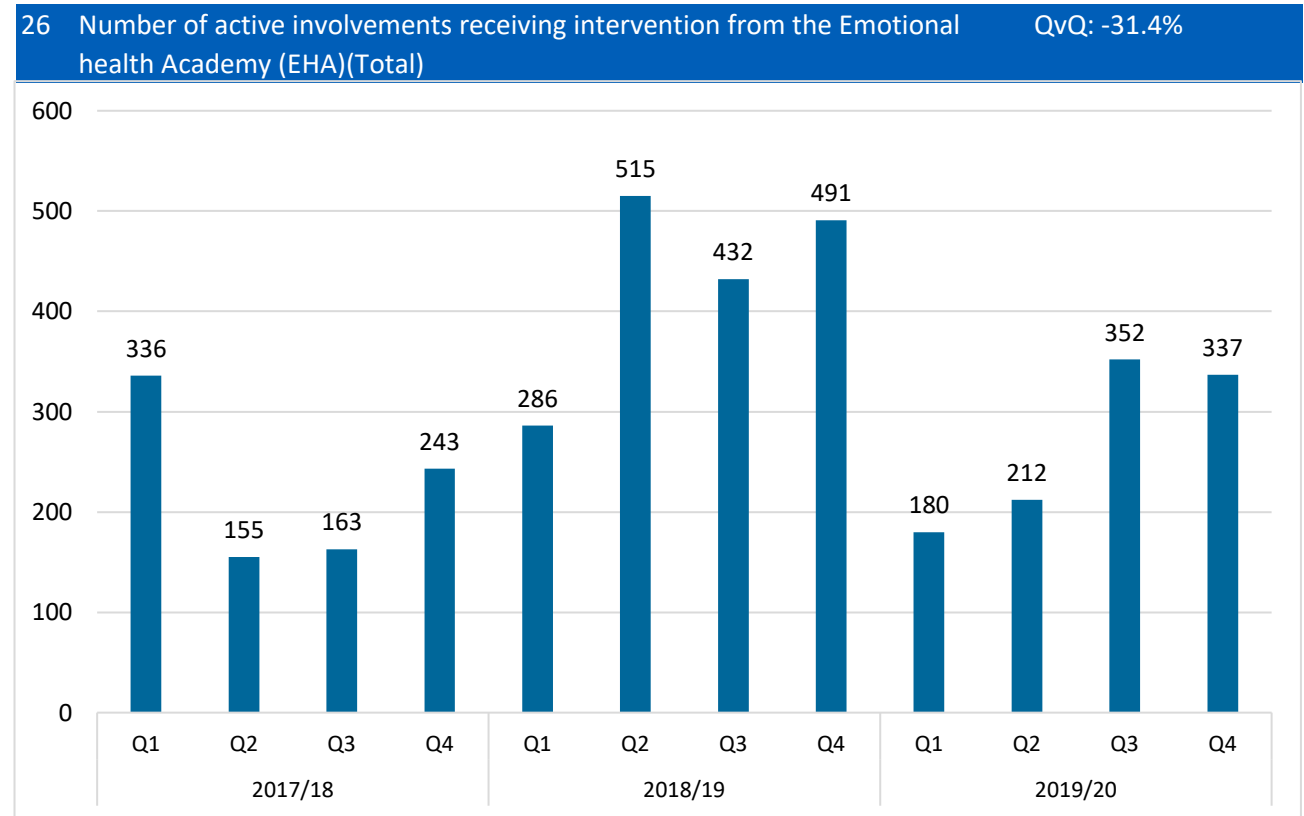
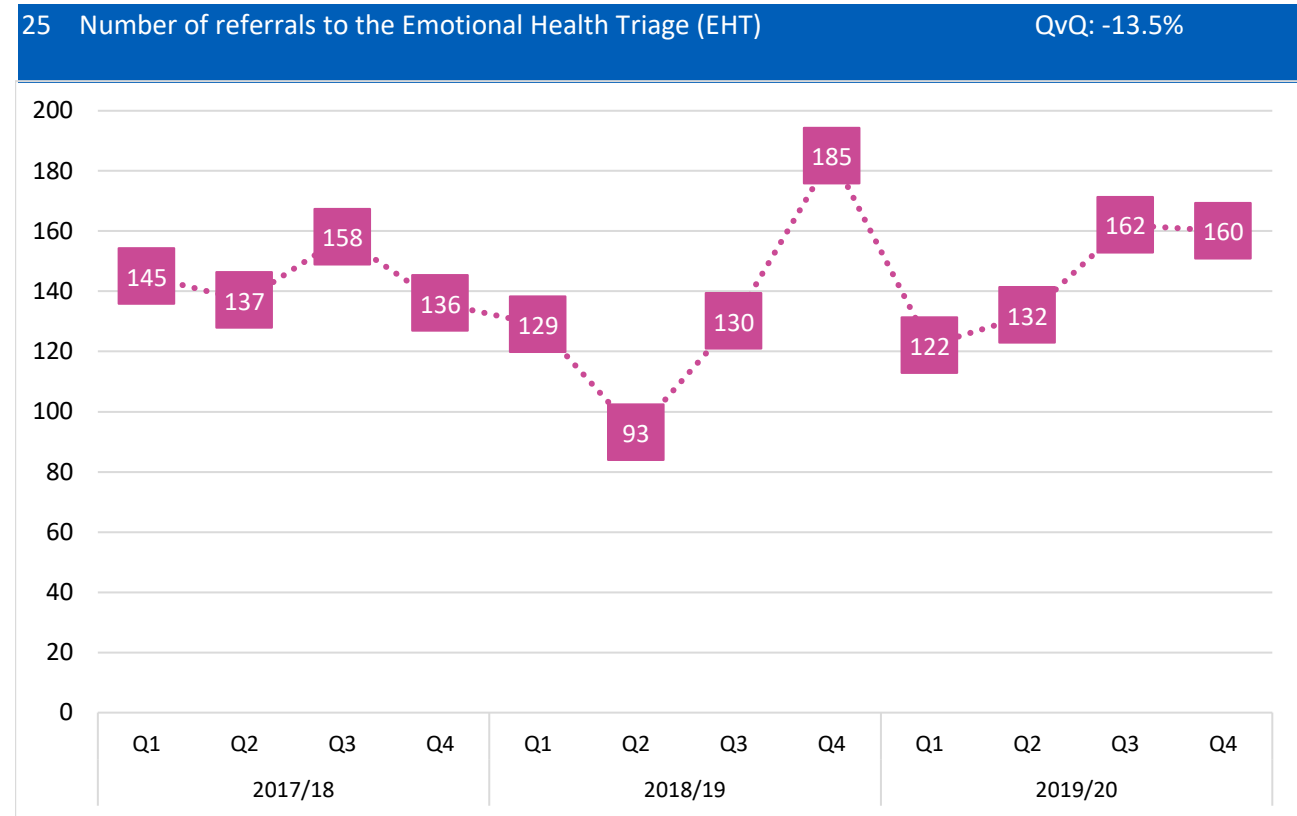
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



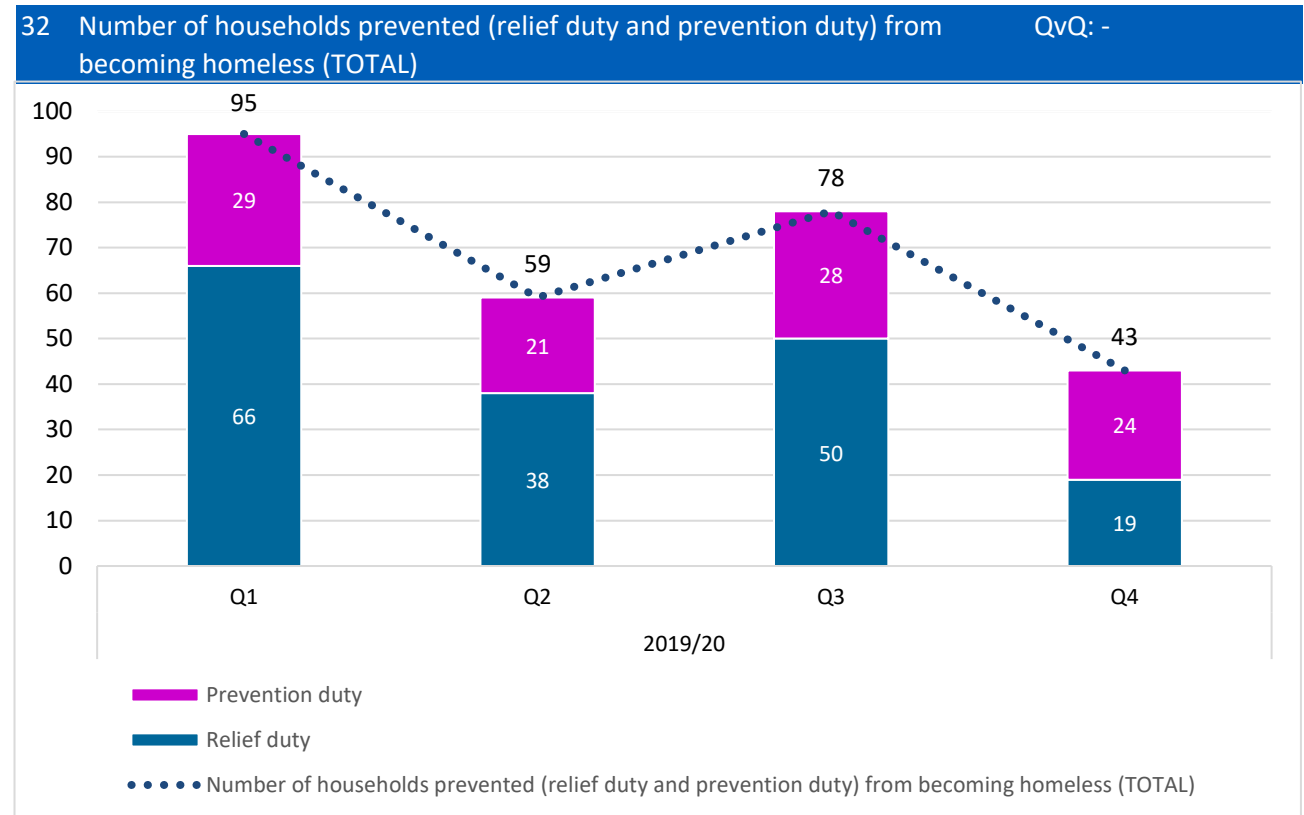
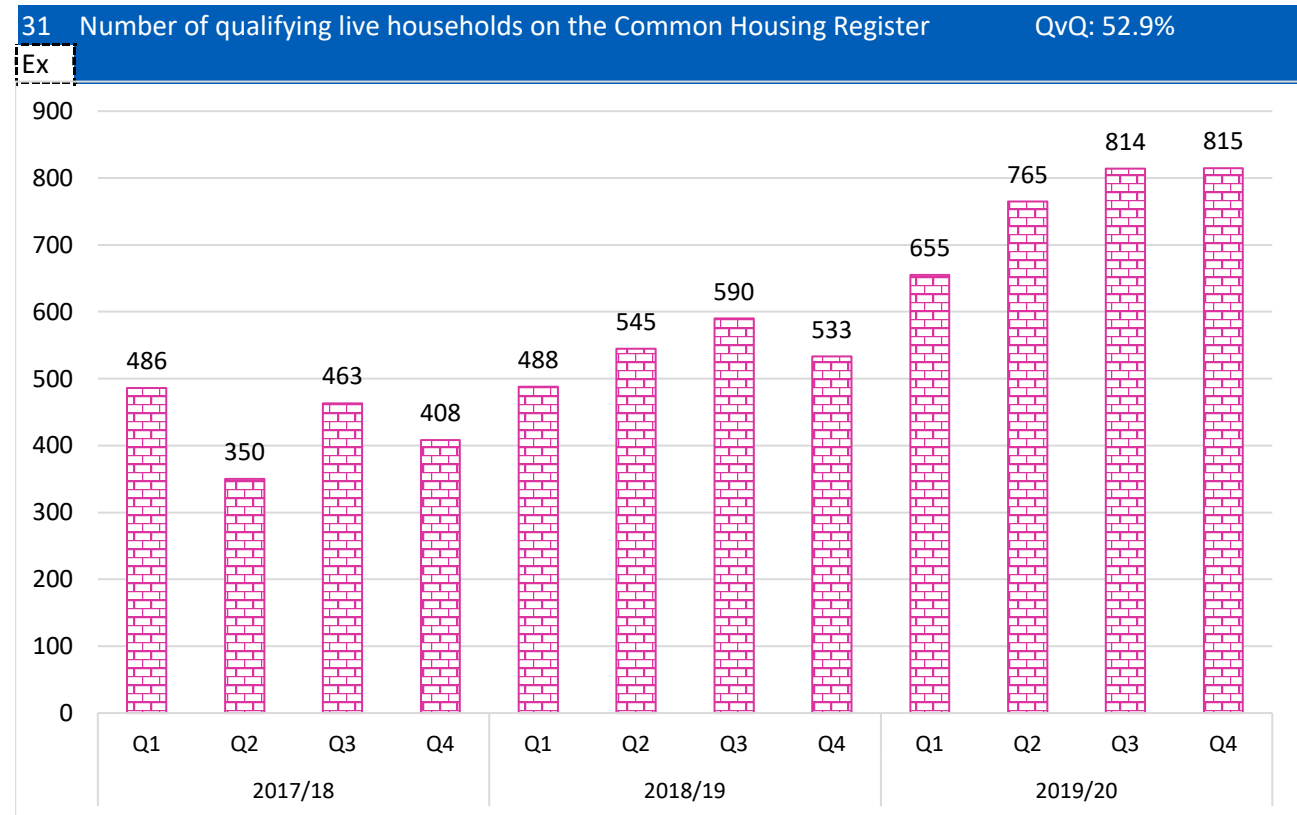
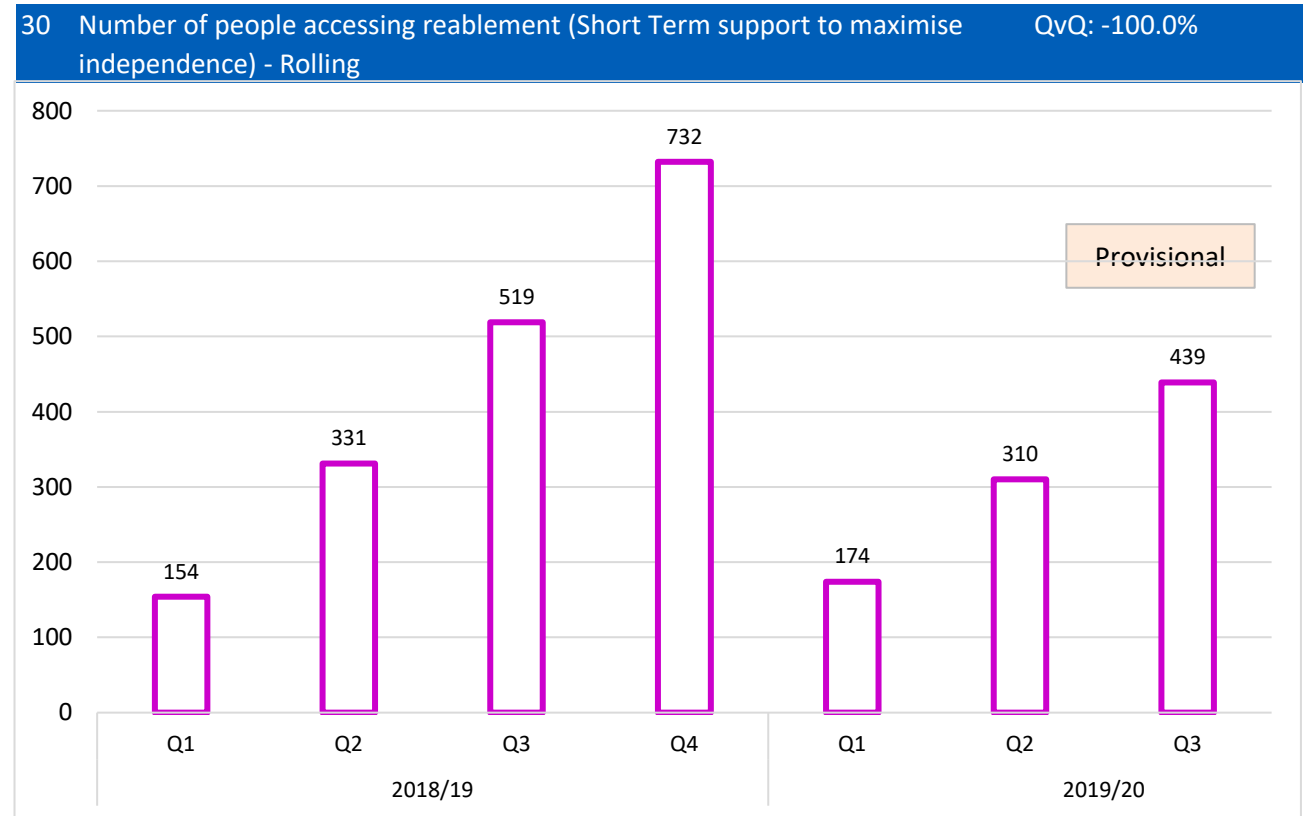
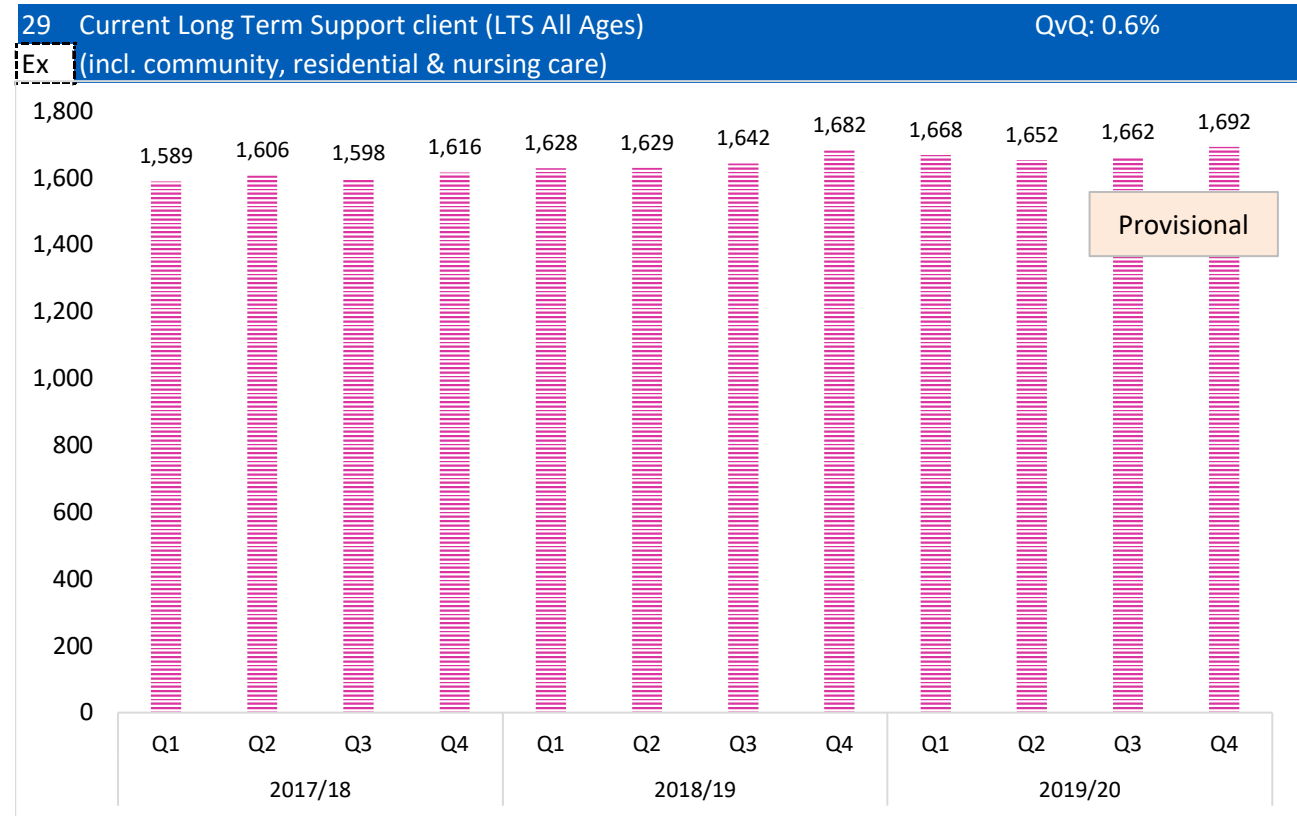
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

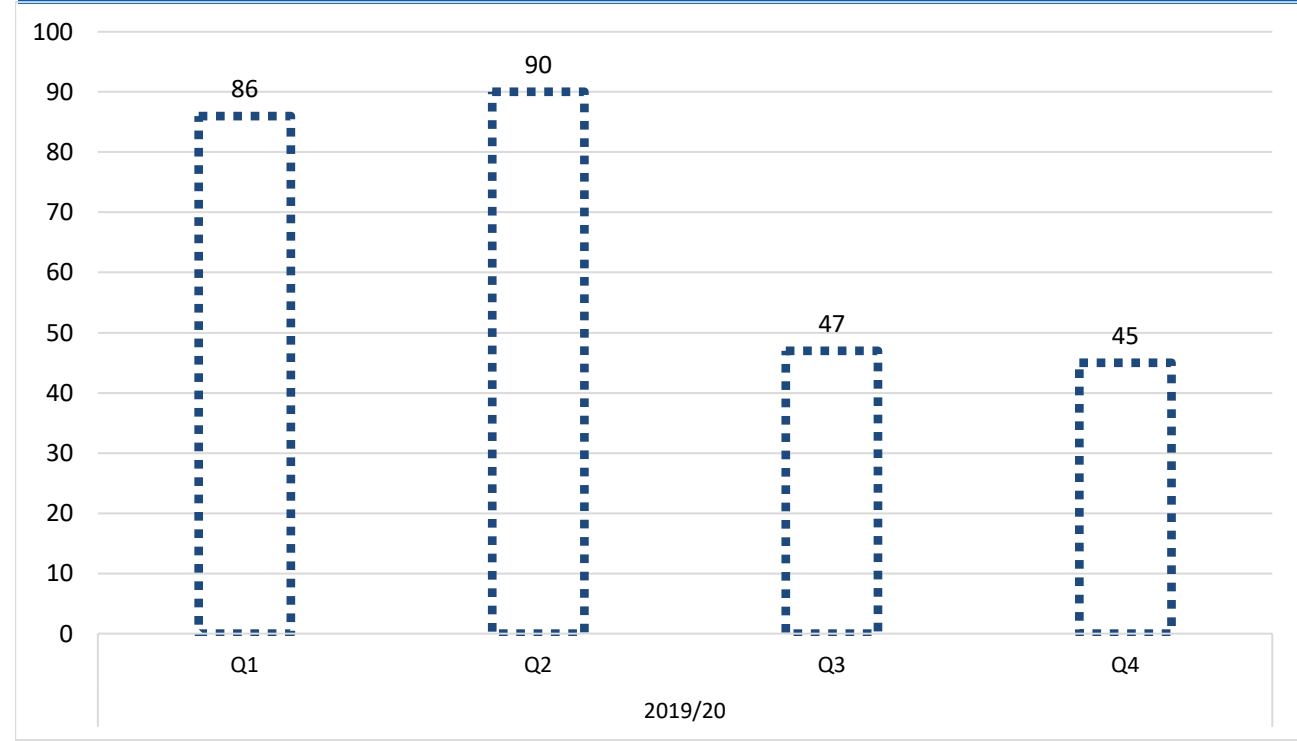
Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)



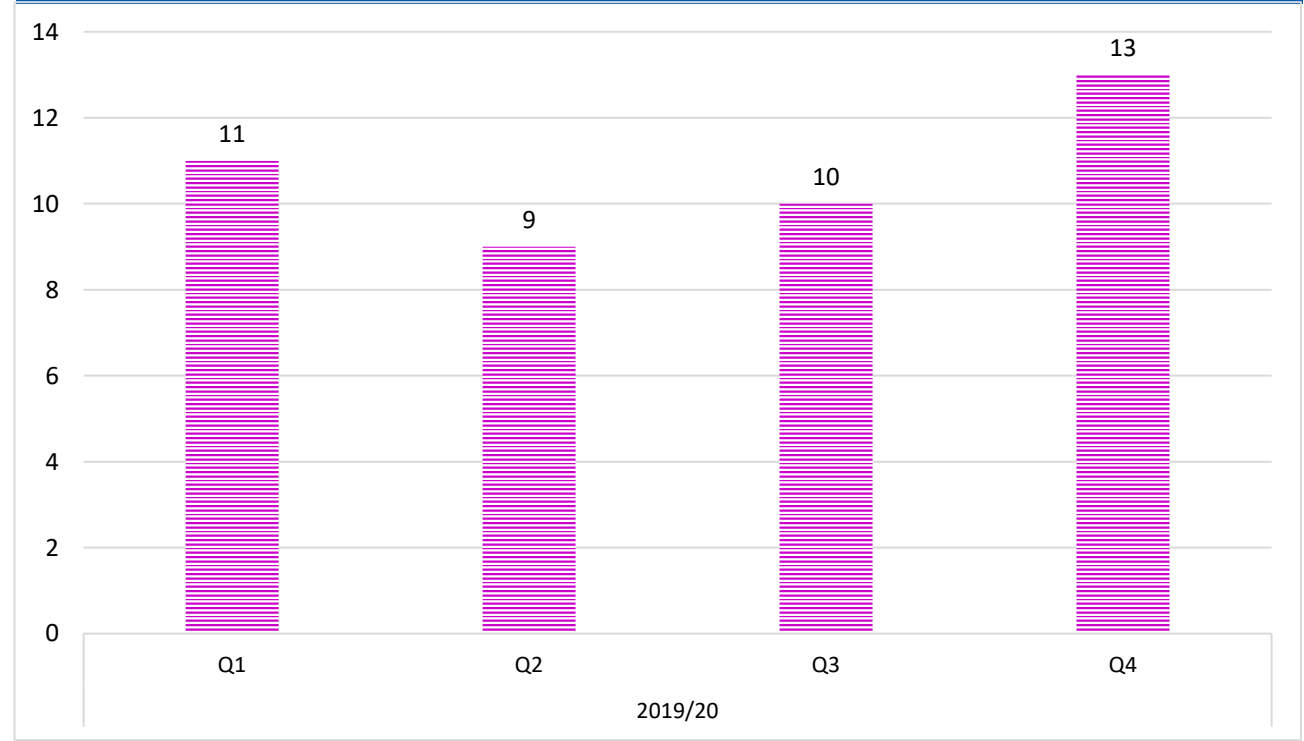
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)

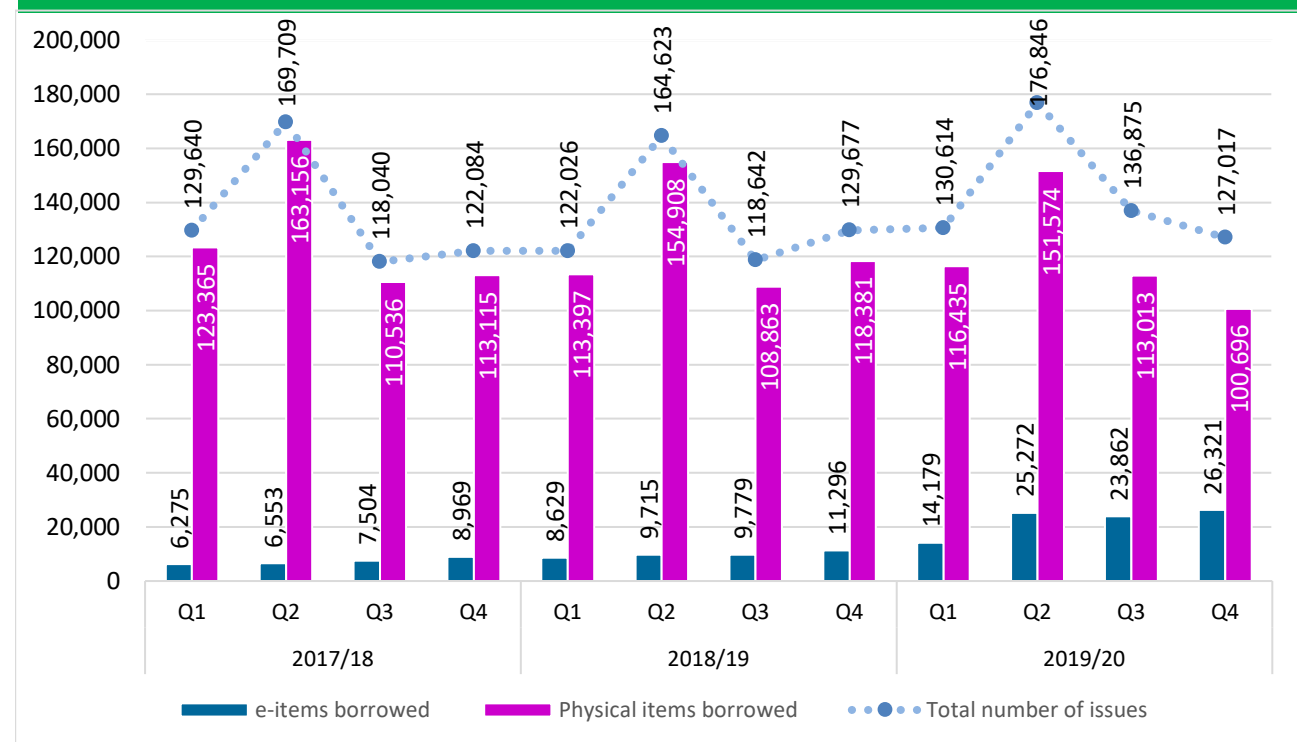
33 Number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter QvQ: -



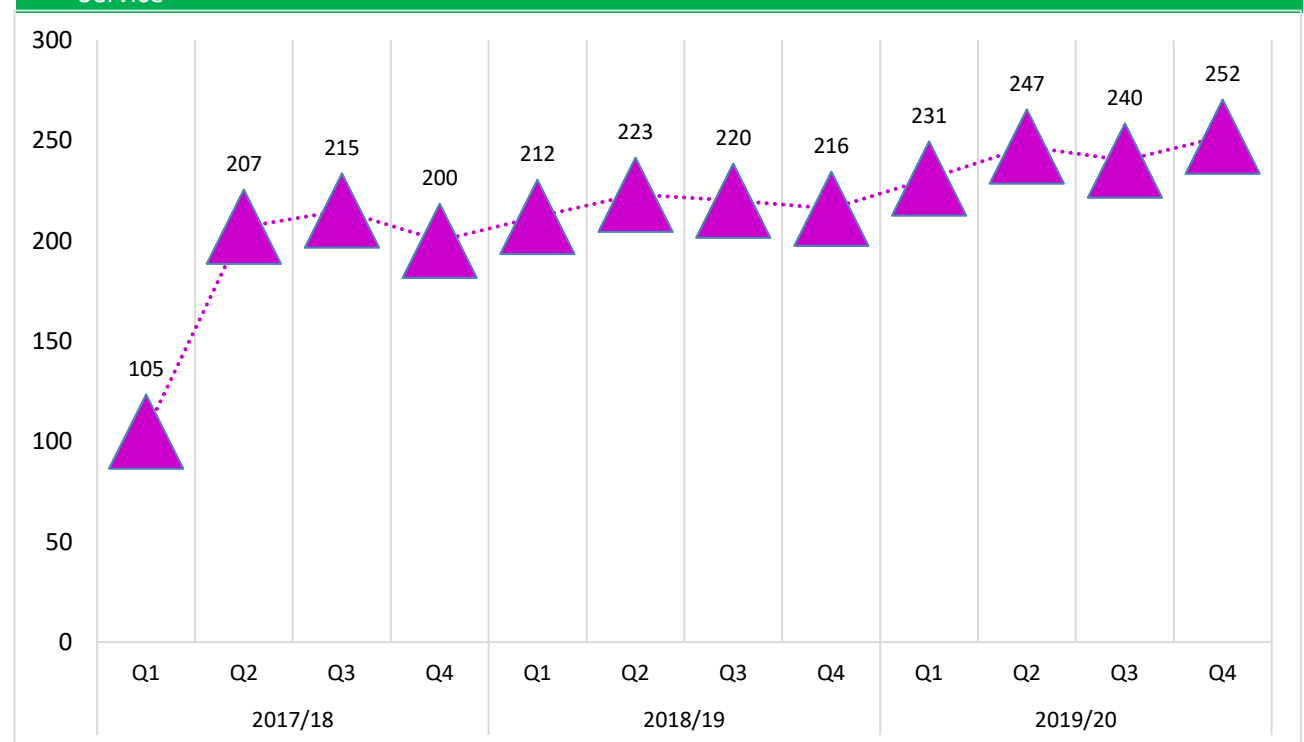
34 Number of rough sleepers on the last day of the quarter QvQ: -



35 Number of library issues (Total) QvQ: -2.1%



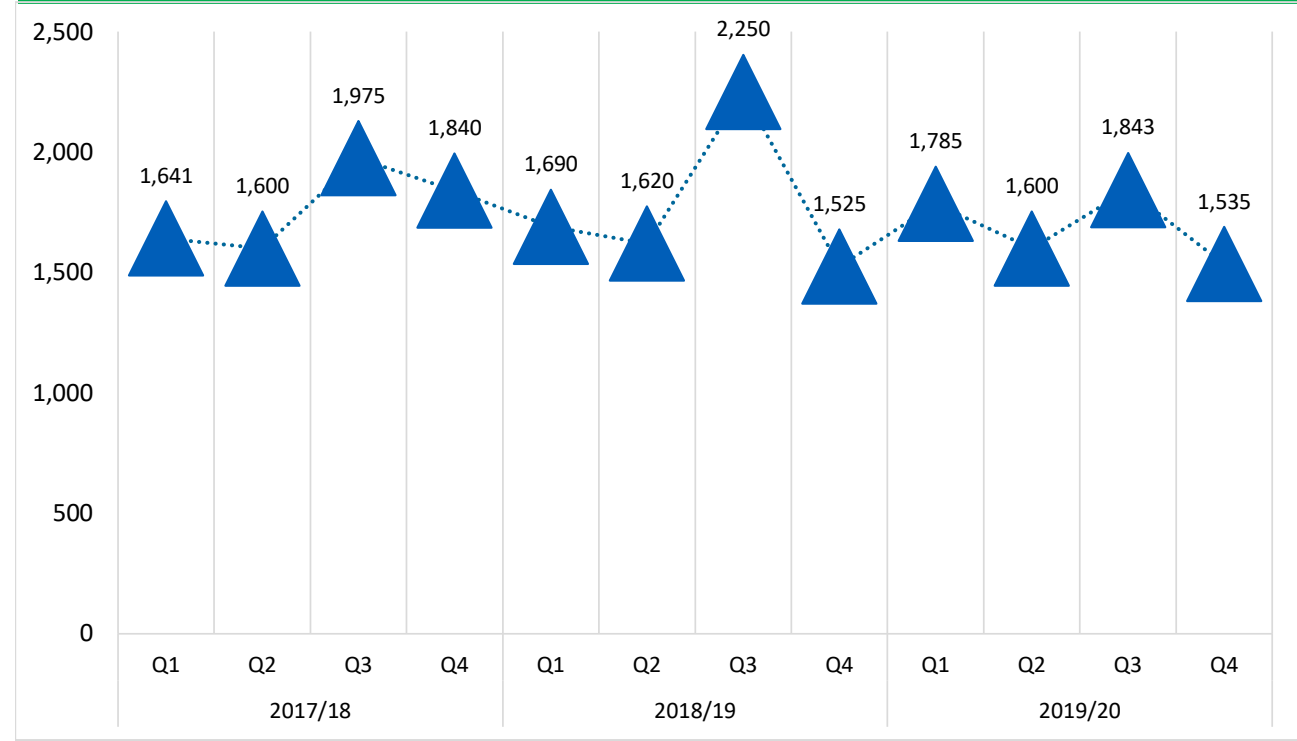
36 Number of volunteers across libraries, including the Mobile and 'At Home' Service QvQ: 16.7%



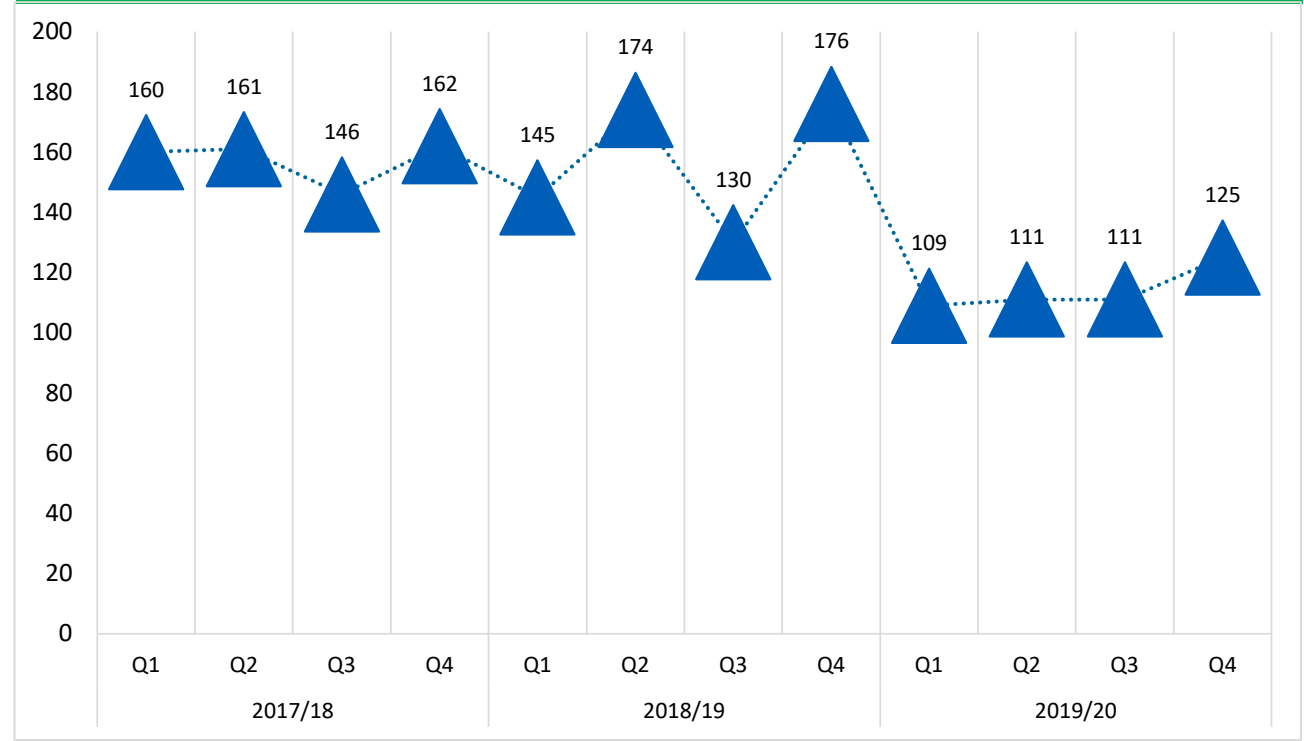
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)

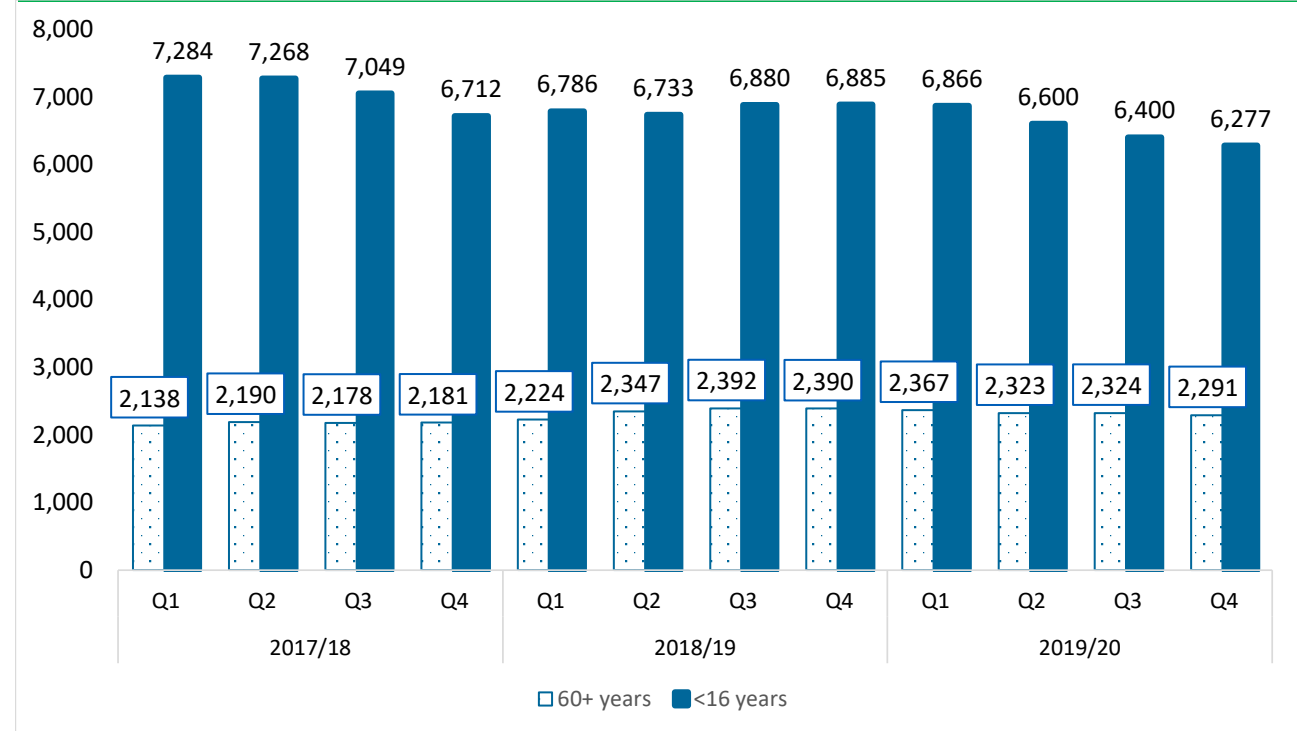
37 Number of volunteer hours dedicated to countryside activities QvQ: 0.7%



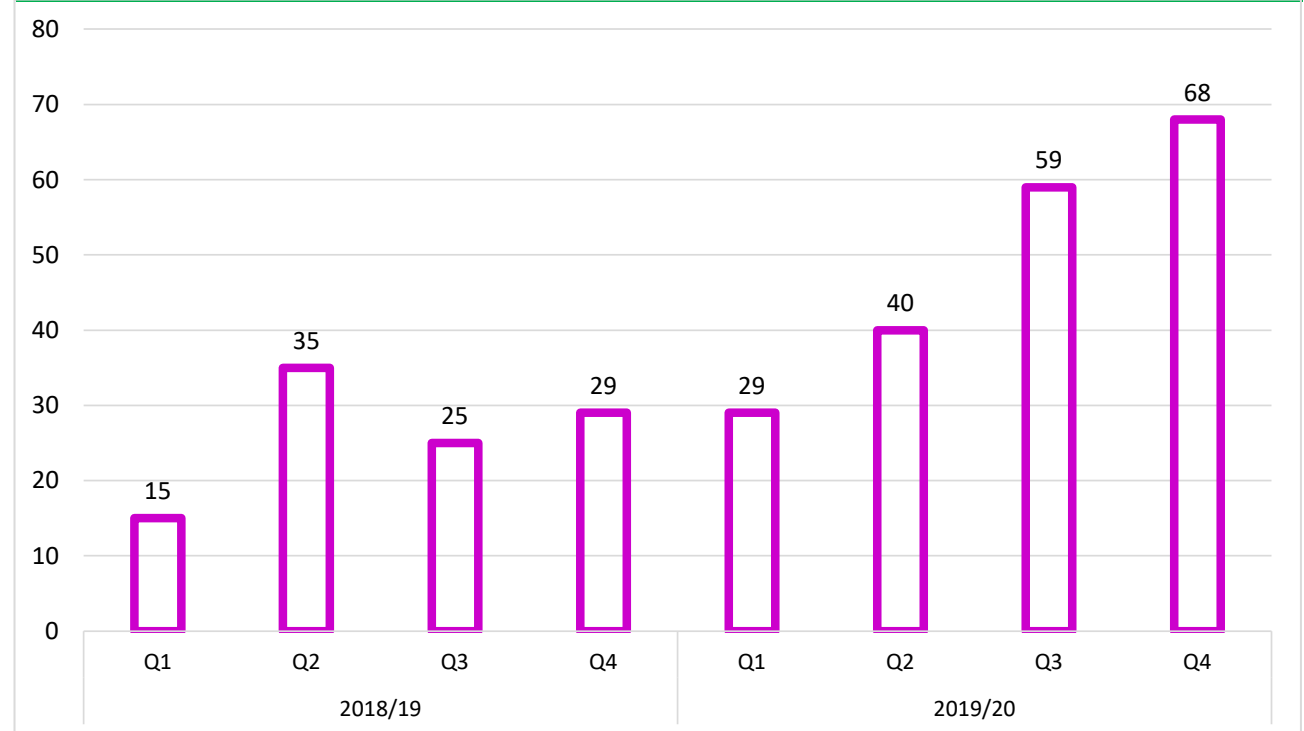
38 Number of volunteers across Heritage venues (Shaw house and museum) QvQ: -29.0%



39 Number of those aged 60+ visiting sports/leisure centres in last year QvQ: -4.1%
 Number of those aged <16 visiting sports/leisure centres in last year QvQ: -8.8%



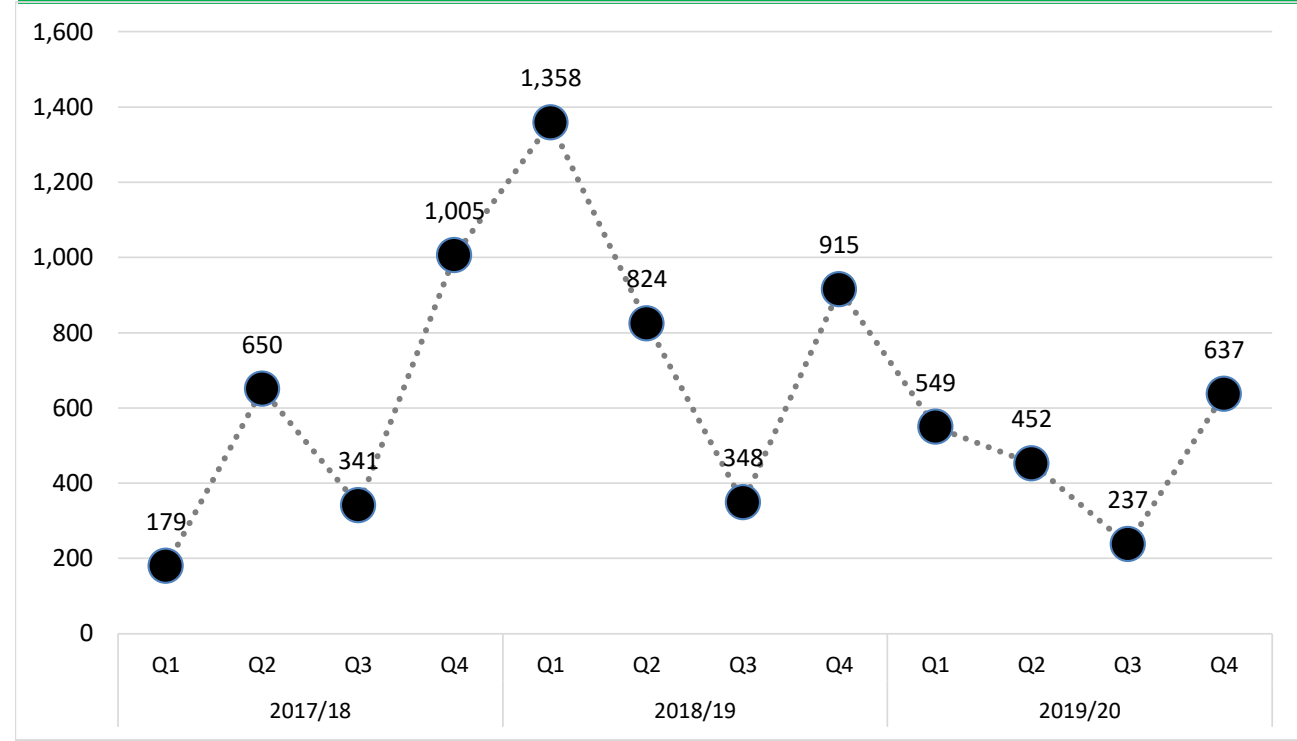
40 Number of Children in Care (and those care leavers aged 18 to 25 who left care due to age) who access a leisure centre QvQ: 134.5%



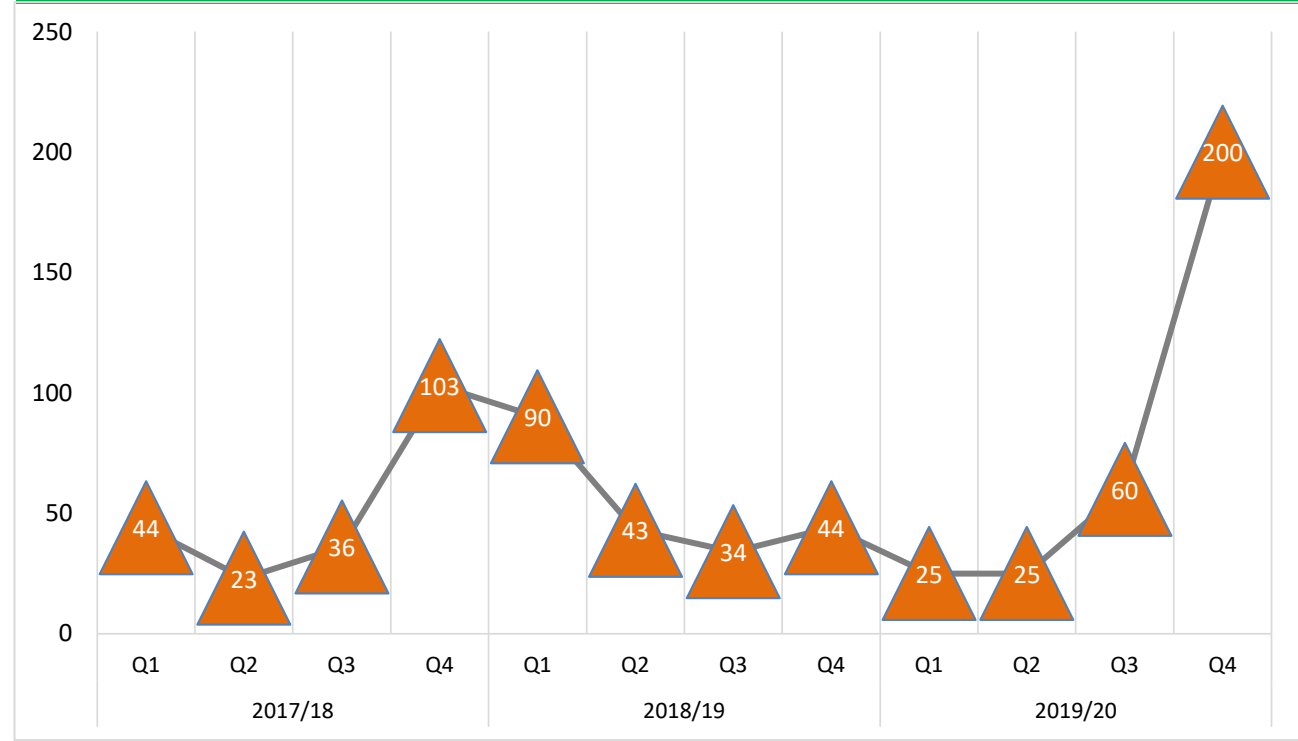
Appendix A: Influencer Measures 2019/20 (current qtr v same qtr last year)

Economy (Grey) | Social Care (Blue) | Environment (Green)

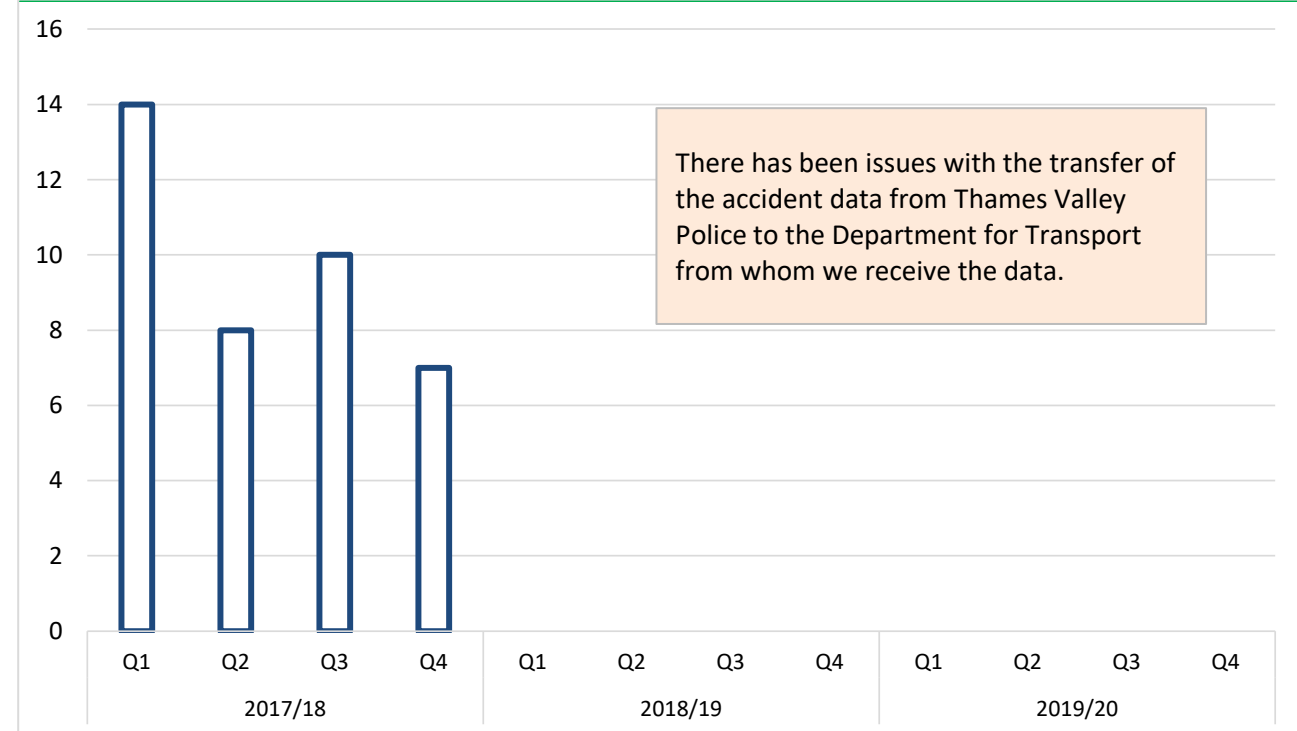
41 Number of permanent carriage repairs (PCR) completed QvQ: -30.4%



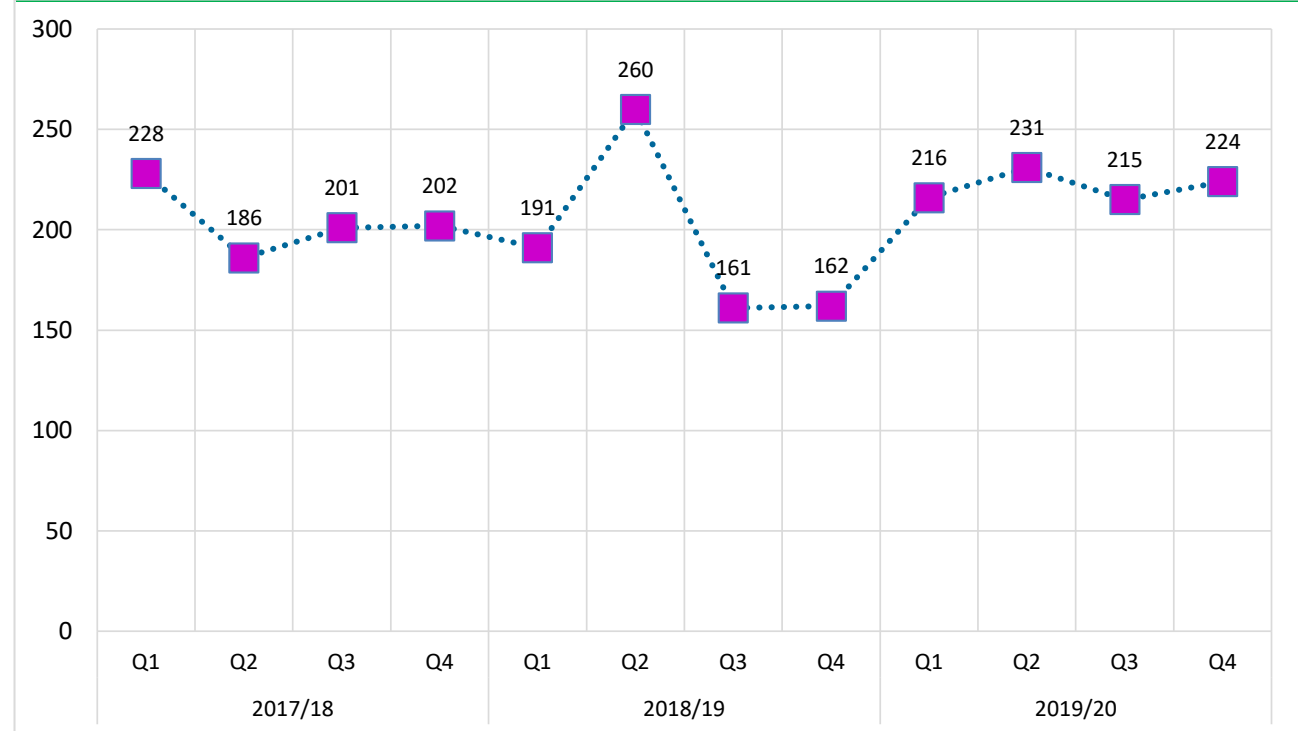
42 Number of highway related third party claims received QvQ: 354.5%



43 Number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in West Berkshire (incl. Highway Agency roads) QvQ: -



44 Number of flytips reported QvQ: 38.3%



This page is intentionally left blank

Andy Sharp/Pete Campbell			Children and Family Service				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: CBacfs13			% of Children in Care where the child has been visited in the past 6 weeks (or 12 weeks if this is the agreed visiting schedule)				Type: %snapshot	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG	★(G)	■(R)	★(G)	★(G)	★(G)	■(R)	≥95%	Higher is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	(138/147) 93.9%	(164/173) 94.8%	(157/165) 95.2%	(175/177) 98.9%	(172/177) 97.2%	(145/158) 91.8%		
<p>REASON FOR RED:</p> <p>This target is ambitious, but was met for the most part of the year. The disruption due to COVID19 in March made some statutory visits impossible to achieve. 'Visits' were undertaken by phone/video, but could not be counted as meeting statutory standards. The Department of Education are aware of this challenge.</p> <p>REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS: None</p> <p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None</p> <p>SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED: None</p> <p>STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED: None</p>								

Andy Sharp / Paul Coe			Adult Social Care				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: CBgasc2			% of WBC provider services inspected by Care Quality Commission (CQC) that are rated good or better by CQC in the area of "safe"				Type:% Snapshot	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG	★(G)	■(R)	■(R)	■(R)	■(R)	■(R)	100%	Higher is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	5/5 100%	5/6 83.3%	5/6 83.3%	5/6 83.3%	4/6 66.7%	4/6 66.7%		

REASON FOR RED:

Birchwood Nursing was re-inspected in July 2019 and achieved an overall rating of Requires Improvement (RI); published in September 2019. There were improvements within the 5 domains and 2 achieved a rating of Good, but this was not within the domain of 'Safe'.

Walnut Close was inspected in September with a published report in November 2020. The Home achieved a rating of RI overall and in all domains with the exception of Caring. One issue for Walnut, causing breaches in regulation leading to an RI rating, related to the fabric of the building and internal maintenance which was deemed to be poor.

REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS:

An external consultant was commissioned to review environment and practice in Birchwood and work directly with the home on specific areas of activity to improve the rating for 2020. This work began towards the end of 2019 and will continue through 2020. Further action plans have been developed and implemented.

Similarities in practice apply across all our homes and it is reasonable to assume all will benefit from actions drawn from this work.

Positively; Willows Edge has recently been inspected (Feb 2020) and the overall outcome achieved was good in all 5 areas. It is clear that some of the recent work is having a positive impact.

Recent focus has been on adapting to and supporting the Coronavirus Pandemic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no embargoes in place. All Homes are open for business.

SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED: None, as this is already incorporated in the ASC Service Plan and monitored through the Council Delivery Plan.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED: None

Andy Sharp/Pete Campbell			Children and Family Service				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: PC1cfs4			% of repeat referrals to Children's Services within 12 months of a previous referral				Type: %+	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG	★(G)	■(R)	◆(A)	◆(A)	■(R)	■(R)	≤20%	Lower is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	(320/1,622) 19.7%	(360/1,727) 20.8%	(97/371) 26.1%	(225/828) 27.2%	(316/1,204) 26.2%	(437/1,636) 26.7%		
<p>REASON FOR RED:</p> <p>This has proved a stubborn measure to reduce. An audit was completed and identified some recording practices that led to incorrect counting. For example, Early Response cases were being counted in the re-referral rates. These are not statutory children in need and so (in line with other local authorities) these will be removed from the count from 1st April. This will impact positively on re-referral rates. What we can assure is that referrers are not reporting to us or the safeguarding partnership that referrals are being 'blocked' by the teams, nor are they having to make repeated referrals to be heard.</p> <p>REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS.</p> <p>An independent audit (external to the team) has been commissioned in April 2020.</p> <p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications but there is obviously a hidden cost associated with the increased workload at the front door. For this reason, performance against this indicator needs to remain under review.</p> <p>SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED:</p> <p>None</p> <p>STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED:</p> <p>None over and above those already mentioned above.</p>								

Andy Sharp / Ian Pearson			Education Service				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: PC2es32			% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage (EYFS)				Type: Snapshot	
Executive	2016/17 Year End	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Academic Year				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG		■(R)				■(R)	Third Quartile	Higher is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	3 rd Qtile Ranked 99/152 (53%)	4 th Qtile Ranked 150/152 (43%)	-	-	-	4 th Quartile Ranked 150/151 (41%)		
REASON FOR RED:								
<p>The gap between the free school meals pupils and all other pupils remains a challenge over time and the approach used has relied on engagement from schools. The team has offered support sessions to targeted schools and provided advice and guidance on best practice and the use of pupil premium funding to support children. For some children and some schools this approach has had an impact. However, this has not had the impact needed overall, analysis of the data indicates that this small be significant group are hard to reach as the numbers in an individual school are small. The schools who engage best with the support offered are those with relatively more children in their schools but this rarely reaches a group of children in double figures. A complete rethink is needed.</p>								
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS:								
<p>After a careful review of previous plans it was decided that in order to have a tangible impact on outcomes at the end of Foundation Stage action needs to take place much earlier in the educational journey of a child. Evidence from the successful Flying Start pilot indicated that intervention with the family made a huge difference on entry to school and at the end of Foundation Stage.</p>								
<p>Data clearly shows that outcomes for FSM (Free School Meal) children and children who were funded 2 year olds are significantly below others at the end of EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) in West Berkshire. Last year, 43.5% FSM children achieved a Good Level of</p>								

Development compared with 76% non FSM children. This is a gap of 32.5%. Also 51.2% who previously received 2 year old funding achieved a Good Level of Development compared with 77.4%. This is a gap of 26.2%. These vulnerable groups are often the children who enter settings/schools with a very low base line.

In comparison the families working with Flying Start (previously funded 2 year olds) 66.6% of children in West Berkshire achieved a Good Level of Development in July 2019.

A comprehensive plan has been developed: Integrated Early Years Strategy for School Readiness, which provides detail of work to ensure; Ready Children, Ready Families and Ready Schools.

This plan takes the approach that if we are going to make an impact for very young children we need to engage with the child but also those who have an influence over the lived experience of the child. With this at the core a comprehensive plan has been designed which works in three ways:

Ready Families

We will do this through;

- Early Help collaborative work with Children & Family Services:
 - My Family Plan
 - Early Response Hub
- Family Hubs:
 - Post and antenatal work
 - Collaborative work with midwifery and health visiting
 - Boost
 - Incredible Years
 - Thrive
 - School Readiness
- Flying Start:
 - Thatcham
 - Calcot
 - Newbury
 - School programme development
 - Universal Twilight sessions – Flying Start Essentials
- Parent Engagement
 - Instagram – Tiny Happy People
 - Facebook – Family Hub engagement

- Parent Awareness Raising Sessions
- Parent Workshops to enrich home learning

Ready Children

We will do this by;

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library book gifts
 - All vulnerable 2 year olds
 - Key postcodes across West Berkshire
 - All 3 year olds in maintained nursery classes and schools.
- Collaborative work with the Library Service
 - Book Start support for the reception text
 - Toy Library
 - Collaborative sessions
 - Summer Reading Challenge

Ready Schools and Settings

We will do this by;

- Quality Professional Development for Early Years Providers
 - Speech and Language (ECaT)
 - Two Year Olds
 - Linked Health Visitors with good links to providers supporting vulnerable 2 year olds.
 - SEND early identification and support
 - Learning Together
 - Early Years Subscription
 - Targeted Training for Nursery Classes
- EYFS Twilights with a focus on disadvantaged groups
 - Oracy
 - Reading
 - Writing
- Individual School visits focusing on free school meals
 - Tailored visit for schools with 5 or more FSM children
 - Action plan
 - Support resources
- Leadership of Foundation Stage

- Head Teacher Session
- Foundation Lead
- Strengthening Transition
 - Parent sessions
 - School and setting liaison
 - Transition Forum (document)

COVID update on plans:

The main measure of impact has been the end of Foundations Stage Profile outcomes. This assessment measure is not going to take place this year due to COVID so it is going to be necessary to consider local data collections.

Some of the planned work has begun and there is a real willingness to find ways to continue to develop plans in the light of the changes due to COVID. This will include digital solutions; Family Hubs are very successfully delivering their parenting programme via zoom and there is some indication that for some individuals and groups the engagement is more consistent when using this method of engagement. During the lockdown and while schools and settings have had reduced numbers of children there has been a clear focus on supporting differentiation for vulnerable children.

Work to support children particularly the engagement with on-line resources for reading and phonics has been a priority. There has also been the development of a collaborative piece of work with Lincolnshire LA developing support materials for families accessing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None already planned for as part of service planning.

SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED: None

STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED: None

Andy Sharp / Ian Pearson			Education Service				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: PC2es51			Average attainment 8 score for pupils eligible for Free School Meal (FSM) (KS4)				Type: Annual	
Executive	2016/17 Year End	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Academic Year				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG		■(R)				■(R)		
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rank higher than 91/152	Higher is better
YTD outturn	Rank 86/152 (33.2 points) 3 rd Qtile	Rank 94/152 (32.5 points) 3 rd Qtile	-	-	-	Rank 125/151 (31.5 points) 4 th Qtile		

REASON FOR RED: Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measures (the average attainment and progress over 8 subjects) are used to compare schools, but they still mean little to an individual pupil or to an employer. In 2019, 40.5% of our Disadvantaged pupils achieve 4+ in English and Maths.

REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS: We have developed good relationships with our partner academy secondary schools this year. We will continue our work with Secondary Leads and Headteachers to make this group of children visible to them.

We are promoting strategies that acknowledge the adverse life experiences for students and the impact this makes on their day to day learning. Mental Health First Aiders and Trauma Informed School Training sessions are being promoted to schools. Leaders acknowledge that more needs to be done for students who need support.

We are also working with Secondary leads to emphasise the importance of the wider curriculum. The New Ofsted Framework requires all disadvantaged pupils to have a highly ambitious curriculum. Schools will be judged on outcomes in other subjects at their next inspection.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: We are advising schools how best to use their pp budgets, investing in strategies suggested by the education endowment fund. In September 2020 we will also divert funds to appoint a specific pp lead for secondary schools.

SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED: We will need to revise our current service plan to reflect the situation caused by the closure of schools and the anticipated lengthy time secondary schools will need to provide a 'blended learning' approach.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED: We will be identifying schools who fall well below the National average and providing bespoke work with a new Secondary PP lead. Secondary networks are continuing the next academic year and these will also provide some support to schools. We will plan a more targeted approach with a support offer to schools whose attainment score is below the National Average.

Andy Sharp / Ian Pearson			Education Service				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: PC2es31			% achieving the national standard for reading, writing and maths combined (KS2)				Type: Annual	
Executive	2016/17 Year End	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Academic Year				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG		■(R)				■(R)	Top 25%	Higher is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	62% 2nd Qtile Rank 65/152	Top 75% (64%) 3rd Qtile Rank 85/152	-	-	-	Top 75% (64.0%) 3rd Qtile Rank 95/151)		
<p>REASON FOR RED: The 2019 result was 64% compared to 63.6% in 2018. This result is a combination of Reading Writing and Mathematics. The reason there has not been more improvement is because our Mathematics results still lag behind Reading and Writing. Mathematics has seen a 3.5 percentage point improvement for West Berkshire pupils at the expected level and a 2.4 percentage point increase for those pupils working beyond expected levels in 2019. However, there is more work to do to see an impact on the combined result.</p> <p>REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS: A new Mathematics Adviser was appointed from September 2019. This leader also works as an adviser for the regional mathematics Hub. West Berkshire has been awarded the lead for a mathematics Hub by the Department for Education last autumn. This will impact on the ability to provide high quality intervention and training to schools in West Berkshire. The Mathematics lead is also involved in the ‘securing good outcomes for all,’ project specifically targeting disadvantaged pupils. We have focused our core support on schools where the Mathematics data is below National Average figures.</p> <p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: We have redirected our resources to create a specialist maths adviser post</p> <p>SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED: ‘Every school securing Good and better outcomes for all pupils’ is the plan for raising attainment for Disadvantaged and all pupils. The Maths element of this work is contained in this plan.</p> <p>STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED: Schools were closed to pupils on Friday 20th March until Monday 1st June. This has severely impacted the Mathematics recovery plan. No testing took place in June 2020. Our strategy to recover learning is evolving and will require us to revise our implementation plan to include digital delivery and more remote scrutiny.</p>								

John Ashworth / Gary Lugg			Development and Planning				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: GP1dp21			Produce the infrastructure delivery plan				Type: text	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG			◆(A)	■(R)	★(G)	■(R)	September 2020	-
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	-	-	Behind schedule	Behind schedule	On track	Behind schedule		
REASON FOR RED:								
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan that covers the period to 2036 to tie in with the Local Plan Roll-Forward (LPR) can't be produced until we know the number of houses we're planning to build. Target will be reviewed as part of the 2020/21 service planning process.								
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS:								
The infrastructure plan cannot be developed further until the Council decides on a housing number as part of the LPR.								
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:								
None								
SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED:								
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan should be brought into line with the Local Plan Review for next year.								
STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED:								
The Infrastructure Delivery Plan should be brought into line with the Local Plan Review for next year.								

Joseph Holmes / Kevin Griffin			Customer Services and ICT				Q4 2019/20	AMBER
Indicator Ref: GP1csict3			Number of West Berkshire premises able to receive Superfast Broadband services 24Mb/s or above				Type: snapshot	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG	★(G)	■(R)	◆(A)	■(R)	★(G)	◆(A)	72,897 (99.7%) Sept 2020	Higher is better
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	67,763 (92.7%)	70,689 (96.7%) (P)	70,190 (96.02%)	70,296 (96.17%)	70,622 (96.69%)	71,032 (97.16%)		
REASON FOR RED:								
Due to COVID-19, the deadline has slipped from April to Sept 2020 for all fluid works. People will receive broadband later than expected. The majority of the West Berkshire build is complete. However due to Covid-19 and waiting on wayleaves a small percentage as still to be built, however we will continue to pursue rather than descope.								
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS:								
Gigaclear are recruiting new gangs to replace those that are self-isolating and are continuing to build.								
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:								
SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED:								
The new deadline will be included in the 2020/21 Service Plan								
STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED:								
None								

John Ashworth / Paul Anstey			Public Protection and Culture				Q4 2019/20	RED
Indicator Ref: GP1ppc11			Produce and adopt new ten year West Berkshire Cultural Heritage Strategy				Type: Project	
Executive	2017/18 Year End	2018/19 Year End	2019/20				Target	Polarity
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
RAG	-	-	★(G)	★(G)	■(R)	■(R)	April 2020	n/a
Qrtly outturn	-	-	-	-	-	-		
YTD outturn	-	-	On track	On track	Behind schedule	Behind schedule		
REASON FOR RED:								
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has been decided to postpone the public consultation on the draft strategy until September 2020, when the public and stakeholders are more likely to be receptive to participating, and we have more information from Government about the likely long-term impacts for the culture and heritage sector.								
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION BEING UNDERTAKEN AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS:								
The draft strategy will be updated to include the latest information about the impacts of COVID-19 for the sector, for example, the strategy has objectives to improve health and well-being, and to increase inward investment and improve resilience and sustainability of arts organisations in the district. Clearly those will become even more important.								
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:								
None								
SERVICE PLAN UPDATES REQUIRED:								
The target will be reviewed as part of the 2020/21 service planning process. However, it is proposed to go out for public consultation in September 2020, for final approval in December 2020.								
STRATEGIC ACTIONS REQUIRED:								
The Cultural Heritage Project Board will monitor and update the development of the strategy.								

West Berkshire Recovery Strategy

Committee considering report:	Executive on 16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	23 June 2020
Report Author:	Joseph Holmes
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3937

1 Purpose of the Report

To provide the framework for the Council's overarching recovery in respect of Covid-19 and its impact on the district. The Recovery Strategy intends to highlight the key areas of focus for the Council and highlights where action has been taken to date and areas that will be explored further once considered with partners and the community.

2 Recommendation

For the Executive to approve the strategy

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The strategy includes the use of funds allocated through Central Government to fund recovery activities as well as proposals for general funding for the continuation of the Community Hub at @£20k per month. This is currently funded through the Central Government Covid-19 funding (non ringfenced) though if a 3 rd tranche of funding does not occur, the Council will need to utilise its own funds.
Human Resource:	None directly; the strategy will be informed by and consider the internal staff survey. One of the key considerations is reshaping the organisation to be more responsive learning from the Covid-19 response and bring this into recovery. The workforce board will consider this further.
Legal:	None immediately, though workstreams will potentially require legal considerations

Risk Management:	Reputational risk – Council seen to be acting too slowly / ineffectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to enhance the Council’s engagement with residents, partners and businesses through recovery work - This strategy has been drafted quickly and sets out the high level trajectory of work to support our communities. This mitigates some of the above risk through showing steps already taken through recovery and future themes to be developed. 			
Property:	As part of recovery the Council, through the recovery group, is overseeing the re-opening of facilities for residents			
Policy:	Links to Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and Berkshire recovery groups’ recovery strategies.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			The strategy highlights that Covid-19 will have had an unequal impact on residents and businesses and one of the strategy’s aims to reduce inequality.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:	X			This is one of the core 8 themes

Health Impact:	X			This is one of the core 8 themes
ICT Impact:	X			Further work on reshaping the organisation will look to increase digitisation and IT projects to support this; for example through greater participation and engagement in the Council's work
Digital Services Impact:	X			See above
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		The strategy is framed through the overarching vision and should support the work of the Council Strategy
Core Business:	X			The strategy picks up some of the learning from Covid-19 and how this can help improve and offer new services from core business.
Data Impact:		X		None initially through the strategy

4 Executive Summary

4.1 This report sets out the recovery strategy for West Berkshire. This is being brought to the Executive as an early piece of work that sets out:

- The principles behind recovery work
- A brief summary of response work
- The key themes that the Council will focus on as part of the recovery period
- A summary of key actions undertaken already

4.2 Much has changed for our communities due to Covid-19. This strategy highlights some of the changes, the impact and the opportunities. The strategy sets out the key themes the Council will focus on as well as some of the immediate actions undertaken as part of the recovery phase.

4.3 The recovery phase itself is expected to last at least eighteen months, and may well overlap with the response phase at points depending on how the Covid-19 virus continues to impact on day to day life. There will be a number of emerging actions that occur, and these will be framed around the themes highlighted in this strategy. Not all of the actions are known as we want to ensure that we work as closely as possible with our communities, partners and businesses to help develop actions. As the wider

economy and social changes emerge through the coming months, this action plan will need to continue to develop and morph; to include a fully costed and detailed action plan now would mean it became quickly out of date as the local picture becomes clearer. What we do know now, and informed through evidence including the residents survey is that there have been some major shifts in recent weeks to:

- (a) The immediate health of our residents
- (b) Transportation
- (c) How people are educated
- (d) Economic output and jobs
- (e) A longer term impact on health
- (f) The role of the local community and volunteering
- (g) Changes to air quality

4.4 Through a monthly dashboard, we are collating data to see how changes to the above and many other areas are occurring and will inform future actions for the Council to take.

4.5 The recovery strategy is closely aligned to the Council Strategy. Many of the actions as part of recovery will support deliver the overall strategy, and in many cases in a faster timeframe. This link is important as both are based on improving the quality of life for local residents.

5 Supporting Information

The recovery strategy is included in appendix A for review and approval

6 Other options considered

6.1 The Council could have waited to produce a recovery strategy. This would have the advantage of having much cleaner and clearer data on which to base decisions; however, this has been discounted as the Council has a fundamental role in the place of West Berkshire to ensure an effective recovery for the quality of life of our residents.

6.2 Different themes and emphasis could be placed on the key areas within the strategy. These will be open to debate, but the eight areas provided have been considered through internal consultation across the Council as well as key themes from the LRF.

7 Conclusion

The Recovery Strategy will continue to be a 'live' document; new and different actions will emerge throughout as more work is undertaken with our community and partners to develop solutions to support our community. The strategy itself sets a framework for where we will focus our effort most over the coming eighteen months and beyond to delivery for our residents.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Recovery Strategy

Background Papers:

LRF recovery documentation

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

Wards affected: ALL

Officer details:

Name: Joseph Holmes
Job Title: Executive Director (Resources)
Tel No: 01635 503540
E-mail: joseph.holmes1@westberks.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

West Berkshire Recovery Strategy

Document Control

Document Ref:	Recovery Strategy	Date Created:	
Version:	0.8	Date Modified:	
Revision due			
Author:	Joseph Holmes	Sign & Date:	
Owning Service	Resources		

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
0.1			
0.2	1.7.20	Updated for Public Health diagram	JH
0.3	3.7.20	Updated after operations Board	JH

Contents

1. Foreword.....	3
2. Executive Summary.....	3
3. Introduction.....	4
4. Summary.....	5
5. Priorities.....	9
6. Actions.....	18
7. Implementation.....	18
Appendices.....	19

1. Foreword

- 1.1 We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic support our residents have shown one another throughout our communities across West Berkshire during the Covid-19 outbreak. At a time when many residents have experience the health, social and economic impacts from the outbreak, seeing the community pull together to support each other through whatever means they can has been incredible to see.
- 1.2 This recovery strategy aims to be built on the work that we have seen during the initial response to Covid. We want to ensure there is a legacy for many of the community groups that have emerged through greater involvement in the recovery phase, as well as seeking to provide new Council activity from the newly formed Community Hub.
- 1.3 Our immediate focus in this strategy is on the health, educational and economic recovery; three areas that are fundamental to making West Berkshire such a great place to live; and the three areas that have felt the most immediate impact from the outbreak. We have already made a start to recover some of these areas, for example with immediate help to local businesses and supporting schools in opening further. Our focus also needs to be on environmental renewal and taking advantage of opportunities from Covid, for example to support better air quality for our residents and the promotion of more active travel to help support physical and mental health. We also want to improve our engagement, to strengthen communities to become more involved in supporting one another to become more resilient.
- 1.4 We know that we cannot undertake the recovery work alone. There are many partners we want to work with to support this work. We also recognise that some of the impact and policies will come from Central Government. This strategy therefore focusses on our local recovery in West Berkshire and what all of us in the district can do to contribute to keep making West Berkshire a great place to live.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the recovery strategy for West Berkshire. This is being brought to the Executive as an early piece of work that sets out:
 - The principles behind recovery work
 - A summary of the response to date
 - The key themes that the Council will focus on as part of the recovery period
 - A summary of key actions undertaken already
- 2.2 Much has changed for our communities due to Covid-19. This strategy highlights some of the changes, the impact and the opportunities. .
- 2.3 The recovery phase itself is expected to last at least eighteen months, and may well overlap with the response phase at points depending on how the Covid-19 virus continues to impact on day to day life. There will be a number of emerging actions that occur, and these will be framed around the themes highlighted in this strategy. Not all of the actions are known as we want to ensure that we work as closely as possible with our communities, partners and businesses to help develop actions. As

the wider economy and social changes emerge through the coming months, this action plan will need to continue to develop and morph; a fully costed and detailed action plan now would become immediately out of date as the local picture becomes clearer. What we do know now, and informed through evidence including the residents' survey, is that there have been some significant changes and our focus is on:

- (1) The health of our population
- (2) The educational success of the district
- (3) The economic success of West Berkshire
- (4) A strong and supported community sector
- (5) An environmentally focussed renewal
- (6) An enhanced openness of how we work and sharing of information
- (7) The enhanced quality of life of our communities

3. Introduction

Purpose

- 3.1 This document sets out the strategy for the recovery and enhancement of West Berkshire. The strategy has two main focusses:
 - (1) To recover the 'place' to where it was before Covid-19 – in respect of a healthy, prosperous and economically active area.
 - (2) To ensure a number of enhancements and changes to accelerate our work with our communities and our environment.
- 3.2 West Berkshire has many strengths, the resilience of our population being one of them, we want to work with our communities and our partners to deliver this strategy. Much of the actual delivery and the solutions are not known in detail at the moment; some of the solutions will, and must, come from working with others and not be a Council-centric view. It is essential that our recovery planning is informed by what our communities are telling us so that we understand what matters to them, what works for them and then act on this. We have started by engaging with our residents through a survey (summary results of which are included in appendix C), but we know we need to keep doing more and fundamental to the success of this strategy will be working with partners and our communities. Only through this work will we better placed to keep making this a great place to live.
- 3.3 It should be noted that this strategy does not focus on the Council's own internal services' recovery to normal which has been considered through the GOLD/SILVER command scheme in Spring 2020.

Vision

- 3.4 Our vision is to recover three of the core elements that make West Berkshire a great place to live; health, education and the economy, and to ensure a renewed and enhanced focus on our community, environment and engagement. All with the aim to improve the quality of life for those who live in West Berkshire.

Partnership

- 3.5 This strategy does not have a completed action plan. We want to work with residents and partners to help develop some of the emerging actions. The information from the residents' survey in late May/early June 2020 and subsequent targeted engagement will be crucial in providing views of residents to develop future actions. The community impact assessment will also guide the actions we take. There have been some actions that have been implemented already, a completed list can be found further in the report, and the strategy highlights these, where immediate timescales have been put in place, particularly via Central Government, but the focus of the long term nature of the recovery strategy is that we want to work with others to involve people beyond the Council to develop new solutions and actions.
- 3.6 Finally, the Council has an existing Council Strategy; the recovery work does not seek to replace this, but to enhance this strategy through ensuring its delivery and where possible accelerating and enhancing some of the themes and actions within this strategy.

4. Summary

Summary of Response

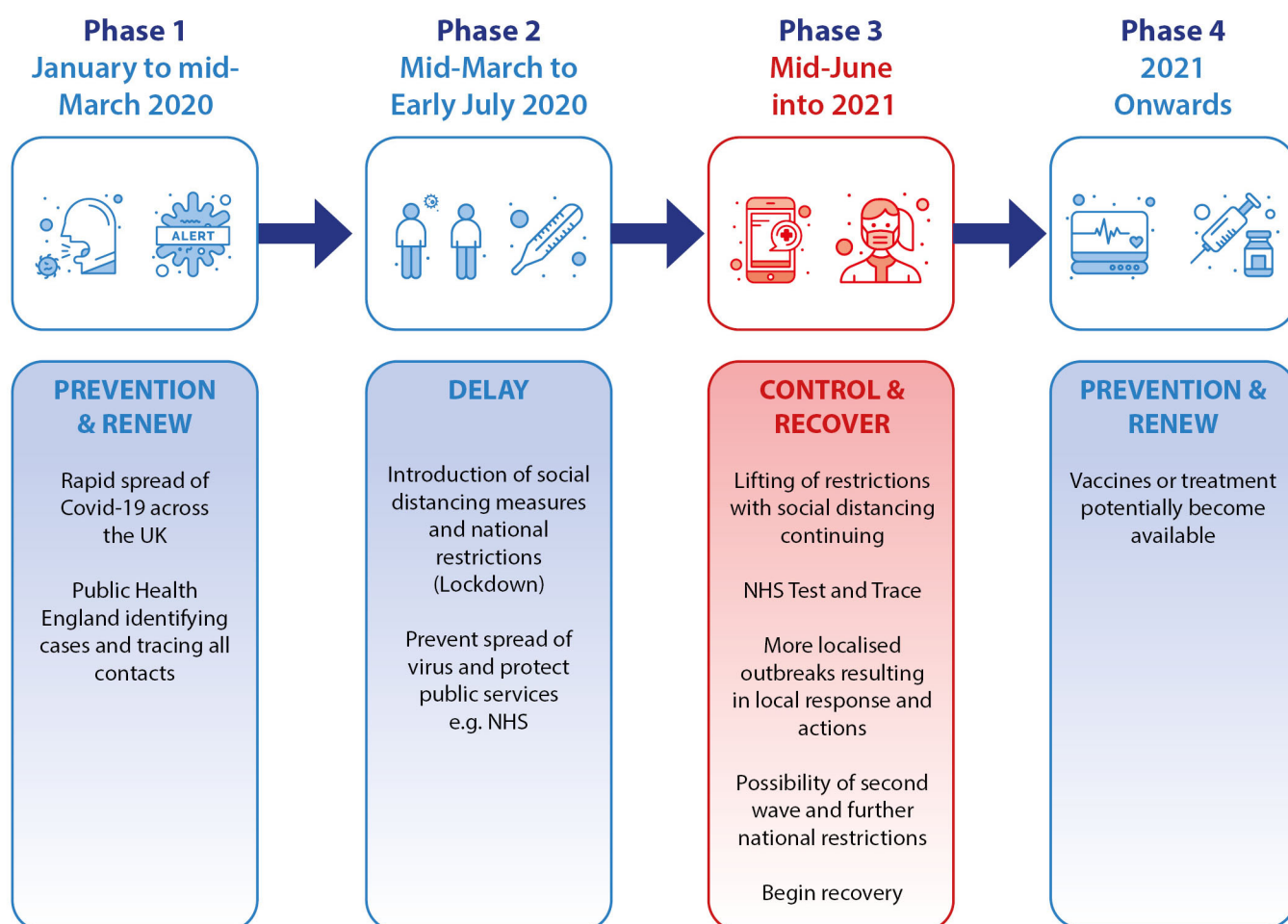
First Wave: Weeks 1 to 19 (30th January – 6th June 2020)

- 4.1 The ultimate objective of pandemic planning and response is to decrease mortality and to limit the health, economic, and wider wellbeing impacts on populations. This has been the focus of the work of the council's Silver and Gold crisis management cells. An overview of the response phase is included in appendix A.
- 4.2 At the national level, the government have co-ordinated the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, supported by multi-disciplinary scientific advisors. Locally, our Public Health & Wellbeing Team with support from the Director of Public Health for Berkshire and Public Health England have been at the forefront of the council's efforts to plan for, and respond to, the Covid-19 emergency across the District.

A Timeline

- 4.3 The pandemic and the responses required have been fast moving and complex, involving many services across the council and impacting all West Berkshire residents. The infographic summarises some key events in the course of the first wave, together with key milestones in local and national responses.

Figure 1.1 – Covid-19 timeline



The Local Public Health Response

4.4 During the past few months, a range of public health responses have been rapidly set up and implemented across the Council.

Communication with Residents

4.5 Given the novel and rapidly developing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been necessary to communicate with the community in order that they quickly understand why measures are being put in place and what individual protective measures can be taken, as well as gaining support for the response itself.

4.6 The Covid-19 Communications Cell has led these efforts. A range of communication channels have been used: digital adverts, newspaper articles social media accounts, web pages, digital chat-box, e-newsletters and leaflets. A notable example was the leaflet sent to shielded residents, in mid-April.

4.7 The Community Support Hub has played a key role in the local pandemic response, mobilising volunteers to enable extremely vulnerable people to be shielded.

Surveillance – Detection (Test) and Isolation of Cases

- 4.8 The Council has worked with Thames Valley Health Protection Team, Public Health England and Berkshire West CCG to respond to Covid-19 outbreaks in West Berkshire care homes and other complex settings. Support to care homes has included additional infection control training and PPE. Care Home managers will soon benefit from some new targeted digital Covid-19 resources and a new Covid-19 Support Plan. Testing has expanded from facilities for front line staff provided by the local NHS, operating from West Berkshire Community Hospital to a mobile testing unit available in Thatcham for several days during April and May. Public Health are advocating for a regional testing station to be established in West Berkshire or Reading in the coming weeks. This will enable easier access to testing for residents.

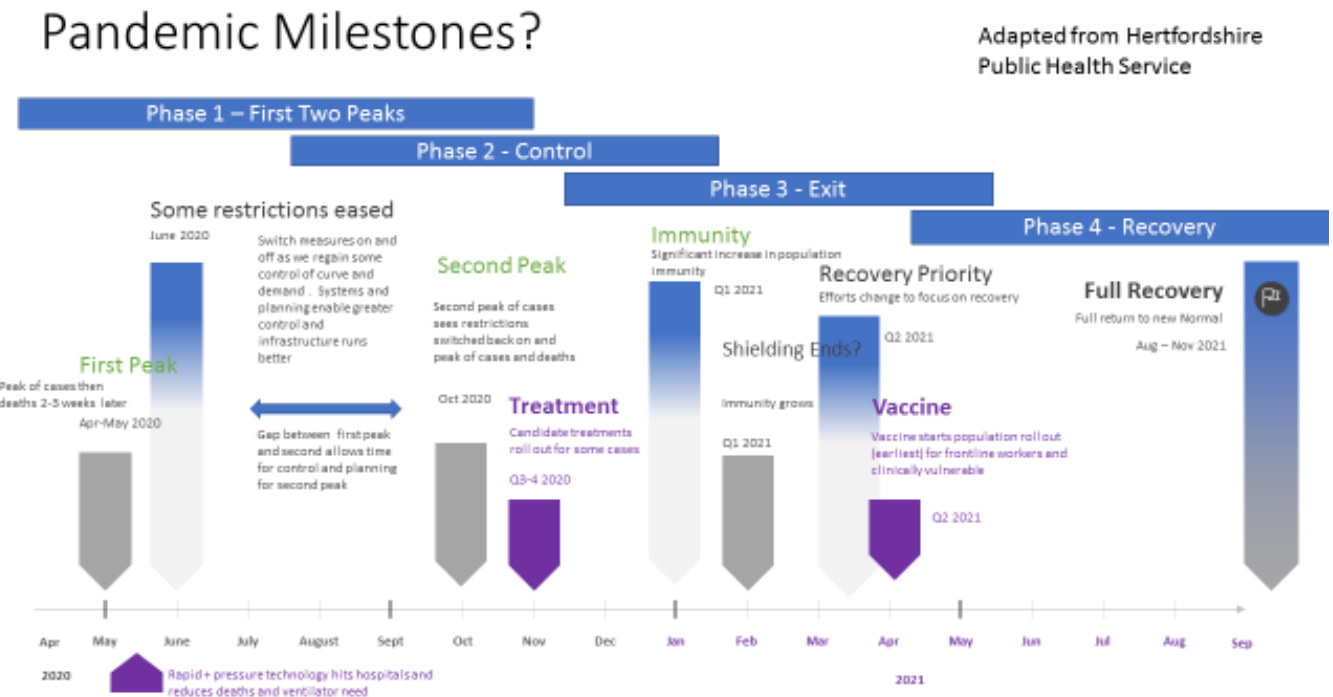
Local Outbreak Management

- 4.9 There have been Covid-19 outbreaks in nineteen Care Homes across the District. Responding to these outbreaks has been a key part of the council's pandemic response. The public health team have worked with the NHS and Public Health England to ensure additional infection control training and PPE for care home staff.
- 4.10 Most recently a new Contact Tracing Response Cell for the district has been established in anticipation of managing other local outbreaks and a plan produced by the of June 2020.

Transition from Response to Recovery in a Pandemic

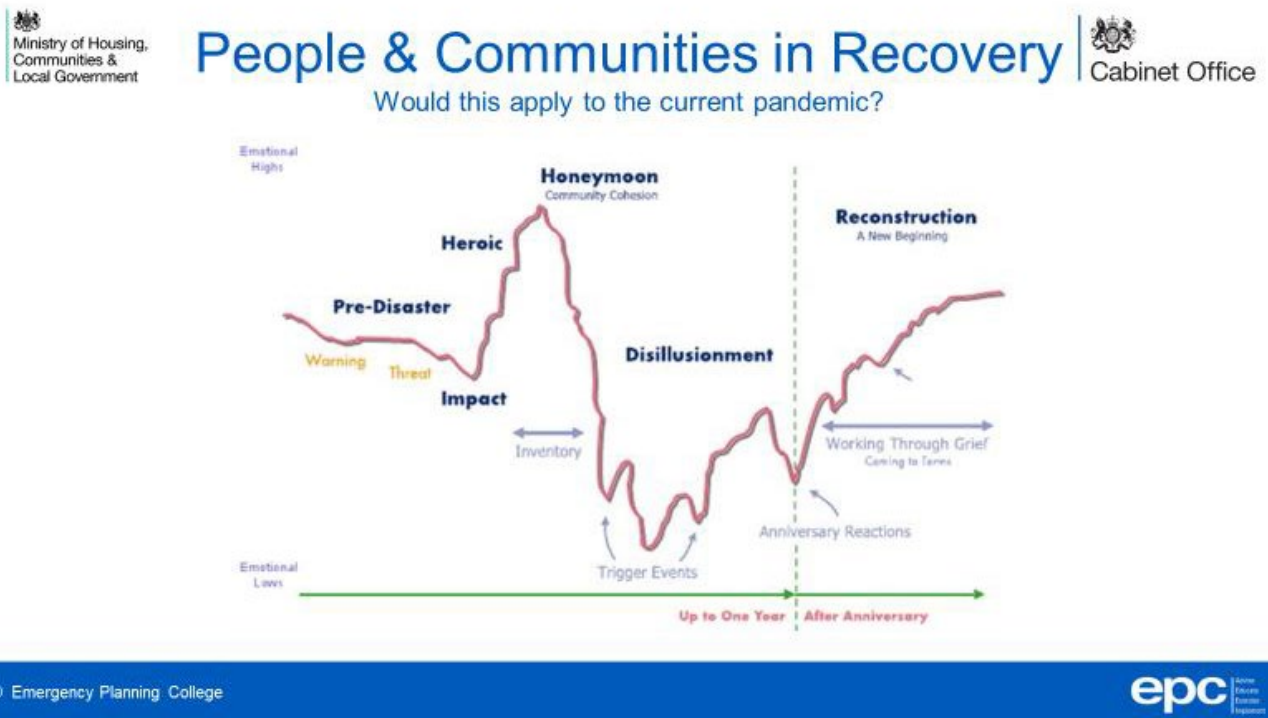
- 4.11 The diagram below demonstrates the challenges to be faced over the coming months for any recovery when we may be faced with additional peaks of infection and variations in timescale for testing, building immunity in the community and the potential for a vaccine which could allow for recovery to hasten. With no vaccine however there may be periods of response for the whole of the UK or specific geographic areas for years to come. This does not negate the need for recovery to start but means the process needs to be flexible and consideration as to when the recovery process is built into normal business rather than run the risk of creating a whole new industry.

Figure 1.2: Potential pandemic milestones



4.12 In addition to managing the changes we are likely to face due to the nature of the virus, understanding our people and communities is essential in order to support them effectively towards their own recovery. The diagram below considers this in a timeline for non-pandemic recovery situations. To understand more and therefore support our communities effectively we need to ask them and understand the changing needs of affected individuals and communities over time.

Figure 1.3: Impact on people & communities in recovery



Our Principles for Recovery

- 4.13 Our overarching principles are reflected below as to how we will approach the recovery stage and through the Council's recovery group (appendix B for the Terms of Reference).
- Support the safety of our communities
 - Mitigate any negative impact on the health of our communities and of inequalities
 - Prepare for the future
 - Work to connect communities and individuals
 - Use an inclusive and multi-disciplinary approach
 - Exploit opportunities arising from the pandemic
 - Be agile and innovative
 - Learn from others
- 4.14 We know that we need to be more risk aware and the Government's own recovery plan articulates:

"A 'zero risk' approach will not work in these unprecedented times. The Government will have to invest in experimental technologies, some of which are likely not to work as intended, or even prove worthless. But waiting for complete certainty is not an option."

5. Priorities

- 5.1 The overall priorities of the strategy can be distilled into the following key areas with some commentary highlighting its importance.
- 5.2 The impact of Covid-19 will be unequal between different groups in society with those in most need prior to the pandemic probably harder hit. We will often need to take targeted and differentiated actions to prevent inequalities becoming greater across all areas of work for recovery.

Health and Social impact

- 5.3 We know that our community has been severely impacted through Covid-19. Direct harm as a result of Covid-19 infections will require assistance for those who are recovering from these traumatic events and bereavement support for those who have lost someone they love. The Government response to minimize this through social distancing, isolation and the closure of various organisations and sectors, has caused significant disruption to peoples' lives. It has also impacted on peoples' access to health & well-being services in the NHS, local government and other supporting agencies including charities. Due to the restriction in resources indirect harm will have occurred to those with urgent non-Covid-19 conditions and hidden safeguarding concerns. The interruption to, and postponement of, these services will have caused further impacts on peoples' health. In the longer-term the health, mental health and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic and resultant economic injury and deprivation will be felt, and disproportionately so by specific groups. Some of these impacts are captured in Appendix A. The Council needs to support our community in recovering from the impact of this, with particular attention to the most vulnerable building on the work of the Community Support Hub and of Public Health and working with wider Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

- 5.4 Assistance will be needed for those who have lost their livelihood and homes and continuing the good support already seen for those who are homeless during the response phase.

Direct Economic Impact

- 5.5 The direct economic impact has been significant. Nationally, there has been a drop in GDP of 20.4% in April 2020¹. As part of immediate recovery, the impact on business needs to be understood through working with partners on engagement and available data, and additional considerations for the Council, for example through business support measures such as the discretionary grant scheme, lobbying on behalf of business and funding set aside for understanding the future of town centres. There has also been an increase in residents claiming unemployment benefits of over 1% and from the resident's survey 32% of respondents have seen a decrease in household income during Covid-19, and there is an impact as well as a role for Council in addressing immediate hardship with partners and which groups have seen the greatest impact of this. There will be new opportunities as different markets emerge and the local economy is able to take advantage of these; 64% of respondents to the survey were more likely to support local businesses, the Council can consider how it may wish to support this activity.
- 5.6 The longer term economic impact is much more difficult to identify, though recent polling by Ipsos MORI highlights that when asked the question "One year from now, how much, if at all, do you think Britain's economy will have changed as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, compared with before the Coronavirus?" – 88% of people responded 'a great deal' or a 'fair amount'. The Council will work with local and regional partners, for example Thames Valley Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and Newbury West Berkshire Economic Development Company, to understand the longer term impact and see where the Council can support businesses to recover the strong economic position locally before Covid-19. This work will also consider the future of town centres and support for these.

Direct Educational Impact

- 5.7 A large number of the district's children have not been in attendance in educational settings. Access to face to face training, the impact on apprenticeships and adult learning have all been severely impacted due to Covid-19. We have a strong educational base in West Berkshire and want to see this returned to as quickly as possible. The risk as part of recovery to the future educational achievement of students across all settings is an increased inequality of learning opportunities and an increase inequality in the qualifications that individuals achieve. This can have a significant impact on the future life chances and health of our residents. In the response and early recovery phases the Council needs to balance the need for social distancing measures with economic impact of parents not returning to work and children and young people not attending education. Children and young people often face the brunt of the economic impact with those leaving education, particularly those with low qualifications being most at risk of unemployment. We need to support our young people in equipping them with the skills for jobs of the future.

Environmental Impact

¹ ONS – services fall 19%, manufacturing 24.3% fall, construction fall 40.1%

- 5.8 The Council has an Environment Strategy shortly due for approval following consultation. The impact of Covid-19 on the environment has been significant. We know that transport journeys have dropped and nationally that there has been an improvement to air quality locally at the Newbury AQMA the Nitrogen Oxide levels decreased in March, and showed a year on year fall in February and January too². Initial survey results suggest a third of our residents are exercising more and almost half are planning to walk and cycle more which will support more forms of active travel that benefit the Environment. However, a quarter of residents are exercising less and further analysis to better understand this and interventions to overcome these barriers to be considered. These improvements in air quality provide an opportunity for supporting greater biodiversity and health. However, as social distancing measures ease there is a risk of increased car usage and associated decline in air quality.

Community Resilience

- 5.9 This has been particular evidence in the response period; the fantastic work of our community to provide support and assistance to one another. We want to build on this, not through mandated approaches on a top down basis, but to work with the community on exploring what works and doesn't work for communities to remain resilient and build on the significant volunteering effort of the past months. We have started this work through the Community Hub and considering its future.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.10 It is vital to the success of the recovery phase and the success factor below, that the Council engages more with residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of Covid-19. We know we need to keep improving; the advent of the newsletter, grater social media presence, and new digital solutions to support and build greater trust, but we want to reach out more to work with our community to understand the impacts of the pandemic on our residents and listen to what they need and to act on this. We will need to develop more innovative ways to engage with our community to ensure the voice of those most affected are heard, particularly BAME population, elderly, children and young people, families in financial hardship and other vulnerable groups.

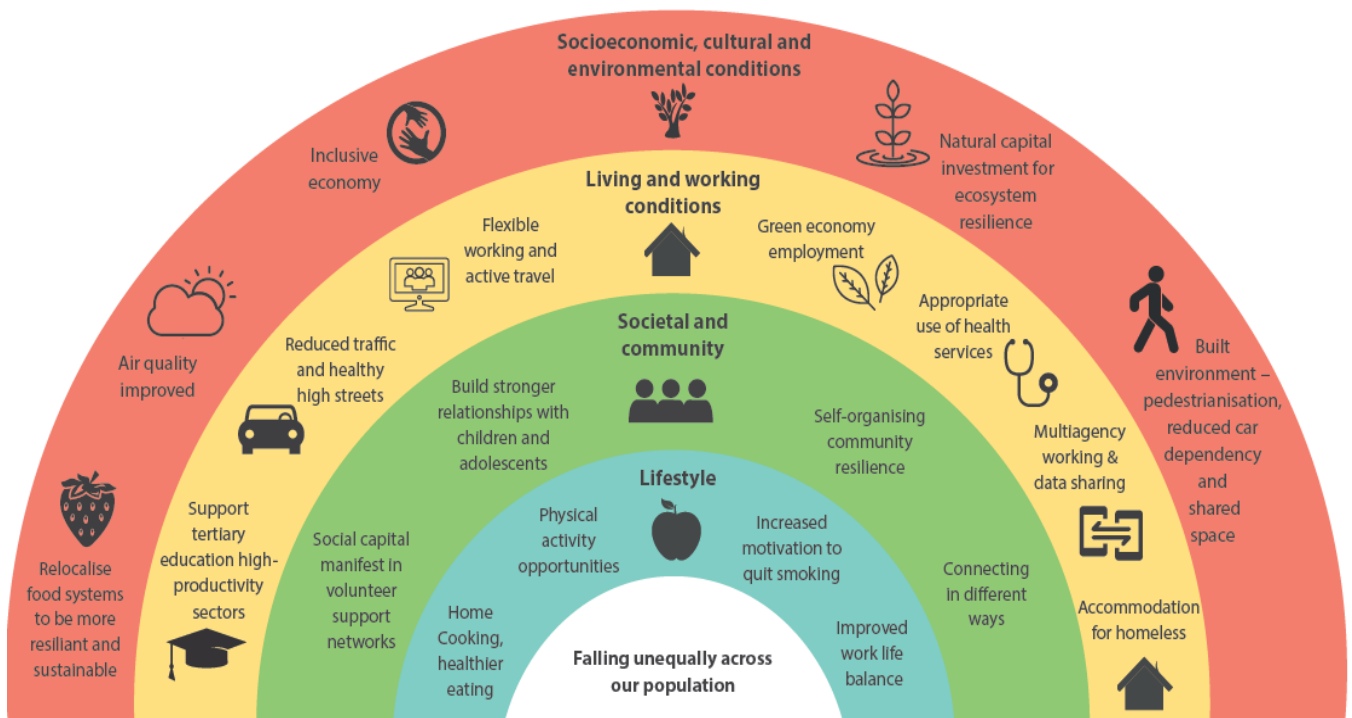
Seizing the positive

- 5.11 Finally, we want to build on, during what has been a very traumatic and difficult time for many, the positives that have emerged. The stories, the support, new ways of working and the new relationships and bonds that have been forged during this period. This pandemic has put a spotlight on the inequalities within our community, in the recovery to move forward together we have the opportunity to build better economic, environmental, living and working conditions to improve residents health and prosperity (see figure x).
- 5.12 There will be a Recovery Group that will oversee the longer term phasing of recovery activity. There is a clear relationship with the response phase and the unknown nature of Covid-19, future implications of this will mean that response and recovery run in parallel for a substantial period of time.

² <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/coronavirus-pollution-environment-lockdown-carbon-emissions-charts-a9510636.html>

Figure 1.4 opportunities from Covid-19

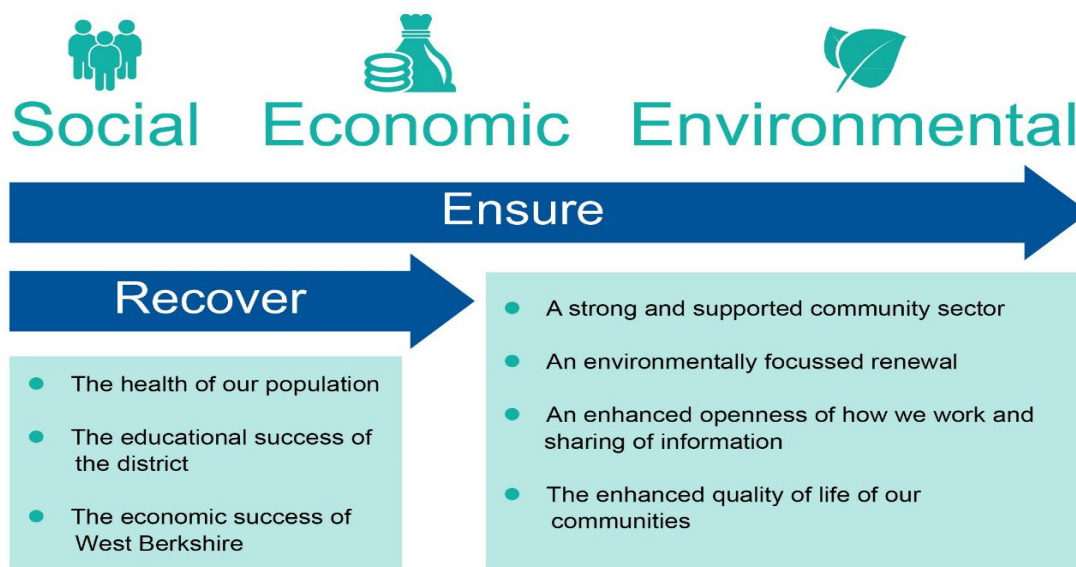
Further detail on the specific impacts are highlighted in Appendix A



Critical Success Factors

5.13 The Critical Success Factors (CSF) are the key areas that will focus on to deliver the purpose of the Recovery Strategy. There is a strong link between these CSFs and the purpose above; all relate to the Social, Economic and Environmental recovery of West Berkshire. It is these areas that we will keep coming back to, in order to assess if we are delivering a recovery strategy that is fit for purpose and that is having a real, and positive, impact on our residents and businesses. These should support the reduction of health inequalities through the recovery period and afterwards.

Figure 1.5: Summary of recovery themes

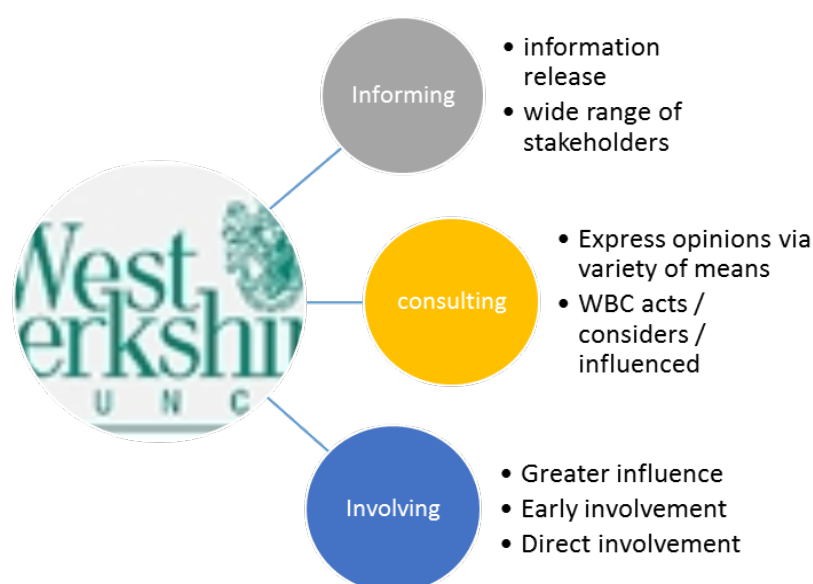


These are supported by a short dashboard of indicators (existing wherever possible) to help view where the impact changes on a monthly basis.

Engagement

- 5.14 A vital part of the recovery strategy, and something that has been highlighted in the response phase of the Covid-19 is that we need to continue to reach out to the community through informing, consulting and crucially involving our residents and business.

Fig. 1.7: Engagement and recovery



- 5.15 The first element of this is the Residents' Survey which took place between the 22nd May and the 8th June 2020. We will be seeking to repeat a number of the questions included in this to help inform and understand how the Recovery Strategy changes. There will also be further analysis undertaken on the results, linkages across answers and the free-text responses.

5.16 The summary results are highlighted below and this document has been written to reflect this – further detail are included in appendix C to this document: This survey will be amended and run again in the early Autumn 2020 and will be supported by actions from recovery group to reach out to underrepresented groups, i.e. those we know have been disproportionately affected but not yet heard.

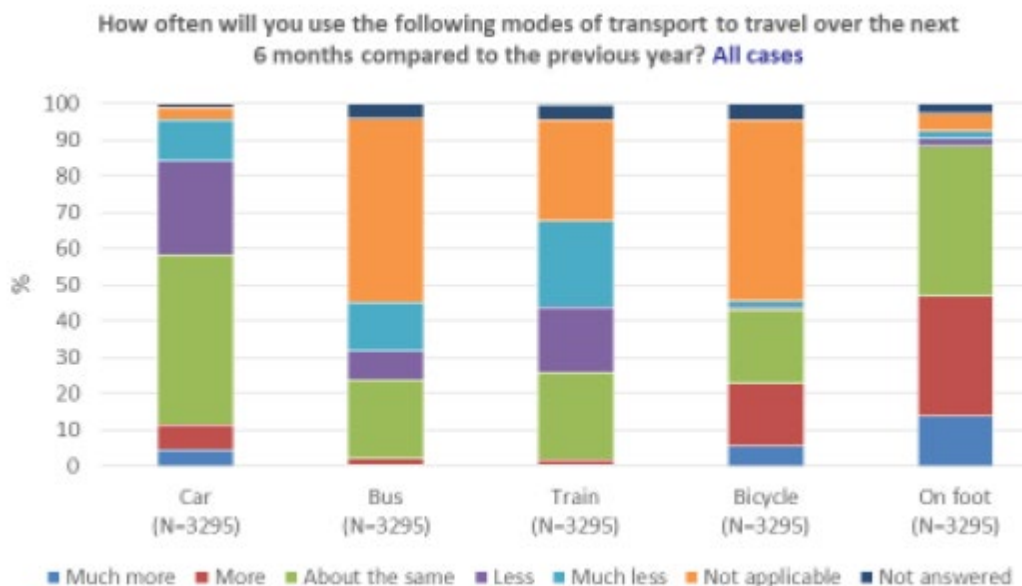
5.17 The survey was split broadly into economic, social/health, and environmental areas with questions about the Council’s response:

- Economic
 - A significant majority of people feel covid-19 has made them more likely to support local businesses in the future
 - Nearly a 1/3 of respondents reported a lower household income
 - Over 1/3 people have used local businesses but 26% have used them less during the period
 - 31% of respondents will use the high street less in the future with 10% more

- Socio-health
 - Where applicable, majority of people will work from home more
 - A ¼ of respondents have volunteered
 - A 1/3 of respondents are exercising more but a ¼ exercising less
 - Over 1/3 people feel more or much more connected to their local community but nearly 20% felt less or much less connected

- Environmental
 - People expect to make large changes to how they travel

Fig. 1.8: Transport and survey response



- Nearly 60% did not think Covid-19 would impact on making the district carbon neutral, but those who did see an impact, roughly ¾ thought it would be less difficult and ¼ more difficult

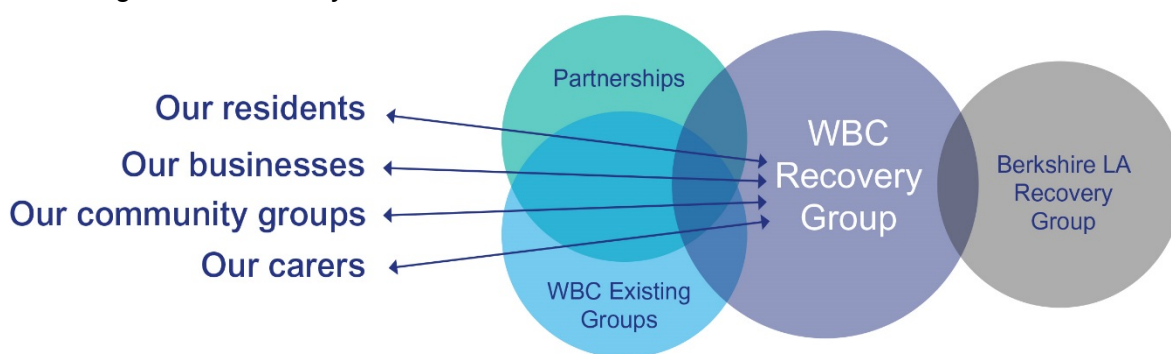
- Council
 - Majority know about the Community Hub
 - A strong preference for communication via e-mail
 - A majority felt the Council’s response to Covid-19 has been good or excellent

The Strategic Framework

5.18 The Recovery Strategy is co-ordinated through a recovery group. The group is chaired by the Executive Director (Resources) and includes the Chief Executive, Leader and representatives from across Council services. The recovery group does not operate in isolation however and the diagram below sets out some of the different internal and external groups that are involved.

5.19 The diagram below shows how this links – the Berkshire LA recovery group then feeds into the Strategic Recovery Co-ordinating Group (SRCG) as part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) infrastructure.

Fig. 1.10: Recovery and Berkshire / LRF



5.20 The list below of partner and internal existing groups is not an exhaustive one. Importantly, new partnerships will likely be formed as part of the recovery work, and task & finish groups may also need to be created; though all attempts will be made to use existing WBC groups. There will also be new, as well as existing, partnerships to be made. Some of these will be with the private sector, others through other public or voluntary sector organisations. All of them will be with the purpose of delivering a strong recovery for West Berkshire.

Governance of the Critical Success Factors

Theme (CSF)	Internal Group(s) & Members & Officer Lead (in italics)	External Partners
(1) The health of our population	Health & Wellbeing Board steering group <i>Executive Portfolio: Deputy Leader of Council and Adult Social Care</i> <i>Head of Public Health & Well-being</i>	Clinical Commissioning Group Health Watch Royal Berkshire Hospital Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Public Health Thames Valley Police Sovereign Royal Berkshire Fire Service Volunteer Centre West Berkshire

Theme (CSF)	Internal Group(s) & Members & Officer Lead (in italics)	External Partners
(2) The educational success of the district	tbc <i>Executive Portfolio: Children, Young People and Education</i> <i>Head of Education</i>	Schools Forum Newbury College West Berkshire Training Consortium Student voice? Parent voice?
(3) The economic success of West Berkshire	Economic Development Board <i>Executive Portfolio Holder: Finance and Economic Development</i> <i>Economic Development Manager</i>	Thames Valley LEP Newbury BID Newbury West Berkshire EDC Chamber of Commerce
(4) A strong and supported community sector	Health & Wellbeing Board steering group <i>Executive Portfolio: Leader and District Strategy and Communications</i> <i>Head of Public Health & Well-being</i>	Ward Members Town & Parish Councils Greenham Common Trust The Voluntary Sector Community Groups Building Communities Together Team
(5) An environmentally focussed renewal	Environment Board TAG EAG <i>Executive Portfolio: Environment</i> <i>Service Director (Transport & Countryside)</i>	BBOWT WSP Veolia Community groups
(6) An enhanced openness of how we work and sharing of information	Customer First Programme Board Finance & Governance Group <i>Executive Member: Internal Governance</i>	Community Groups IT suppliers Granicus We Build Bots

Theme (CSF)	Internal Group(s) & Members & Officer Lead (in italics)	External Partners
	<i>Service Director (Strategy & Governance)</i>	
(7) The enhanced quality of life of our communities	Executive <i>Executive Portfolio: Leader and District Strategy and Communications</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>	Strategic partners Town and Parish Councils Community groups

Financial Resources

- 5.21 The Council, like much of Local Government, continues to operate under a tight financial regime. A funding review and national comprehensive spending review is all due during the recovery phase. The Council will need to respond to this and continue with savings programmes to deliver core services well.
- 5.22 There is an opportunity as part of recovery to utilise existing funding and working in partnership to delivery new solutions. Much of the change already enacted has been completed with very low levels of funding. Of course, the response has had significant financial consequences, which the Government have supported to date, with two round of non-ring-fenced funding allocations, but the new services and changes to operating made already by the Council in response to Covid-19 have been achieved through clear leadership, a will from staff to work differently, and a relatively small amount of financial resource. One of the key points for the recovery phase is how to build on this and explore working with others to deliver together.
- 5.23 Below is a summary of known funding sources that could be allocated to the recovery phase:

Funding	Amount / £k	Source	CSF theme	Rev / Capital	Comments
High Streets funding	£140	MHCLG	The economic success of West Berkshire	R	Allocation criteria as part of the grant
Council Tax recovery funding	Tbc - @ £200k	MHCLG	The prosperity of the district	R	To be considered by recovery group
Cycling & Walking infrastructure	£124 plus any second tranche	DfT	An environmentally focussed renewal	C	To be considered by Transport Advisory Group
Town Centre	£125	Council	The enhanced	R	To be

study			quality of life of our communities		considered by Economic Development Board
Community Hub	£120 to Dec. 2020	Council	The enhanced quality of life of our communities	R	Review being undertaken by Chief Executive

6. Actions

- 6.1 We wish to co-ordinate and work with partners and our community as much as possible on developing actions to deliver this strategy. Some of these are unknown as the evidence base changes in light of the local implications of Covid-19. The changing nature of the Community Hub will be a key activity for us to engagement with our community and further develop community resilience.
- 6.2 There have been a number of actions that the Council has undertaken in the immediate period between the response and recovery phase and specifically these are captured in Appendix E. This table also highlights some potential actions that are being considered and will be further populated in the coming weeks and months.

7. Implementation

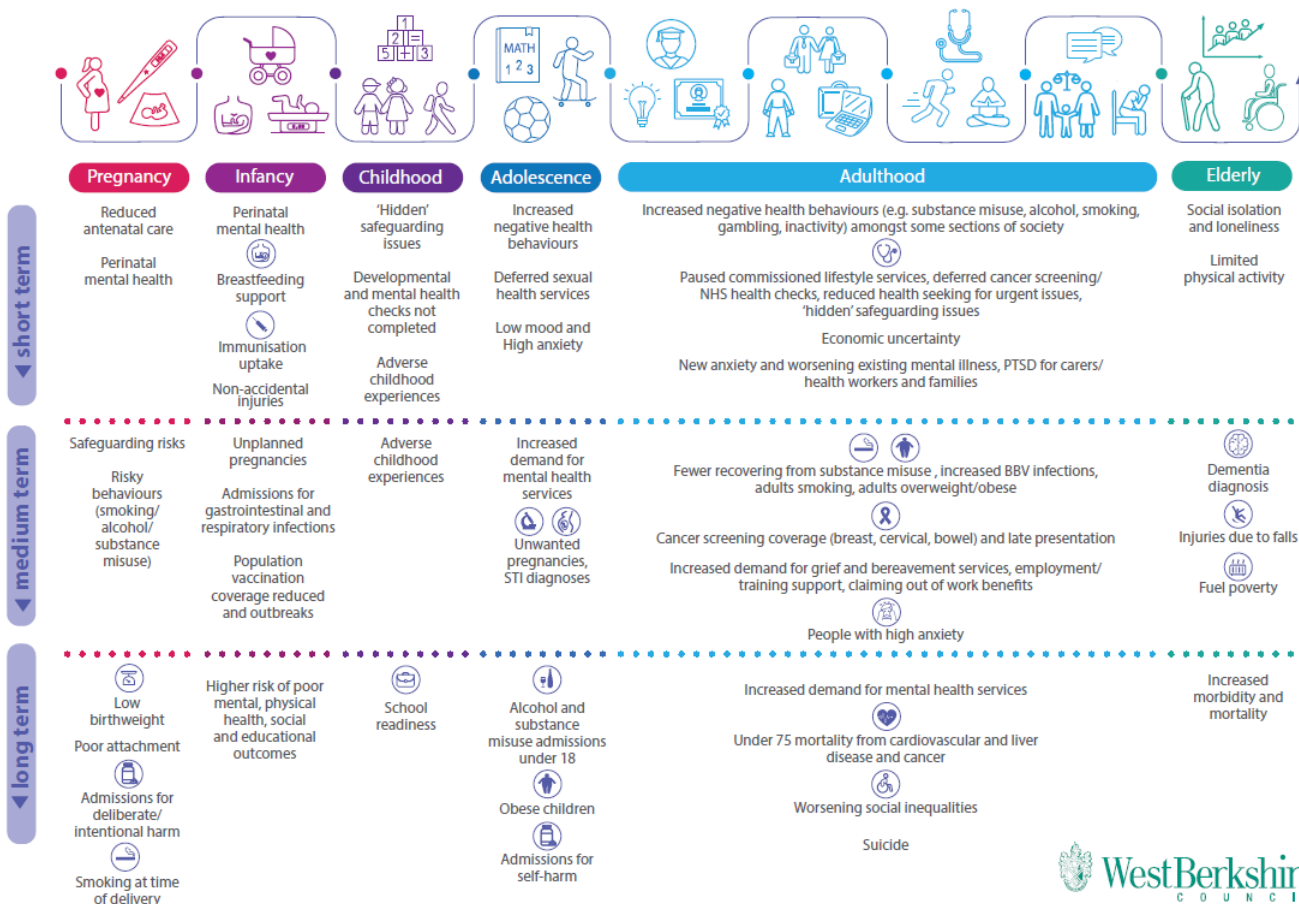
- 7.1 This Strategy sets out the over-arching purpose and themes that we are exploring and importantly from what we can influence and shape with others in West Berkshire. There is no definitive road-map to get us as a place of West Berkshire to a successful recovery; there are too many unknowns and opportunities that could be missed by putting in place a restrictive delivery plan. This Strategy does provide the areas that we will focus on, and emergent ideas and plans are being developed. Opportunities need to be taken; for example, new digital solutions for the website, virtual meetings and booking slots at the housing waste and recycling centres have been deployed and the Council has operated well and provided business as usual whilst having very few members of staff in offices. The Community Hub has been successful in reaching out to our most vulnerable. We need to build on these successes and will use them to shape new and changed services in the coming months that ensure we have a successful recovery to continue to make this a great place to live, work and learn.
- 7.2 Our next steps are to commit to:
- Continue the recovery group over the coming months
 - Engage with individual stakeholder / partner groups and collate feedback / seek effective engagement
 - Gather further national and local information as this becomes available and pro-actively seek information where it is not available
 - Produce an updated action plan with proposals over the short (within 6 months), medium (6-18 months) and long term (18 months+) action plan

Appendices

Appendix A – impact of Covid-19 and Overview of Response Phase

Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic across the lifecourse

○ Symbol indicates PHOF indicator



Overview of the Response Phase

The response to the emergency has been at a National, South East, Thames-Valley and West Berkshire level involving every agency who normally are involved in emergency response with coordination structures put in place to support that response. West Berkshire Council officers have been involved in the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum multi-agency co-ordination at Strategic, Tactical and sub groups as they formed since 31 January 2020 working to the following strategic objectives (they are not in a hierarchical order):

- Minimise the risk of Covid-19 on the public by supporting our national and local Public Health response to contain the spread of the virus.
- Provide robust guidance and information for the public, health professionals and Local Resilience Forum partners.
- Minimise the potential impact of a pandemic on society and the economy.
- Help maintain the resilience of the NHS and critical services of multi-agency partners through the implementation of business continuity
- Protect health and safety of our staff by providing appropriate guidance, equipment and support.
- Evaluate and identify multi-agency and organisational learning

- Instil and maintain trust and confidence
- The bereaved should be treated with care and compassion and their wishes for the deceased be respected wherever possible

Within West Berkshire Council a co-ordination structure was also put in place at both strategic and tactical level with the following strategic objectives:

- Preventing deaths
- Supporting the most vulnerable, both physically and emotionally, particularly those who are left alone with no family or friends to support them
- Supporting our businesses and those who are faced with real personal financial challenge
- Supporting our colleagues in Adult Social Care and also supporting each other.
- Working with and supporting our public sector colleagues and our local communities who will also want to help.

In support of these objectives a number of specific processes were put in place including:

- Social Care
- Schools & Safeguarding
- Community Support Hub
- Finance, Business & Regulatory
- Communications Group
- Death Management Planning Group

Appendix B – Terms of Reference

FINAL Terms of Reference

Name of Group	COVID-19 Recovery Board	
Purpose of Group	<p>Define a new Business as Usual (BaU) for the Place and the Council by consideration of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health impact - Economic impact - Educational impact - Environmental impact - Recovery phasing - Reshaped organisation that is more responsive to our stakeholders - Community resilience - Communication and stakeholder engagement - Seizing the positive 	
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports to Council Gold - Takes direction from TV LRF Strategic Recovery Co-ordinating Group (SRCG) and reports to the Berkshire Recovery Co-ordinating Group <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <pre> graph TD SRCG["Strategic Recovery Coordinating Group (SRCG) Chair: Duncan Sharkey (RBWM)"] Berkshire["Berkshire Recovery Coordination"] Bucks["Bucks Recovery Coordinatin"] Milton["Milton Keynes Recoverv"] Oxon["Oxon Recovery Coordination"] SRCG --- Berkshire SRCG --- Bucks SRCG --- Milton SRCG --- Oxon </pre> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Board and Operations Board 	
Commence-ment of group	May 2020 – September 2021	
Venue and Frequency	Group to operate virtually to share resources/information (Zoom) - weekly meeting to commence	
Chairman	Joseph Holmes – Executive Director - Resources	
Membership	Member Lead	Leader – Councillor Lynne Doherty
	Chief Executive	Nick Carter

	Department / Service Representatives	Jon Winstanley Paul Anstey Lee Goodall Jo England Karl Davis Michelle Sancho Holly Jenkins Sarah Clarke Mat Scalpello Melanie Ellis Karen Felgate
	Engagement	Gabrielle Mancini
	JEPU Support	Carolyn Richardson
	Admin Support	Linda Pye
	Further engagement will be required with representatives from services to identify key issues affecting recovery and for the recovery group to send situation reports as appropriate.	
Objectives of Group	<p>Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the strategy and strategic objectives for recovery. • Review government communications. • Liaise with neighbouring authorities to monitor cross border issues. • Agree an outline communications plan. • Outline financial impacts on Council. • Collate information on local businesses to help target support. <p>Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding and plan for new arrangements for our residents and businesses to support the district as a whole • Ensure we articulate and communicate what recovery and beyond means for West Berkshire • Deliver new operating patterns are considered better and should be employed rather than returning to current custom and practice. • To understand what a partial and full relaxation of government restrictions might mean for business as usual and partial opening of services currently closed. • To move the Council to a new business as usual as quickly as possible. • To work through problems that are holding back services from moving back to their normal operating pattern and consider opportunities for different operating arrangements. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the communications about the re-opening of services and facilities with members and the wider resident population. • Create a learning log as to learn from the event and take learning into new ways of working. 																				
Outcome/ Outputs of group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagining and leading on the future of the place and Council to support our residents and businesses • A Plan showing current arrangements transitioning to Business as Usual. • Headline/bulletin reports • Decision reports for Corporate Board/Member approval 																				
Decision making powers	Service area /CMT on strategic matters/Members on key decisions affecting service delivery																				
Inter-dependent groups and/or meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Board • Operations Board • GOLD / SILVER Command • Directorate Management Teams • Existing Cells: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Support Hub - Finance, Business & Regulatory - Social Care - Schools & Safeguarding - Media <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Group</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Direct economic impact</td> <td>Economic Development Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Health impact</td> <td>Health and Wellbeing Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Educational impact</td> <td>tbc</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental impact</td> <td>Environment Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Structural economic impact</td> <td>Economic Development Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recovery phasing</td> <td>Recovery Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reshaped organisation that is more responsive to our stakeholders</td> <td>Recovery Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community resilience</td> <td>Recovery Group & BCT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication and stakeholder engagement</td> <td>Customer First Group</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Group	Direct economic impact	Economic Development Board	Direct Health impact	Health and Wellbeing Board	Educational impact	tbc	Environmental impact	Environment Board	Structural economic impact	Economic Development Board	Recovery phasing	Recovery Group	Reshaped organisation that is more responsive to our stakeholders	Recovery Group	Community resilience	Recovery Group & BCT	Communication and stakeholder engagement	Customer First Group
Item	Group																				
Direct economic impact	Economic Development Board																				
Direct Health impact	Health and Wellbeing Board																				
Educational impact	tbc																				
Environmental impact	Environment Board																				
Structural economic impact	Economic Development Board																				
Recovery phasing	Recovery Group																				
Reshaped organisation that is more responsive to our stakeholders	Recovery Group																				
Community resilience	Recovery Group & BCT																				
Communication and stakeholder engagement	Customer First Group																				
Dependent documents	GOLD and SILVER reports Decision Log from Covid response Government guidance																				

Appendix C – Results of the Residents’ Survey

Appendix D – Recovery Summary on One Page

Why do we need a recovery strategy?

We know that Covid-19 has had a significant impact directly and indirectly on our community, and in a way that has impacted certain groups more than others – the impact has been unequal; so we want:

- (1) To recover the ‘place’ to where it was before Covid-19 – in respect of a healthy, prosperous and economically active area
- (2) To ensure a number of enhancements and changes to accelerate our work with our communities and our environment.

How will ensure a successful recovery?

We want to involve our community and partners in the recovery work. We know that we cannot do this alone and we know that our residents are really interested in the recovery. Our first resident’s survey at the start of June received well over 3,000 responses. Some of this will involve us communicating what we are doing, sometimes consulting and sometimes involving people and partners in the recovery work.

What have we done so far?

It is early in the recovery period, which we think will last over 18 months – we are still responding to Covid-19 – but we have started a number of actions – for example pedestrianizing Newbury town centre, supporting business re-open, reshaping the community hub, paying out discretionary business grants and re-opening schools.

What will we do next?

We are looking to keep the recovery strategy local to West Berkshire – we know that we don’t have the ability to control or influence everything – but there are a number of themes that we are focussing on. We do not have all of the solutions and answers yet – we want to involve our communities and partners in this process – but we do have 7 key themes we are basing our work on

What does success look like?

Appendix E – Initial Action Plan and potential actions

Theme	Action in progress	Future potential actions to be considered	Timescales
Health of the Population	Services increased screening for domestic abuse in assessments with service users		Complete
		Digital provision made available for many health and wellbeing services e.g. smoking cessation, substance misuse, weight management	Dec 2020
		Catch up where feasible for suspension in school-based immunisation programmes	
		DHSE £5 million fund for VCS organisations to improve current provision for bereavement services and test new ideas focused on peer-support, befriending and service user led initiatives	March 2021
		Feasibility study for the Northcroft Lido expansion	Dec 2021
Educational Success of the District	Re-opening of schools from 1 st June		Complete
		Local options to support more capacity for schools	Sept. 2020
		Enhanced support for apprenticeships	March 2021
		Support for upskilling and reskilling workforce	June 2021
		local enhancement of national summer school catch-up programme	July 2020
		Opportunities of green fiscal recovery	Dec 2021

Theme	Action in progress	Future potential actions to be considered	Timescales
Economic Success of West Berkshire	Creation of a policy and distribution of £1.2m of discretionary business grant		July 2020
	Supporting hospitality businesses through relaxing licensing obligations		Complete
	Supporting parishes and town councils with social distancing / re-opening		Complete
	Delivering a webinar for businesses on the High Streets across West Berkshire		Complete
	New town centres post created		July 2020
		Greater active promotion of local businesses	Sept 2020
		Grants then loans for specific business	March 2021
		Review council's procurement strategy and greater use of Social Value	March 2021
		Local enhancement of national summer school catch-up programme	July 2020
		Directory of businesses in West Berkshire	Dec 2020
		Support for SMEs	Dec 2020
		Update Economic Development Strategy to reflect Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy	Sept 2020

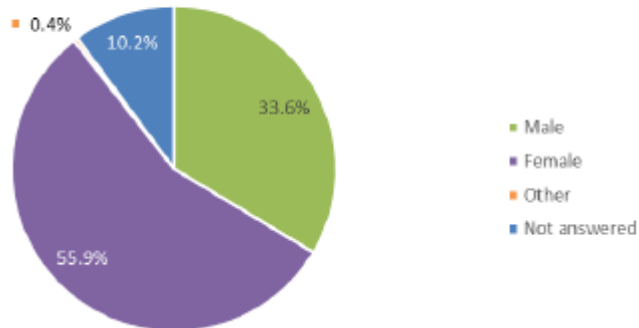
Theme	Action in progress	Future potential actions to be considered	Timescales
Strong and supported Community Sector	Review of the Community Hub and its future working		July 2020
	Distributing High Street social distancing literature and support for businesses		Complete
		Complete Community Impact Assessment	July 2020
		Voluntary Sector infrastructure organisation and support	Dec 2020
		Move libraries to hub model	Dec 2021
An Environmentally Focussed Renewal	Temporary pedestrianisation of Newbury High Street		Complete
	Commence re-opening of Council buildings e.g. Household Waste & Recycling Centres, Schools etc		Complete
	Commencement of the Active Travel fund – initial tranche of funding of £124k		Complete
	Second tranche application of Active Travel Fund		Sept 2020 tbc
		Transformed walking and cycling routes	Dec 2021
		Implementation of Environmental Strategy Delivery Plan	per Strategy
		Community PV schemes	March 2021
		Community cycling support	Dec 2020
		Green recovery led through Community Bond Investment	July 2020
		Improved air quality	Dec 2020

Theme	Action in progress	Future potential actions to be considered	Timescales
An Enhanced Openness of how we Work and Sharing of Information	Conducted a residents survey		Complete
	All public meetings to be available online		
		Repeat at 3 monthly intervals	March 2021
		New Communications and Engagement Strategy to enable greater participation in decision making	Dec 2020
		Review of Council offices and enhanced community sector use	Dec 2020
		Greater engagement with residents to ensure a greater reach and involvement of our communities	Ongoing
Enhanced Quality of Life of our Communities		All Rough Sleepers will be offered accommodation and those at risk of homelessness will have the support to prevent this happening	Dec 2020
		Opportunities for better engagement specifically with: - BAME community - young people	Dec2020
		Actions developed from survey outcomes - especially on mental health	Dec 2020
		Tailored survey / focus groups with under-represented survey respondent groups	Dec 2020

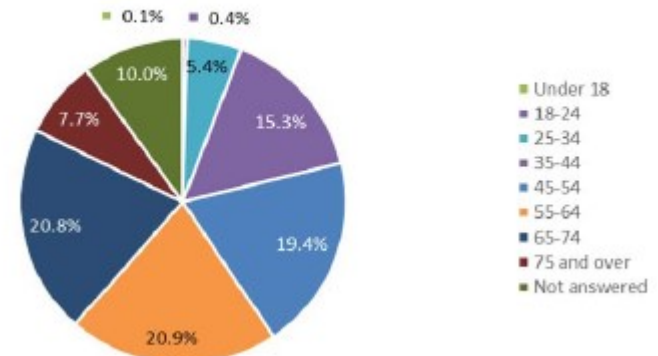
Covid-19 Residents' Survey Results

About the respondents

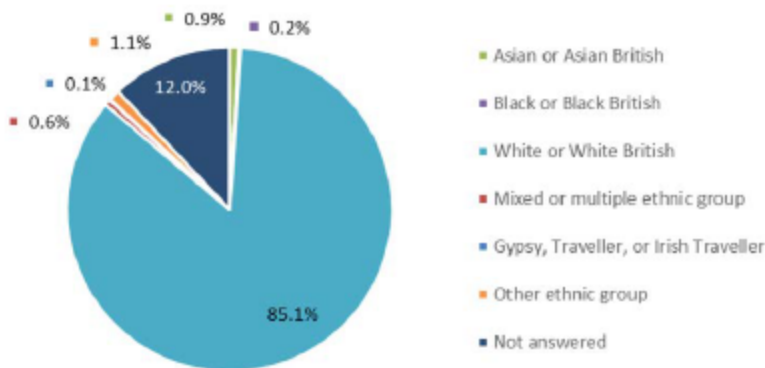
What is your gender?
All cases



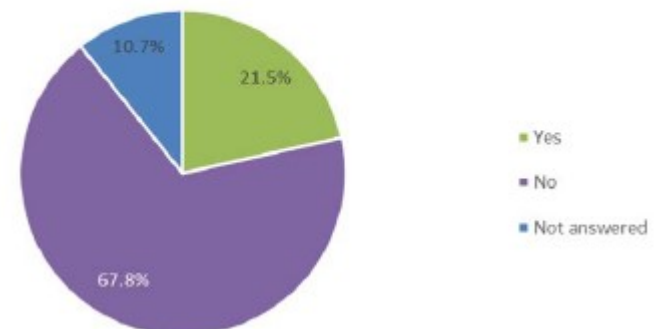
How old are you?
All cases



What is your ethnic group?
All cases



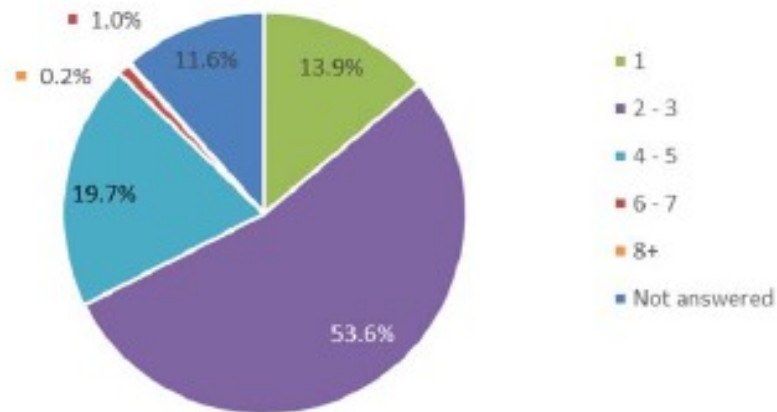
Do you have a disability, long-term illness, or health condition?
All cases



About the respondents

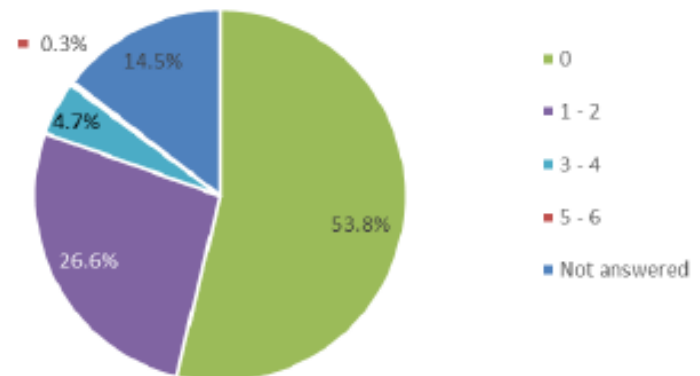
How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

All cases



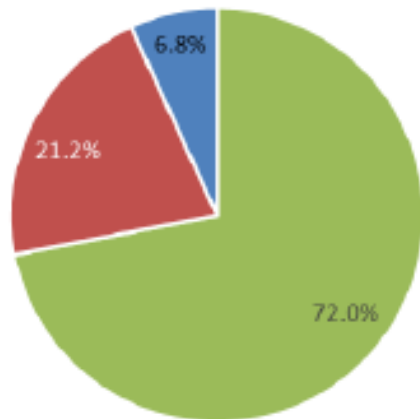
How many dependants live in your household?

All cases



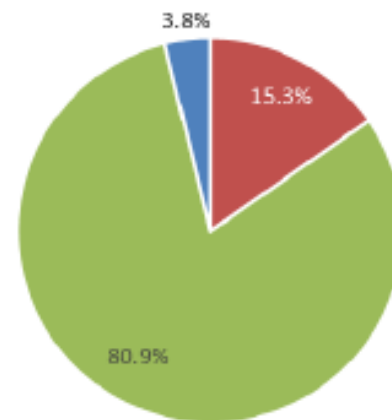
Covid-19: Infections & Support

Are you aware of the Community Support Hub?
All cases



- Yes
- No
- Not answered

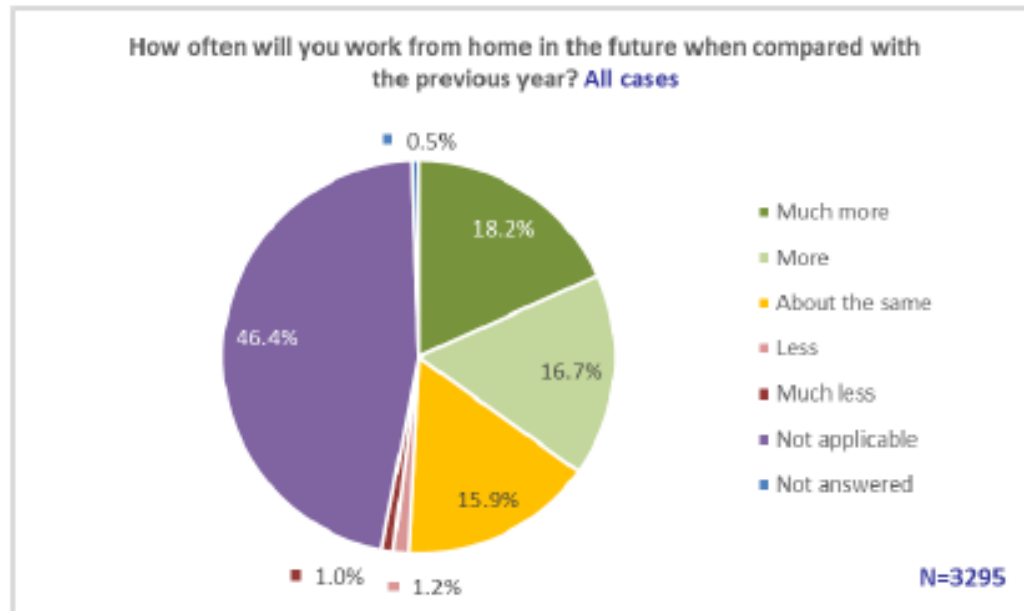
Do you believe that you, or someone in your household, has been infected with Covid-19? All cases



- Yes
- No
- Not answered

Travel

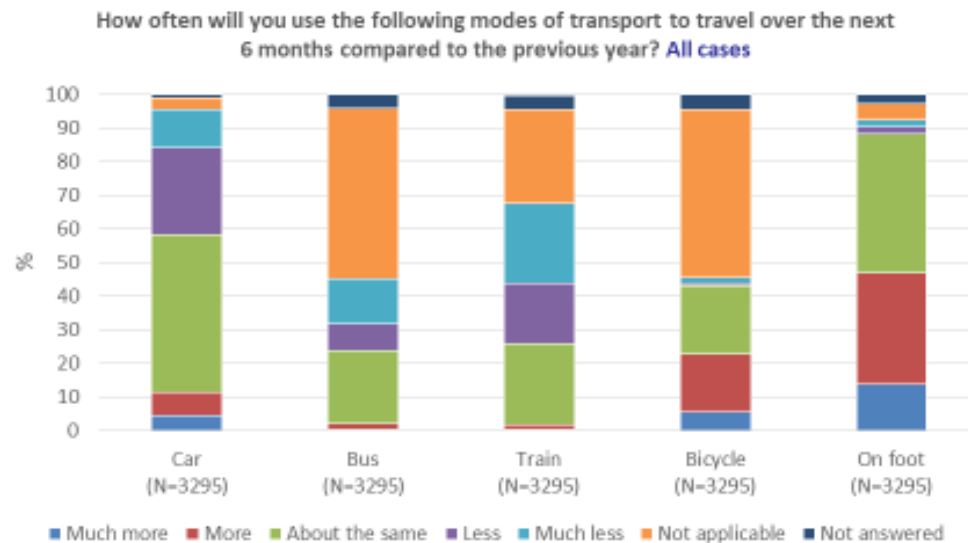
1150 out of 3295 respondents (34.9%) said they would work from home more (16.7%) or much more (18.2%) in the future when compared with the previous year. 15.9% said about the same and for 46.4% it would appear it wasn't an option as they answered not applicable.



Travel

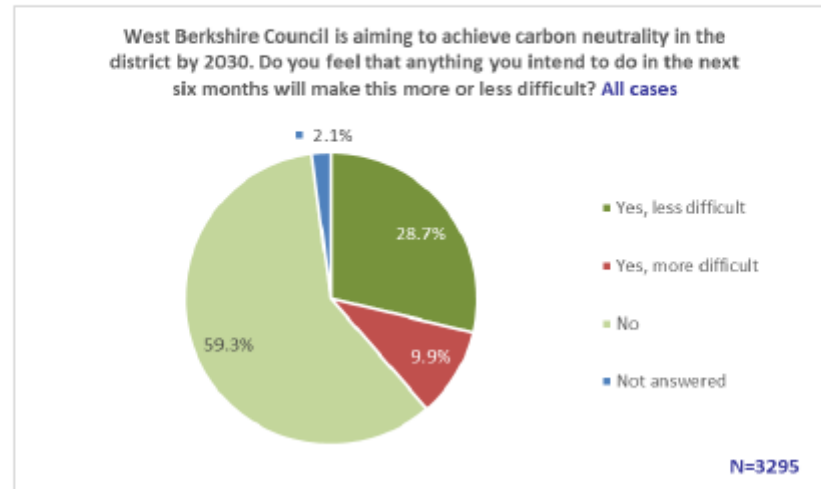
Q2: How often will you use the following modes of transport to travel over the next 6 months compared to the previous year?

11. 37.2% of respondents said they would travel by car either less or much less over the next 6 months when compared to the previous year. 47% said about the same.
12. 41.5% of respondents said they would travel by train either less or much less.
13. 46.9% of respondents said they would travel on foot more or much more. 41.3% said about the same.



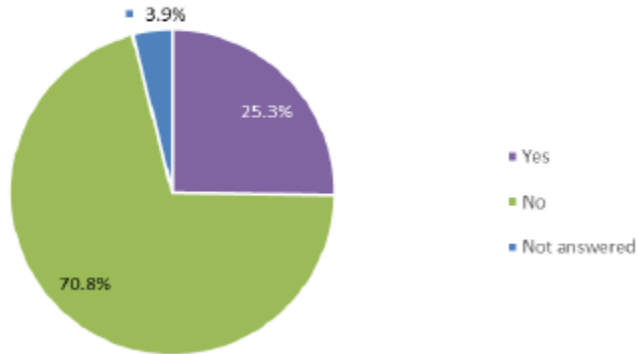
A carbon-neutral district

28.7% of respondents said that what they intended to do over the next six months would make WBC's aim to achieve carbon neutrality in the district less difficult, compared to 9.9% who said more difficult. More than half (59.36%) of the respondents answered no.

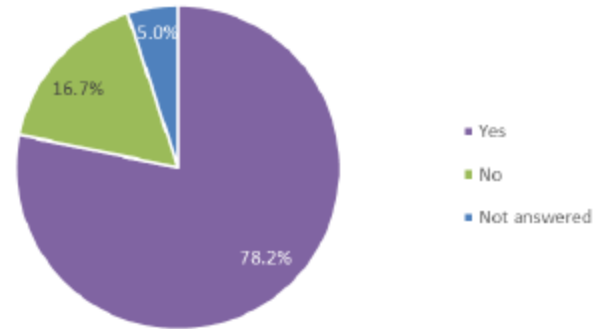


Volunteering

Have you volunteered to help in your local community during Covid-19?
All cases

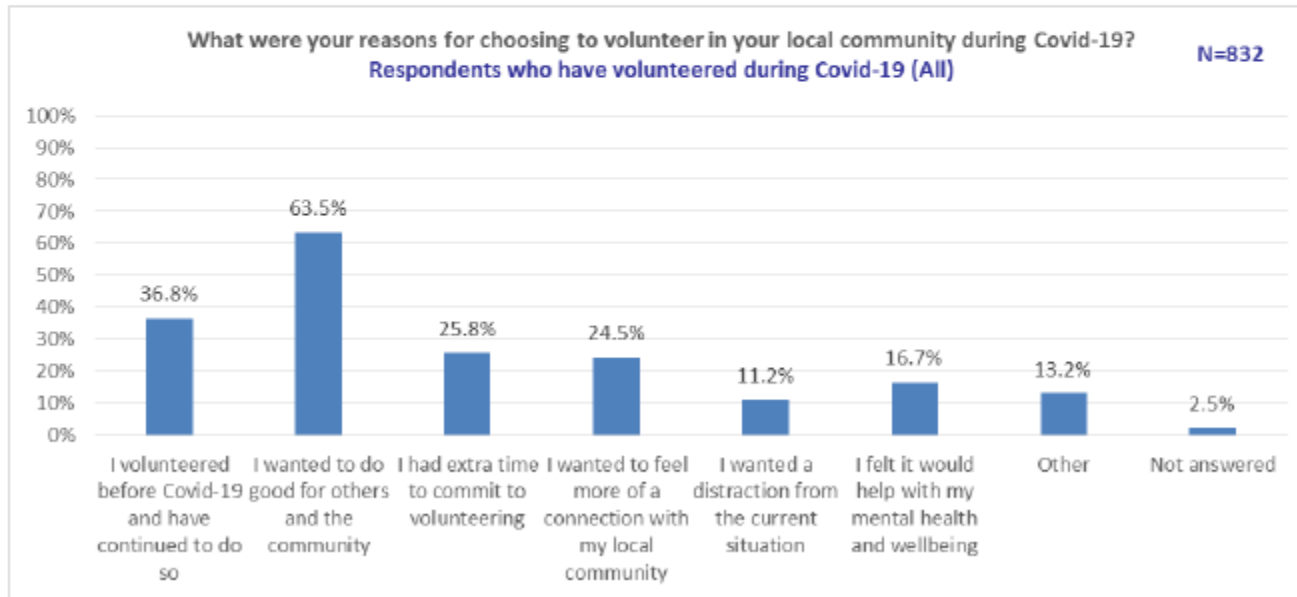


Do you intend to keep volunteering in your local community after Covid-19? Respondents who have volunteered during Covid-19 (All)



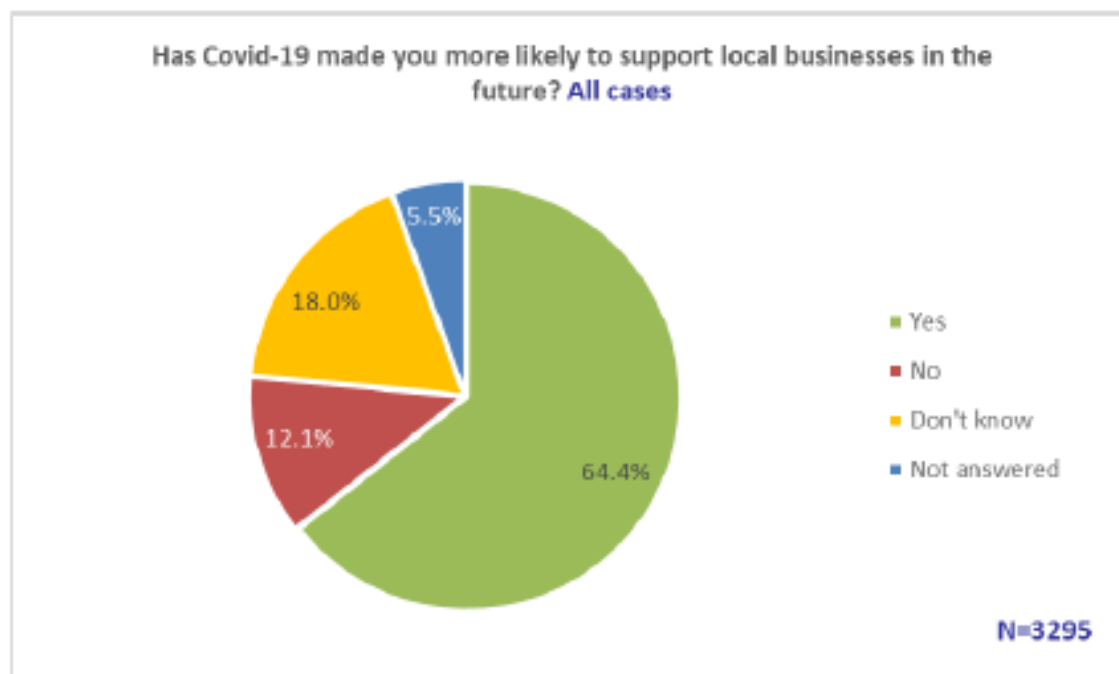
Volunteering

26. Of the 832 respondents who have volunteered in the local community during Covid-19, 63.5% did so as they wanted to do good for others and their community. 36.8% volunteered before Covid-19 and have continued to do so, and 25.8% said they had extra time to commit to volunteering.
27. 24.5% also said they wanted to feel more of a connection with their local community, and 16.7% said they felt it would help with their mental health and wellbeing.



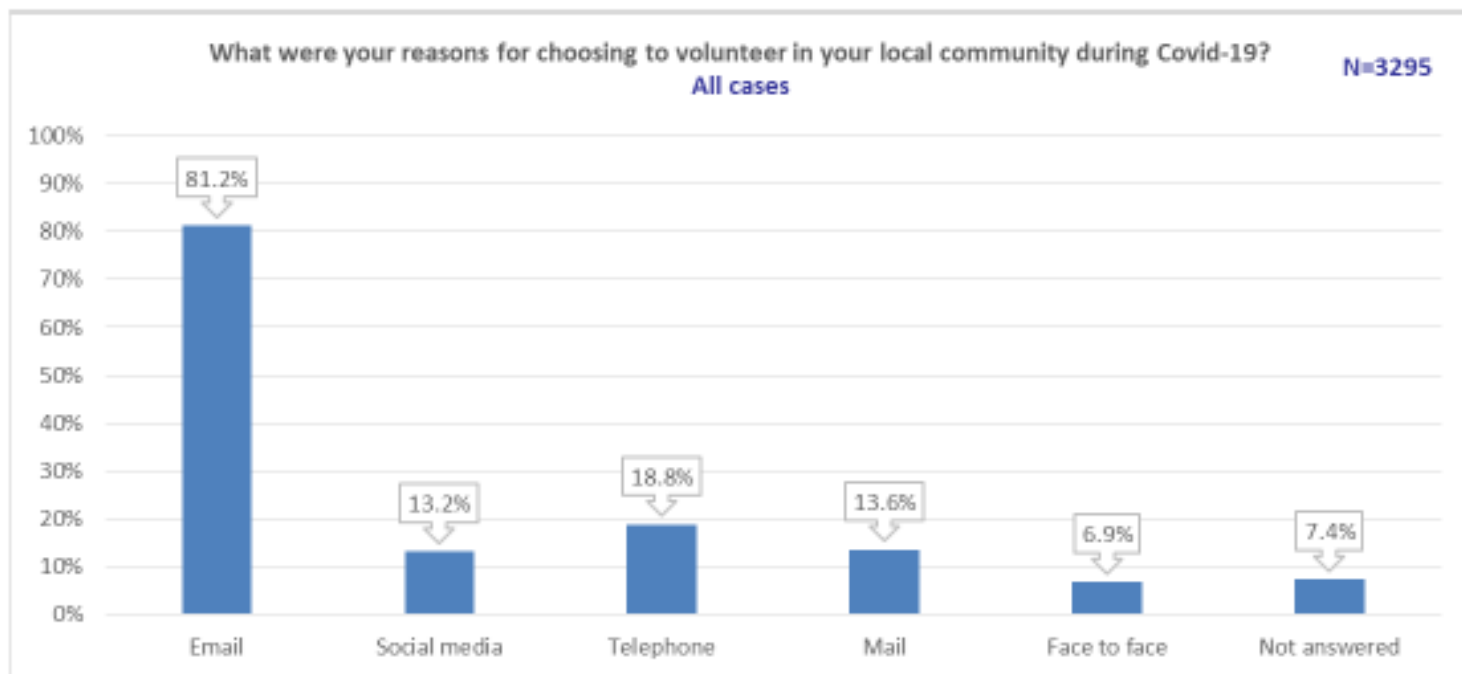
Supporting local business

33. 64.4% of respondents said that Covid-19 has made them more likely to support local businesses in the future.



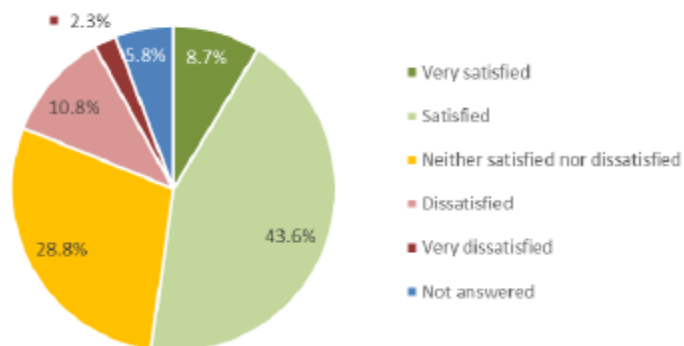
Communicating with the Council

81.2% of respondents' preferred method of communication with the council is email. Approximately 1 in 5 (18.8%) preferred method is telephone. Only 6.9% prefer face to face.

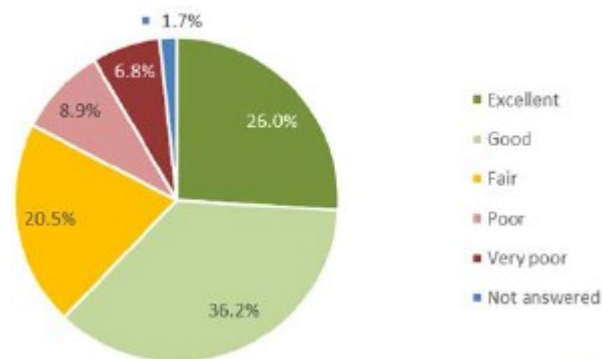


Customer satisfaction

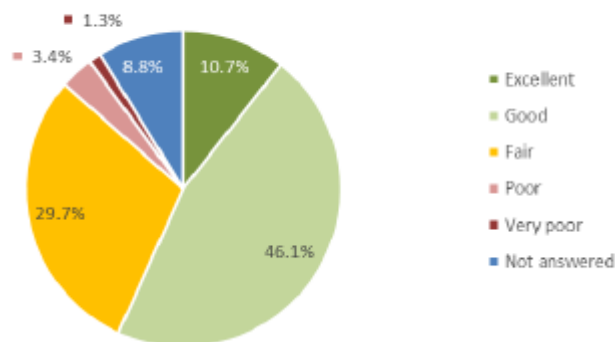
Overall, how satisfied are you with how West Berkshire Council runs its services? **All cases**



How would you rate your contact with the council? **All respondents who contacted the council**



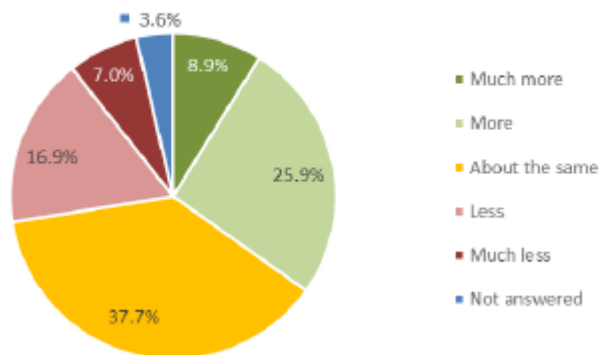
Overall, how would you rate the council's performance in relation to managing the local response to Covid-19? **All cases**



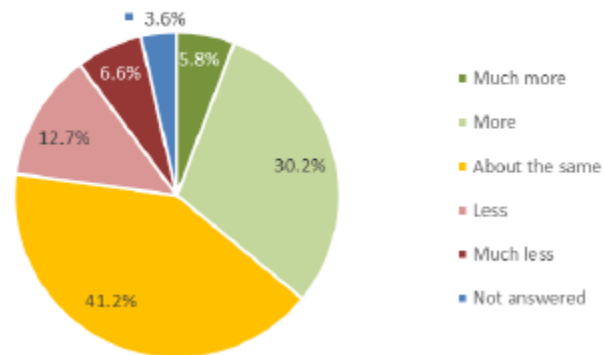
Mental Health & Exercising

How often are you exercising now compared to before Covid-19?

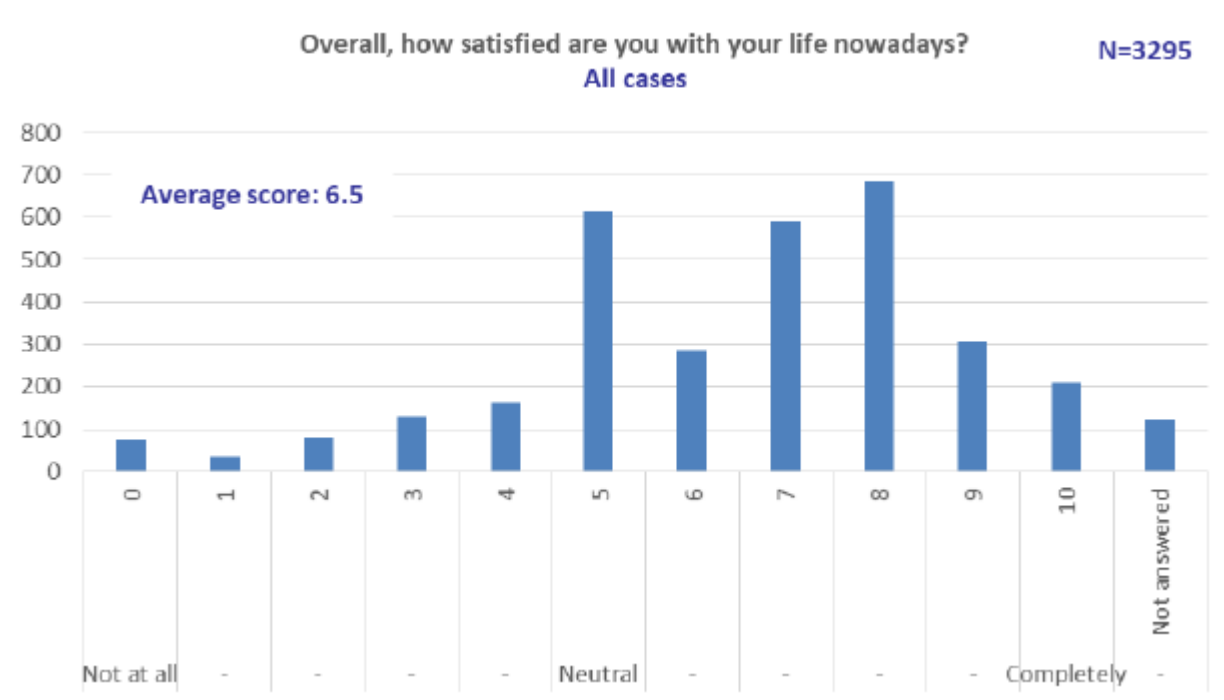
All cases



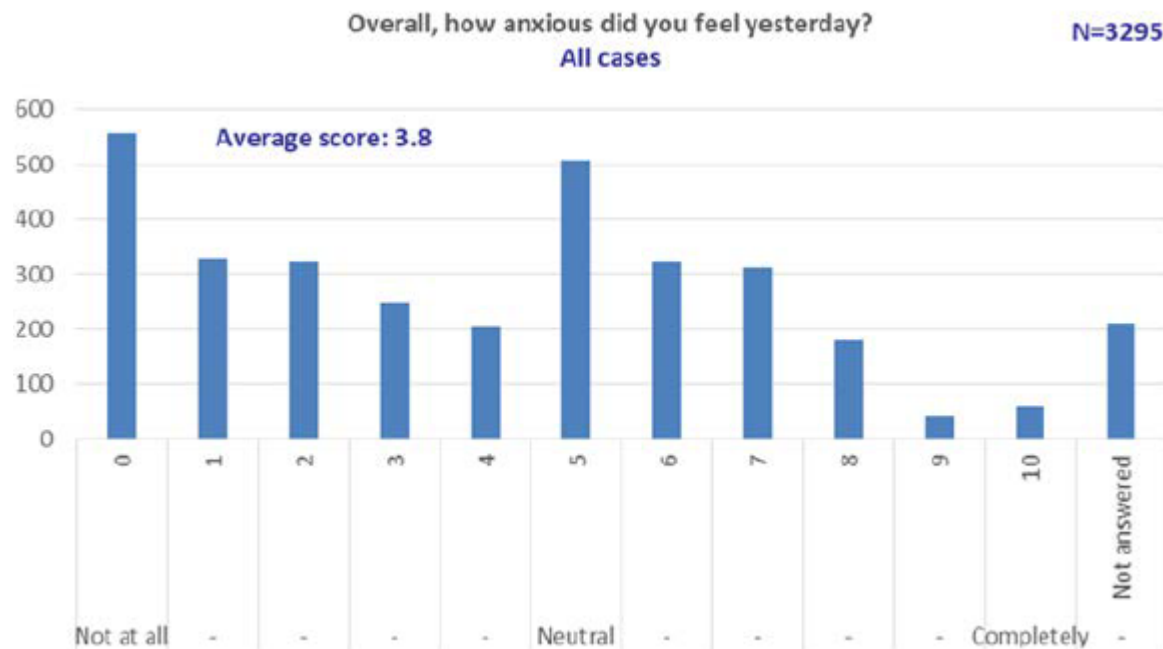
How connected do you feel to your local community now compared to before Covid-19? All cases



Exercising & Mental Health



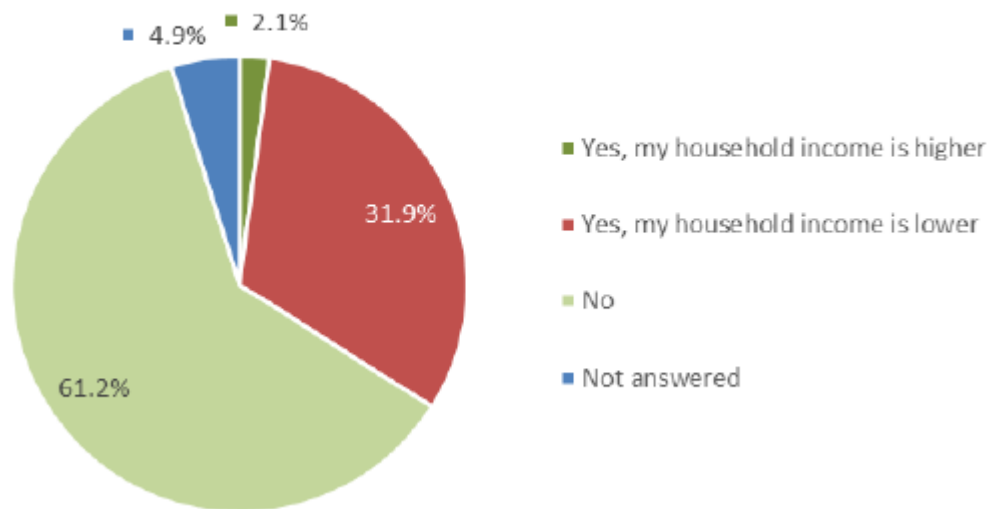
Exercising and Mental Health



Other effects of Covid-19

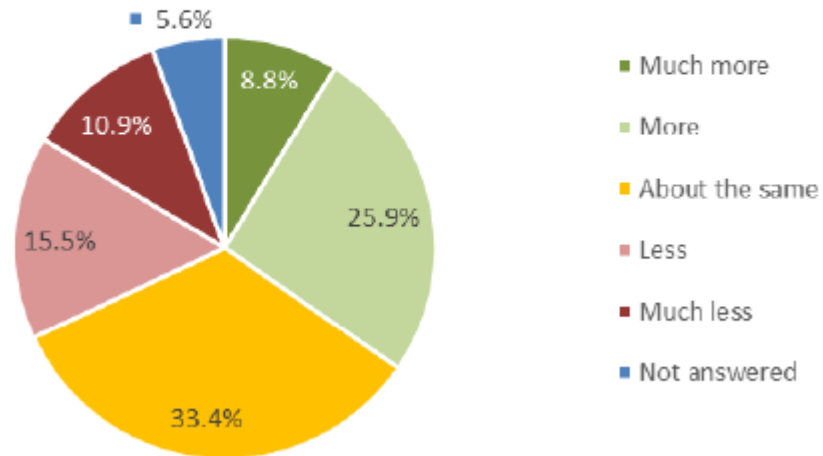
Has your household income been affected as a result of Covid-19?

All cases



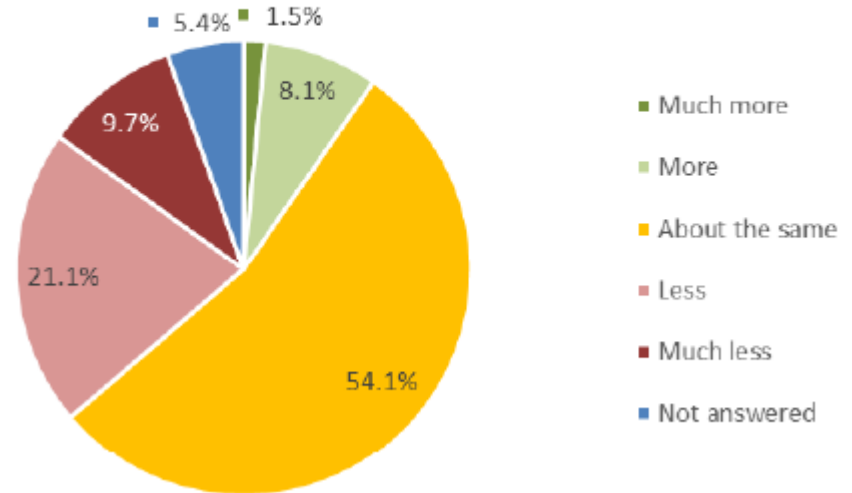
Other effects of Covid-19

How often have you used local (within West Berkshire) businesses, either by visiting them or by using online local delivery, during Covid-19 compared to before? **All cases**



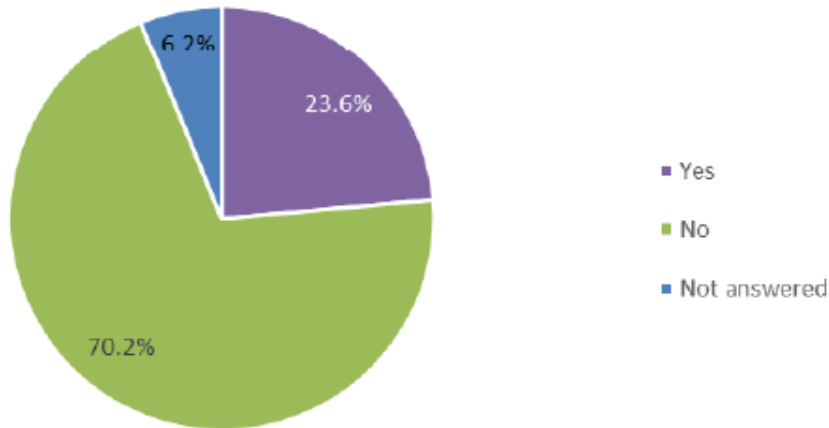
Other effects of Covid-19

When able, how often do you think you'll visit your local town's high street compared to before Covid-19? **All cases**

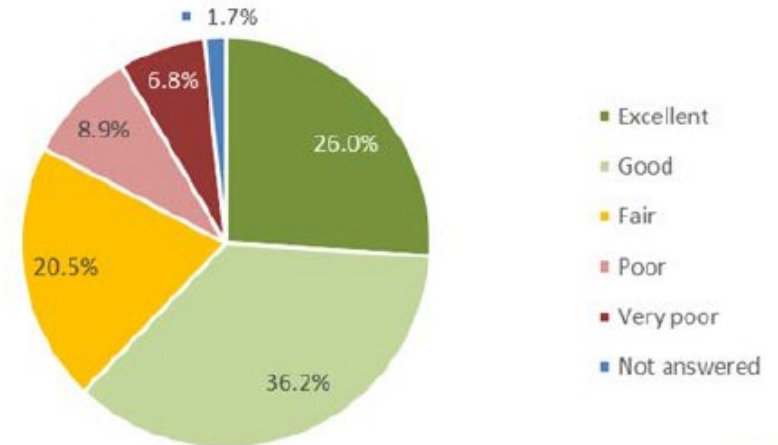


Contacting the Council

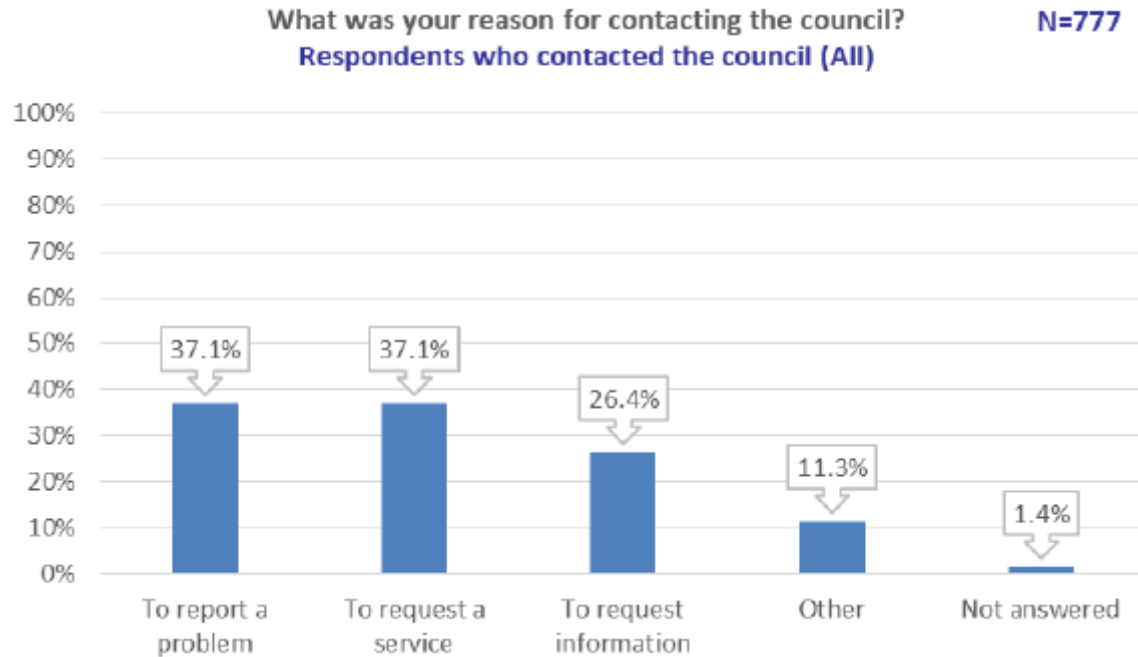
Have you had any need to contact the council between March and June this year? **All cases**



How would you rate your contact with the council?
All respondents who contacted the council



Contacting the Council



2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Ross Mackinnon
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	25 June 2020
Report Author:	Melanie Ellis
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3798

1 Purpose of the Report

To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets. This report is the provisional outturn position for 2019/20.

2 Recommendation

2.1 To note the provisional outturn position of £1.46m under spend.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

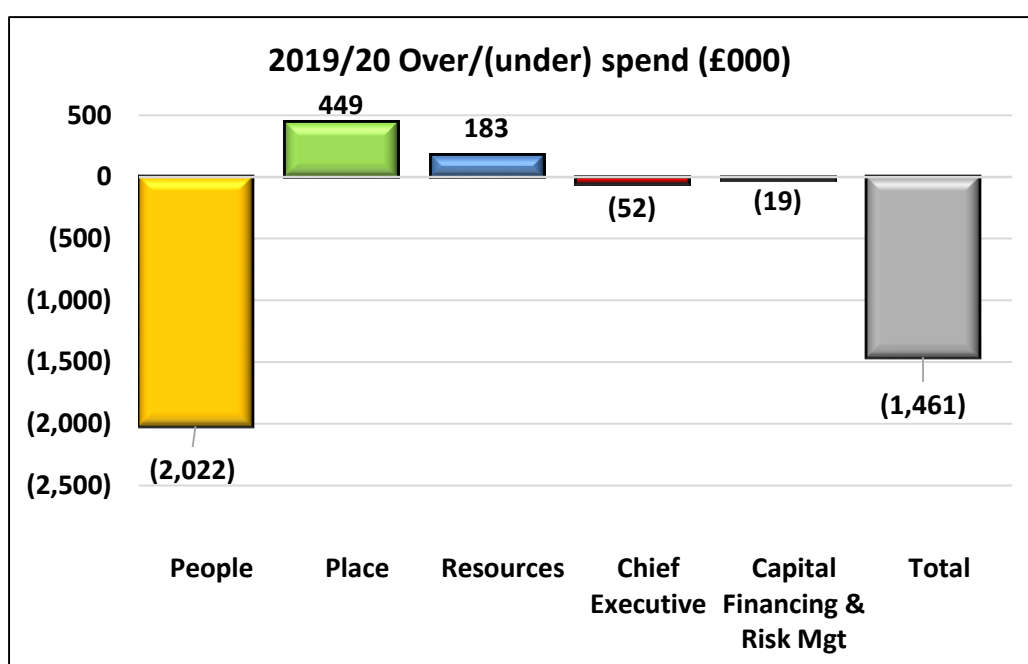
Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The provisional outturn is an under spend of £1.46m against a net revenue budget of £125m. The under spend equates to 1.2% of net budget.
Human Resource:	None
Legal:	None
Risk Management:	None
Property:	None

Policy:	None			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		y		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		y		
Environmental Impact:		y		
Health Impact:		y		
ICT Impact:		y		
Digital Services Impact:		y		
Council Strategy Priorities:		y		BAU
Core Business:		y		BAU
Data Impact:		y		

Consultation and Engagement:	Budget holders, Heads of Service and Directors, Corporate Board.
-------------------------------------	--

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report is to inform members of the financial performance of the Council’s revenue budgets. This report is the provisional outturn position for 2019/20.
- 4.2 The provisional revenue outturn position is an under spend of £1.46m, which is 1.2% of the Council’s 2019/20 approved net revenue budget of £125m. The under spend will have a positive impact on General Fund reserve. The Directorate position is shown below.



- 4.3 The People Directorate under spend comprises £1.3m in Adult Social Care (ASC), £435k in Children & Family Services (CFS) and £245k in Education.
- 4.4 In ASC, long term services under spent by £932k arising from Continuing Health Care funding, higher than modelled levels of deceased clients, competitive pricing, over achievement of income and the introduction of the new Approved Provider Listing from October 2019 held prices of domiciliary care, particularly in Quarter Four when fully implemented. The under spend is reflected in the model for 2020/21. Short term services under spent by £735k due to utilising own services when users are discharged from hospital leading to lower than expected pressures in the last quarter, care packages not fully utilised due to clients being re-abled over a shorter time period or requiring fewer hours care, and fewer than modelled clients transitioning to further education settings.

2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn

- 4.5 In CFS, Child Care Lawyers achieved a saving of £331k, due to fewer complex cases and an overall reduction in cases. This saving increased by £67k in the final quarter when the financial information was received by the Joint Arrangement host authority. Throughout the service there have been a number of vacant posts, particularly in the last quarter, generating a £179k under spend after required agency costs.
- 4.6 Education saw under spends in residential placements and community support packages for children with disability and Castle Gate.
- 4.7 The Place Directorate had income pressures in development control and car parking, and cost pressures due to the Homelessness Reduction Act and emergencies during three storms.
- 4.8 The Resources Directorate over spend was largely related to under achievement of investment income.
- 4.9 The 2019/20 savings and income programme of £6.2m is 88% Green and 12% Red. Unachieved commercial property income accounts for 5% of the unmet savings.
- 4.10 There has been some impact due to Covid-19 on the 2019/20 financial position. There have been income pressures in the Place Directorate, for example due to the Council not charging for car parking, though as the pandemic started right at the end of the financial year, the overall impact has not been significant.
- 4.11 Conclusion

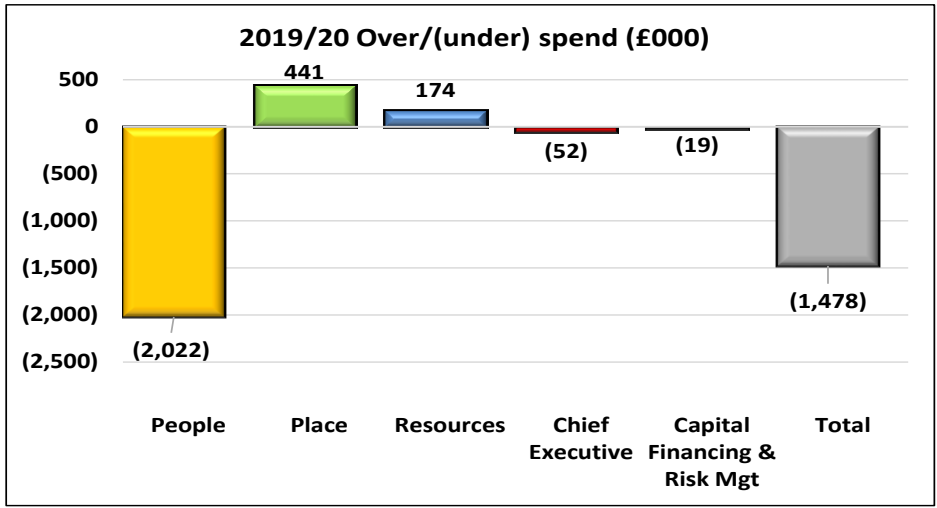
The Council is reporting a provisional under spend of £1.46m which will increase the Council's General Fund reserve. The report highlights the directorate outturns and any implications for the 2020/21 budget setting. The £6.2m savings and income generation programme has achieved 88%, with provision for unmet savings being made in the 2020/21 budget.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

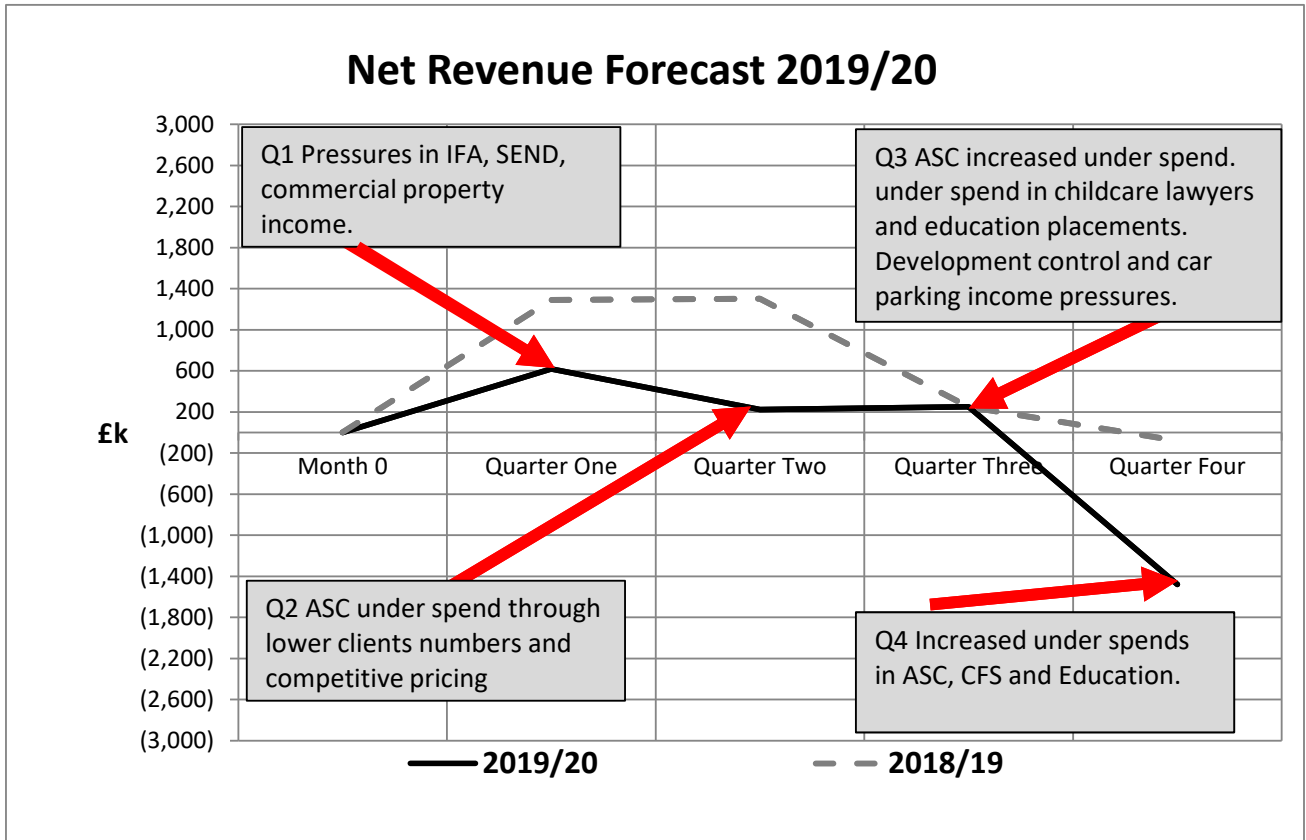
- 5.1 The revenue outturn position is an under spend of £1.46m. This is 1.2% of the Council's 2019/20 net revenue budget of £125m. The Directorate outturns are shown below:

2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn



Background

5.2 The quarterly forecast and outturn is shown in the following chart:



5.3 At Quarter One pressures amounting to £620k were identified in the following areas:

- Adult Social Care (ASC), care home workforce and reliance on agency staff;
- Children & Family Services (CFS), Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements;
- Education, pressures from removal of the SEND grant;

- Finance & Property, shortfall on commercial property income.

5.4 At Quarter Two the forecast over spend reduced to £222k:

- ASC forecast under spends in both long and short term services arising from Health Care awards, deceased clients, competitive bed pricing, use of own services and fewer than modelled clients transitioning to further education. The workforce pressures remained.

5.5 At Quarter Three the forecast over spend was £252k:

- ASC increased the forecast under spend in long and short term services;
- CFS reduced its forecast over spend due to a reduction in child care lawyers costs;
- Education reduced its forecast over spend seeing savings in residential placements and community support packages for disabled children;
- The Place Directorate forecast an over spend pressures in housing (homelessness), culture and shortfalls in income from development control and car parking;

5.6 At Quarter Four the provisional outturn is an under spend of £1.46m. The key changes from Quarter Three are in the People Directorate:

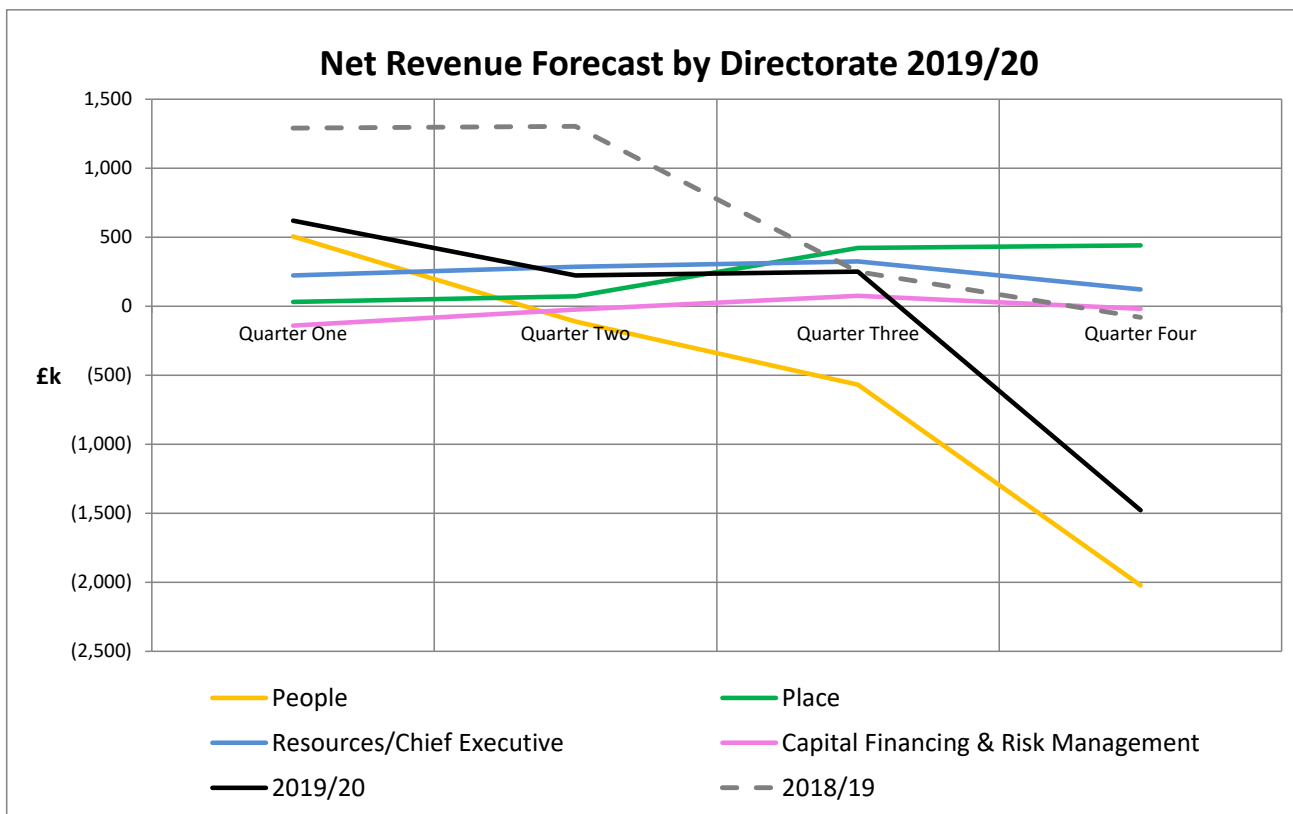
- ASC increased under spend by £585k (1.25% of budget) to £1.34m under.
- CFS increased under spend by £668k (4% of budget) to £435k under.
- Education increased under spend by £202k (2.3% of budget) to £245k under.

5.7 The Service forecasts and outturns are shown in the following charts:

2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn

	Current Net Budget	Net Forecast	Over/ (under) spend				Change to Service Forecast from Last Quarter
			Quarter One	Quarter Two	Quarter Three	Quarter Four	
			Service Forecast	Service Forecast	Service Forecast	Over/ (under) spend	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adult Social Care	47,893	46,549	153	(653)	(759)	(1,344)	(585)
Children & Family Services	16,914	16,479	203	439	233	(435)	(668)
Executive Director	226	228	(30)	0	0	2	2
Education DSG funded	(444)	(444)	0	0	0	0	0
Education	8,606	8,361	180	103	(43)	(245)	(202)
Public Health & Wellbeing	114	114	0	0	0	0	0
People	73,310	71,288	505	(111)	(569)	(2,022)	(1,453)
Executive Director	186	184	0	(7)	0	(2)	(2)
Development & Planning	2,886	3,090	(30)	35	287	204	(83)
Public Protection & Culture	3,752	3,812	52	138	124	60	(64)
Transport & Countryside	23,078	23,265	10	(94)	11	187	176
Place	29,902	30,351	32	72	422	449	27
Executive Director	91	86	0	0	(5)	(5)	0
Commissioning	1,134	1,132	72	60	40	(2)	(42)
Customer Services & ICT	3,104	3,009	18	(9)	(52)	(95)	(43)
Finance & Property	893	1,259	114	273	440	366	(74)
Human Resources	1,487	1,432	7	(12)	(34)	(55)	(21)
Legal and Strategic Support	3,465	3,439	12	8	(31)	(26)	5
Resources	10,174	10,357	223	320	358	183	(175)
Chief Executive	882	830	0	(34)	(34)	(52)	(18)
Capital Financing	11,011	10,892	(125)	(125)	(25)	(119)	(94)
Commercialisation	(100)	0	100	100	100	100	0
Movement through Reserves	(2,411)	(2,411)	0	0	0	0	0
Risk Management	350	350	(115)	0	0	0	0
Capital Financing & Risk Mgt	8,850	8,831	(140)	(25)	75	(19)	(94)
Total	123,118	121,657	620	222	252	(1,461)	(1,713)

NB: Rounding differences may apply to the nearest £k.



People Directorate

5.8 The Directorate has under spent by £2m, an increase of £1.4m from last quarter. The main budget variances and increases from last quarter are detailed below.

- Adult Social Care (ASC) have under spent by £1.3m (2.8% of net budget), an increase of £585k from last quarter.

The under spend in long term services (LTS) is £932k arising from Continuing Health Care funding, higher than anticipated levels of deceased clients, ability to find care home beds at competitive prices and over achievement of income. The introduction of the new Approved Provider Listing from October 2019 has held prices of domiciliary care, particularly in Quarter Four when fully implemented. The under spend is reflected in the LTS model for 2020/21.

The under spend in short term services is £735k largely due to utilising own services when users are discharged from hospital, lower than expected pressures from hospital discharge between December and February, care packages not fully utilised due to clients being re-abled over a shorter time period or requiring fewer hours care than expected, and fewer than modelled clients transitioning to further education settings.

The service continues to see significant pressures in our own provider services, being driven by the lack of a permanent care workforce and associated agency costs. A number of options are being explored for recruitment in conjunction with Human Resources. However, vacancies in other areas of ASC did generate an under spend of £329k.

- Children & Family Services have under spent by £435k (2.6% of net budget), a move of £668k from last quarter's £233k forecast over spend.

The overall placement position was a £21k under spend. Savings were seen in residential, UASC, care leavers, special guardianship and residence orders due to fewer clients and lower negotiated costs. Client numbers were unchanged in Quarter Four, although an increase had been modelled. However, additional funding, changes to packages, reduced respite and reduced placement costs brought the expenditure down.

There was an over spend of £458k in the Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) budgets due to an increase in the number of placements being commissioned and a challenging savings target. IFA placements are able to meet complex care and cultural requirements which are a challenge to adequately meet from our own fostering provision. The service is also using IFA placements to prevent children entering residential placements where possible.

Child Care Lawyers achieved a saving of £331k, due to fewer complex cases and an overall reduction in cases. This saving increased by £67k in the final quarter when the financial information was received by the Joint Arrangement host authority.

There was a £94k shortfall of funding for the Family Safeguarding Model as a result of partner agencies not contributing to the scheme.

Throughout the service there have been a number of vacant posts, particularly in the last quarter, generating a £179k under spend after required agency costs.

Accountancy will be working with the service to review outstanding commitments on a monthly basis to ensure the forecasts are based on accurate and up to date information. Accountancy will also be piloting monthly accruals accounting in Children's alongside Adult's and this will provide further assurance as it will give a more realistic awareness of expenditure and income.

- Education have under spent by £245k, an improvement of £202k from last quarter. There are under spends in residential placements and community support packages for children with disability and Castle Gate.
- Education Dedicated Support Grant (DSG) shows an on-line position, as any over or under spends against the DSG grant, go to the DSG reserves. The 2019/20 DSG expenditure budget was set £1.86m higher than available funding, and this was treated as a deficit recovery target against the High Needs and Early Years blocks. The deficit recovery targets had £1.3m remaining at year end. Overall DSG funding received was £211k less than budgeted, and budgeted expenditure was overspent by £344k. This resulted in a total in year deficit of £1.86m, but with balances already held in reserves, the cumulative deficit position is £1.56m. This will be held against Council reserves at 31.3.2020 and top-sliced against the relevant DSG blocks in the 2020/21 budget.

- Public Health is reported on-line. There are a number of small pressures which the Head of Service has been able to mitigate through in-year one off savings due to staffing vacancies and reduction of activities offered.

Place Directorate

5.9 The Directorate has over spent by £449k, an increase of £27k from last quarter. The main drivers of this are detailed below.

- Development & Planning have a £204k over spend, a decrease of £83k from last quarter. Development control income is below target due to a drop in the number of planning applications. In Housing, additional temporary resource has been deployed to manage the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Additional temporary accommodation has been required leading to an over spend on B&B accommodation. Additional budget has been requested for housing as part of the budget build process for 2020/21.
- Public Protection & Culture have over spent by £60k, a decrease of £64k from last quarter. The over spend arose from Shaw House savings targets not being achieved, cleaning costs in libraries and reduced building control contributions. Unmet savings will be incorporated into projects coming online in 2020/21, and additional budget has been requested for some of the other service pressures.
- Transport & Countryside have a £187k over spend, an increase of £176k from last quarter. There is a £326k pressure from ongoing road works in the town centre and loss of income from the Market Street car park closure. Emergency costs were £192k over budget due to three significant storms. These pressures were partly mitigated by streetworks income, reduced gritting runs and waste savings.

Resources Directorate

5.10 The Directorate has a £183k over spend, a reduction of £175k from last quarter. The main driver of the service over spend is in Finance & Property, reporting a £366k over spend. The current year £1.5m investment income target was assumed to be delivered from an average property value totalling £75m in year. However, the current portfolio stands at £62m. Staff vacancy savings within the Housing Benefits Team amounting to £130k have helped to mitigate this over spend. During the last quarter, the service over spend reduced due to reduced postage costs on council tax bills and additional rental income.

Chief Executive

5.11 An under spend of £52k has arisen largely from corporate management staff retirement and restructuring.

Capital Financing and Risk Management

5.12 The outturn position is a £19k under spend. There was a £25k under spend on levy costs and £87k over achievement of treasury management investment income. There was a further £350k surplus on treasury management investment income which has

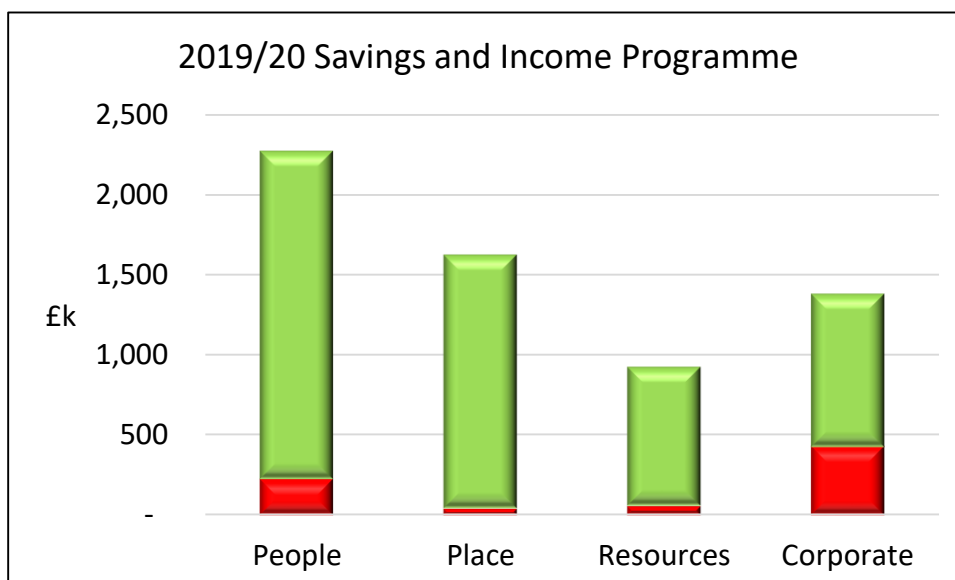
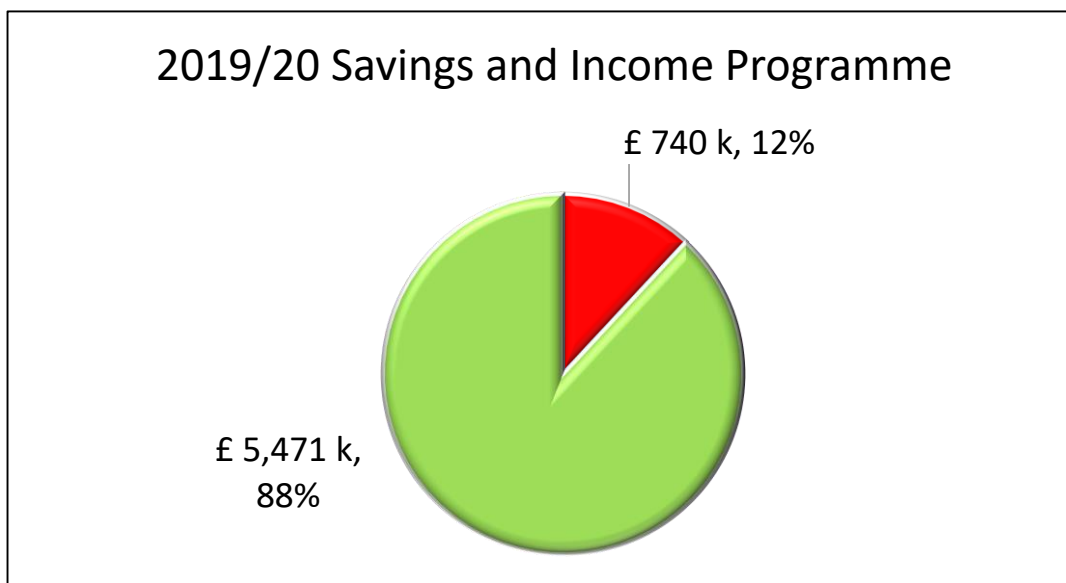
2019/20 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn

been used to increase Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) contribution to cover off our maturity loan liabilities.

5.13 The £100k income target from commercialisation was not achieved and has been removed as part of the 2020/21 budget build.

2019/20 Savings and income generation programme

5.14 In order to meet the funding available, the 2019/20 revenue budget was built with a £6.2m savings and income generation programme. The programme is monitored using the RAG traffic light system. The status of the programme is shown in the following charts.



5.15 In the People Directorate, £120k target for reducing use of Independent Fostering Agencies was not achieved due to increase of children coming into care, many of whom with complex care or cultural needs that could be fully met within the council service. Efforts have been made to recruit additional carers, and increase the skill mix of our own carers to meet some of these complex needs. There was an unachievable income

target in the Emotional Health Academy of £70k which has now been removed as part of the 2020/21 budget setting.

5.16 The corporate savings not achieved were £300k for commercial property and £100k commercialisation. Both savings have been reduced as part of the 2020/21 budget build.

Covid-19 impact on the 2020/21 budget

5.17 There will be a significant impact on the 2020/21 budget due to Covid-19. To date, the Council has received two tranches of funding from Central Government to mitigate the initial impact of Covid-19, and this total £7.6m of un-ring-fenced funding. The latest forecast through to August 2020 is that the Council faces expenditure and income pressures of £8.4m for 2020/21, though these estimates fluctuate significantly and are dependent on how the Covid-19 response progresses and people's behavioural change to this. The Main areas of financial pressure for the Council are:

- Adult Social Care costs
- Children's service costs
- Reduced planning income
- Reduced car parking income
- Additional leisure services costs
- Funding the Community Hub
- Loss of income from other Council service areas

5.18 The Council has received other specific funding as part of the response to Covid-19. There are a range of funds, and some of the key areas include:

- £29m for business grants to specific businesses
- £3.5m of business rates reliefs
- £548k local council tax support
- £700k for infection control
- £140k for high streets
- £124k for active travel funding (capital) for cycling and walking provision
- £108k for supported bus services

5.19 The funding received from Government to date, and the Council's level of general fund reserves mean that the Council is well placed to focus its efforts on response and recovery from the Covid-19 in the current financial year. The longer term position will require further analysis and announcements from Central Government on the funding

position for Local Government, before the impact on 2021/22 and beyond is known. The Government have announced a pause to the fair funding review for 2021/22 and so the Council is planning for a similar financial settlement for 2021/22 as it received in 2020/21.

Proposals

- To note the outturn position of £1.46m under spend.

6 Other options considered

6.1 Earmarked reserves could be created from the under spend in particular to help with the response to the Covid-19 impact on West Berkshire.

7 Conclusion

The Council is reporting a provisional under spend of £1.46m which will increase the Council's General Fund reserve. The £6.2m savings and income generation programme has achieved 88%, with provision for unmet savings being made in the 2020/21 budget.

8 Appendices

None

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			

Owning Service	
----------------	--

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	16 th July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Ross Mackinnon
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	1 st July 2020
Report Author:	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3802

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The financial performance reports provided to Members, throughout the financial year, report the under or over spend against the Council's approved capital budget. This report presents the provisional capital outturn for the Council in respect of financial year 2019/20. It should be noted that these figures are provisional and may change as a result of External Audit.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The capital provisional outturn position and the level of budget to be carried forward to 2020/21 should be noted.
- 2.2 Members agree a new £909k capital budget funded from Council borrowing to be included within the current approved 2020/21 capital programme to enable the delivery of the Care Director upgrade.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	<p>The provisional outturn is a £52.4 million underspend against the 2019/20 revised capital budget of £91.9 million. £35 million of the underspend relates to the Commercial Property budget which was not spent during 2019/20.</p> <p>£14.5 million, is proposed to be re-profiled into 2020/21 to enable the continuation of ongoing capital schemes.</p>

	A new £909k Council funded capital project for the upgrade of the existing Care Director system is proposed. This budget will be over and above the approved capital programme for 2020/21 – 2022/23 as agreed by Council in March 2020. The additional project will create additional capital financing costs of approximately £100k per annum from 2021/22 within the revenue capital financing budget.			
Human Resource:	Not applicable			
Legal:	Not applicable			
Risk Management:	Future risk identified relating to the Covid pandemic is the potential for engaged suppliers to default on contractual obligations through financial difficulties. Budget managers and CSG are currently undertaking a review to highlight projects with potential suppliers of concern and where there is a risk of default and/or the potential to retender agreed contracts at potentially higher cost.			
Property:	Not applicable			
Policy:	Not applicable			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:		X		
Health Impact:		X		
ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		
Core Business:		X		
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	Capital Strategy Group chaired by Joseph Holmes, Executive Director for Resources, s151 officer. Andy Walker – Head of Finance & Property			

4 Executive Summary

4.1 Total capital expenditure incurred in 2019/20 was £39.5 million against the £91.9 million revised budget.

Directorate Summary	Quarter Three			Outturn				Total Slippage requested
	Budget at Q3	Forecast Spend in Year	Forecast (under)/Over Spend	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	Spend as a % of budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
People	£18,620	£15,976	(£2,644)	£18,665	£14,064	(£4,601)	75%	£1,777
Place	£30,989	£22,968	(£8,021)	30,989	21,264	(£9,725)	69%	9,553
Resources (excluding commercial property)	£7,279	£6,831	(£448)	£7,279	£4,192	(£3,087)	58%	£3,136
Commercial Property	£35,000	£	(£35,000)	£35,000	£	(£35,000)	0%	£
Totals	£91,888	£45,775	(£46,112)	£91,933	£39,521	(£52,412)	43%	£14,466

4.2 The key areas contributing to the underspend position are:

- (a) The £35 million Commercial Property budget (within Finance and Property Services, Resources Directorate), has not been utilised during 2019/20. During 2019/20 the Government announced that PWLB rates could no longer be accessed to fund assets used primarily to generate yield. On 23rd April 2020 the Property Investment Board (PIB) agreed a suspension in future commercial property acquisitions, on this basis it has not be proposed to slip the unutilised budget into 2020/21.
- (b) Transport and Countryside ended the year with a £7.2 million of underspend cumulative across the service, £6.1 million of the underspend relates to delays in the Sandford Access Project and the Newbury railway Station Improvements Project. CSG agreed at Quarter Three of the financial year to re-profile anticipated expenditure against these projects into 2020/21.
- (c) Education Services ended the year with a £4.3 million underspend across a number of school projects, most notably Highwood Copse (£1.2 million), The Willink (£636k) and Speenhamland Primary two form entry project (£793k) and the Eastern Area Pru (£989k). £2.8 million of the underspend has already been agreed to be re-profiled into the 2020/21 – 2022/23 approved capital programme as part of the budget setting process.

4.3 Based on the financial performance against the approved Capital Programme as at the yearend, Capital Strategy Group have proposed that planned expenditure from 2019/20 is to be re-profiled into 2020/21 and future years. A number of projects, primarily within Development & Planning (purchase of temporary accommodation), Public Protection & Culture (Solar Photovoltaics), and feasibility studies and planned maintenance across Education projects incurred delays at the yearend as a result of national lockdown procedures in response to the Covid pandemic. Issues identified related to accessibility to sites to enable construction works to continue, disruptions of suppliers chains, closure of estate agents and vendors preventing conclusion of temporary accommodation purchases and the diverting of internal resources to focus on business continuity issues. The level of expected re-profiling of project expenditure from 2019/20 into 2020/21 and later years has therefore increased between Quarter Three and the yearend. It is proposed that £14.5 million of expenditure is re-profiled into 2020/21.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

5.2 A capital budget for 2019/20 of £75 million was set by Council in March 2019 with funding of £20.8 million from external grants, £5.4 million of section 106 contributions (s106) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), with £48.8 million of expenditure planned to be funded from external borrowing. The repayment of principal sums and interest on loans used to fund capital expenditure are met from the revenue budget for capital financing and risk management. Forecast spend against this budget is reported in the Revenue Financial Performance Report.

5.3 During the financial year budget changes have occurred, mainly as a result of budgets brought forward from prior financial years, additional grants, s106 and CIL allocations

2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn

received in year and expenditure re-profiled in future financial years. Changes of less than £250k can be approved by the s151 Officer in conjunction with the portfolio holder, all other changes must be approved by Capital Strategy Group (CSG) and reported to Executive as set out in the Council's Financial Regulations. As part of the annual closure of the accounts process, the yearend position of the capital projects is reviewed and proposals for unutilised budgets to be re-profiled into subsequent financial years is reviewed by Capital Strategy Group (CSG).

5.4 The capital programme at the yearend was £91.9 million, Appendix A gives a breakdown of budget changes during 2019/20.

Background

5.5 Total capital expenditure incurred in 2019/20 was £39.5 million against the £91.9 million revised budget.

Directorate Summary	Quarter Three			Outturn			
	Budget at Q3	Forecast Spend in Year	Forecast (under)/Over Spend	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	Spend as a % of budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
People	£18,620	£15,976	(£2,644)	£18,665	£14,064	(£4,601)	75%
Place	£30,989	£22,968	(£8,021)	30,989	21,264	(£9,725)	69%
Resources (excluding commercial property)	£7,279	£6,831	(£448)	£7,279	£4,192	(£3,087)	58%
Commercial Property	£35,000	£	(£35,000)	£35,000	£	(£35,000)	0%
Totals	£91,888	£45,775	(£46,112)	£91,933	£39,520	(£52,413)	43%

5.6 The main contributing factors to the £52 million underspend were:

- The £35 million Commercial Property budget (within Finance and Property Services, Resources Directorate), has not been utilised during 2019/20. During 2019/20 the Government announced that PWLB rates could no longer be accessed to fund assets used primarily to generate yield. On 23rd April 2020 the Property Investment Board (PIB) agreed a suspension in future commercial property acquisitions, on this basis it has not be proposed to slip the unutilised budget into 2020/21.
- Transport and Countryside ended the year with a £7.2 million of underspend cumulative across the service, £6.1 million of the underspend relates to delays in the Sandleford Access Project and the Newbury railway Station Improvements Project. CSG agreed at Quarter Three of the financial year to re-profile anticipated expenditure against these projects into 2020/21.
- Education Services ended the year with a £4.3 million underspend across a number of school projects, most notably Highwood Copse (£1.2 million), The Willink (£636k) and Speenhamland Primary two form entry project (£793k) and the Eastern Area Pru (£989k). £2.8 million of the underspend has already been agreed to be re-profiled into the 2020/21 – 2022/23 approved capital programme as part of the budget setting process.

5.7 A number of projects across the Directorates incurred delays at the yearend as a result of national lockdown procedures in response to the Covid pandemic. Issues identified

2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn

related to accessibility to sites to enable construction works to continue, disruptions of suppliers chains, closure of estate agents and vendors preventing conclusion of temporary accommodation purchases and the diverting of internal resources to focus on business continuity issues. The level of expected re-profiling of project expenditure from 2019/20 into 2020/21 and later years has therefore increased between Quarter Three and the yearend. On average annually £8 – £10 million of re-profiling occurs at the end of each financial year, for 2019/20 it is proposed that £14.5 million of expenditure is re-profiled.

- 5.8 A future risk identified relating to the Covid pandemic is the potential for engaged suppliers to default on contractual obligations through financial difficulties. Budget managers and CSG are currently undertaking a review to highlight projects with potential suppliers of concern and where there is a risk of default and/or the potential to retender agreed contracts at potentially higher cost.

The People Directorate

People	Quarter Three			Outturn			Spend as a % of budget
	Budget at Q3	Forecast Spend in Year	Forecast (under)/Over Spend	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care	£1,501	£1,573	72	£1,546	£1,326	(£220)	86%
Children & Family Services	£7	£7	0	£7	£	(£7)	0%
Education Services	£17,112	£14,395	(£2,717)	£17,112	£12,738	(£4,374)	74%
Totals	£18,620	£15,976	(£2,644)	£18,665	£14,064	(£4,601)	75%

- 5.9 The People Directorate ended the year with expenditure of £14 million against a revised budget of £18.6 million.

- (a) Adult Social Care: The Occupational Therapy Equipment budget was underspent by £361k at the yearend. £141k of the underspend has been utilised to offset overspends against care homes capital works budgets, primarily relating to remedial works undertaken at Willows Edge.
- (b) Education Services: Underspends were incurred against a number of school projects most notably Highwood Copse (£1.2 million), The Willink (£636k) and Speenhamland Primary two form entry project (£793k) and the Eastern Area Pru (£989k). A number of projects primarily feasibility studies and planned maintenance were delayed at the yearend due to Government dictated lockdown procedures in response to the Covid pandemic.

The Place Directorate

Place	Quarter Three			Outturn			Spend as a % of budget
	Budget at Q3	Forecast Spend in Year	Forecast (under)/Over Spend	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Development & Planning	£2,382	£2,318	(£64)	£2,382	£1,636	(£746)	69%
Public Protection & Culture	£2,652	£1,120	(£1,532)	£2,652	£877	(£1,775)	33%
Transport & Countryside	£25,955	£19,531	(£6,424)	£25,955	£18,751	(£7,204)	72%
Totals	£30,989	£22,968	(£8,021)	£30,989	£21,264	(£9,725)	69%

2019/20 Capital Financial Performance Report - Outturn

5.10 The Place Directorate ended the year with expenditure of £21.2 million against a revised budget of £30.9 million.

- (a) Development and Planning ended the year with a £746k underspend. The underspend was mainly attributable to works relating to Four Houses Corner (£162k) and purchase of temporary accommodation (£561k). The Four Houses Corner project has been delayed due to site access issues, £1.9 million of proposed expenditure relating to Four Houses Corner was agreed by CSG and re-profiled into 2020/21 at Quarter Two during 2019/20. Delays in the purchase of temporary accommodation were incurred at the end of 2019/20 as a result of estate agents closing as part of Government dictated Covid lockdown procedures.
- (b) Public Protection and Culture ended the year with a £1.7 million underspend. The underspend was mainly attributable to delays in the Solar Photovoltaics project (£670k), caused by technical issues with building feasibility and the panel supplier (based in Scotland) suspending work in response to the Covid lockdown procedures. Further underspends were incurred across multiple service maintenance budgets (leisure centres £326k, Museum £118k, culture £352k).
- (c) Transport and Countryside ended the year with a £7.2 million of underspend cumulative across the service, £6.1 million of the underspend relates to delays in the Sandleford Access Project and the Newbury railway Station Improvements Project. CSG agreed at Quarter Three of the financial year to re-profile anticipated expenditure against these projects into 2020/21.

The Resources Directorate

Resources	Quarter Three			Outturn			Spend as a % of budget
	Budget at Q3	Forecast Spend in Year	Forecast (under)/Over Spend	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Customer Services & ICT	£4,631	£3,915	(£716)	£4,631	£1,658	(£2,973)	36%
Finance & Property	£2,208	£2,294	£86	£2,208	£2,209	£1	100%
Finance & Property - Commercial Property	£35,000	£0	(£35,000)	£35,000	£0	(£35,000)	0%
Human Resources	£61	£61	(£)	£61	£29	(£32)	47%
Strategic Support & Legal	£344	£375	£31	£344	£239	(£105)	69%
Chief Executive	£35	£187	£152	£35	£58	£23	167%
Totals	£42,279	£6,831	(£35,448)	£42,279	£4,192	(£38,087)	10%

5.11 The Resources Directorate ended the year with expenditure of £4.1 million against a budget of £42.2 million, inclusive of the Commercial Property budget allocation of £35 million.

- (a) The £35 million Commercial Property budget (within Finance and Property Services, Resources Directorate), has not been utilised during 2019/20. During 2019/20 the Government announced that PWLB rates could no longer be accessed to fund assets used primarily to generate yield. On 23rd April 2020 the Property Investment Board (PIB) agreed a suspension in future commercial property acquisitions.

- (b) Customer Services and ICT ended the year with a £2.9 million underspend. £2.4 million of the underspend is attributable to delays in the superfast broadband project which has been forecast throughout the 2019/20 financial year. Further underspends were cumulatively incurred across corporate replacement budgets.

Proposals

5.12 Capital Strategy Group on the 28th May reviewed the outturn position in detail and propose that re-profiling of £14.5 million should be carried forward into 2020/21 to enable the continuation of schemes already underway. The table below details outturn against revised budget and proposed re-profiling into 2020/21.

Directorate Summary	Outturn				Total Slippage requested at Outturn	Slippage already re-profiled into 2020/21 and future years	Total Funds Slipped into 20/21 and future years
	Budget at Outturn	Expenditure in 2019/20	Outturn Variance to Budget	Spend as a % of budget			
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
People	£18,665	£14,064	(£4,601)	75%	£1,777	£2,801	£4,577
Place	30,989	21,264	(£9,725)	69%	9,553	£	9,553
Resources (excluding commercial property)	£7,279	£4,192	(£3,087)	58%	£3,136	£	£3,136
Commercial Property	£35,000	£	(£35,000)	0%	£	£	£
Totals	£91,933	£39,521	(£52,412)	43%	£14,466	£2,801	£17,266

5.13 The main areas of proposed re-profiling are:

- (a) **People Directorate:** Education Services ended the year with a £4.3 million underspend across a number of school projects, most notably Highwood Copse (£1.2 million), The Willink (£636k) and Speenhamland Primary two form entry project (£793k) and the Eastern Area Pru (£989k). £2.8 million of the underspend has already been agreed to be re-profiled into the 2020/21 – 2022/23 approved capital programme as part of the budget setting process. The service is proposing a further £1.5 million is re-profiled into 2020/21 to complete existing projects.
- (b) **Place Directorate:** Transport and Countryside ended the year with a £7.2 million of underspend cumulative across the service and is proposing to re-profile £6.9 million into 2020/21 and later years. The main element of the proposed re-profiling is £6.1 million relating to the Sandleford Access Project and the Newbury railway Station Improvements Project which have both been subject to developer delays. CSG agreed at Quarter Three of the financial year to re-profile anticipated expenditure against these projects into 2020/21.
- (c) **Place Directorate:** Public Protection and Culture ended the year with a £1.7 million underspend. The underspend was mainly attributable to delays in the Solar Photovoltaics project (£670k), and underspends across maintenance budgets (leisure centres £326k, Museum £118k, culture £352k). The service is proposing that £1.7 million of proposed expenditure is re-profiled into 2020/21.
- (d) **Place Directorate:** Development and Planning ended the year with a £746k underspend. The underspend was mainly attributable to works relating to Four Houses Corner (£162k) and purchase of temporary accommodation (£561k). The

service is proposing to re-profile £162k of expenditure in respect of Four Houses Corner into 2020/21, £1.9 million of proposed expenditure relating to Four Houses Corner was agreed by CSG and re-profiled into 2020/21 at Quarter Two during 2019/20. The service is proposing to re-profile £561k relating to the purchase of temporary accommodation into 2020/21.

- (e) **Resources Directorate:** Customer Services and ICT ended the year with a £2.9 million underspend. The majority of the underspend is attributable to delays in the superfast broadband projects (£2.4 million), with further underspends incurred against corporate replacement projects. The service is proposing that £2.8 million of proposed expenditure is re-profiled into 2020/21.

5.14 Across the whole capital programme £14.5 million of expenditure is proposed to be re-profiled into 2020/21.

5.15 Post setting of the 2020/21 – 2022/23 capital programme, a new project relating to the upgrade of the Care Director system used by both Adult Social Care and Children and Family Services has been identified. The proposed project has a capital requirement in 2020/21 of £909k. It is proposed that this project is included in an amended capital programme for 2020/21. The project will incur an additional capital financing cost of approximately £100k per annum (as of 2021/22) which will require funding through the revenue capital financing budget.

6 Other options considered

6.1 No other options have been considered.

7 Conclusion

7.1 At the yearend expenditure totalling £39.5 million was incurred against a capital programme budget of £91.9 million. In respect of funding the capital programme, £32.3 million of external funding in the form of s106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and external grants were applied to the programme in 2019/20.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – 2019/20 Budget Changes

Subject to Call-In:

Yes:

Officer details:

Name: Shannon Coleman-Slaughter
Job Title: Chief Financial Accountant

Tel No: 01635 519225
E-mail: Shannon.colemanslaughter@westberks.gov.uk

Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

Appendix A

Budget Changes 2019/20

Service Area	Original Budget 2019/20 £000	Budget Agreed by CSG to be Slipped from 2018/19 £000	Other Agreed Changes to 2019/20 Budget £000	Revised Budget for 2019/20 £000	Explanation of Other Agreed Changes	Approved by
PEOPLE DIRECTORATE						
Adult Social Care	£1,576	(£90)	£60	£1,546	Additional £15k Grant Funding OT's 86008. Additional DFG funding in OT's £45k.	
Children & Family Services	£13	(£6)	£0	£7		
Education Services	£16,120	£992	£0	£17,112		
Total for Communities Directorate	£17,709	£896	£60	£18,665		
PLACE DIRECTORATE						
Development and Planning	£3,582	£612	(£1,812)	£2,382	Reverse of slippage re Travel Plans 81455 £88k, Reprofile Four Houses to 20/21 £1.9m	
Public Protection & Culture	£2,379	£216	£57	£2,652	£35k Newbury Lido/£22k S106 Funding. Libraries PC Replacement S106 funding £23k	CSG 21/10/19
Transport & Countryside	£12,645	£6,374	£6,936	£25,955	£1.9 m reprofiled from 18/19	CSG 19/07/18
					£2,575m reprofiled from 18/19	CSG 08/11/18
					£2.4m re-profiled from 18/19	Approved Feb 19
					Additional S106 funding for Countryside	CSG 05/09/19
Total for Environment Directorate	£18,606	£7,202	£5,181	£30,989		
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE						
Customer Services and ICT	£1,416	£82	£3,133	£4,631	£4k to ICT for Lone working	CSG 09/05/19
					£3,129 for Superfast Broadband	
Finance & Property	£1,996	£165	£6	£2,167	£6k to Finance for IDEA Software	CSG 09/05/19
Finance & Property : Corporate Allocation Budget	£98	£0	(£57)	£41	£4.5k to ICT for Lone Working, £12k to Legal for Iken, £6k to finance for IDEA Software, £35k Newbury Lido	CSG 21/10/19 CSG 09/05/19
Finance & Property : Commercial Property Budget	£35,000	£0	£0	£35,000		
Human Resources	£0	£61	£0	£61		
Strategic Support & Legal	£161	£171	£12	£344	£12k To Legal for Iken	CSG 09/05/19
Chief Exec	£35	£0	£0	£35		
Total for Resource Directorate	£38,706	£479	£3,094	£42,279		
Totals	£75,021	£8,577	£8,335	£91,933		

This page is intentionally left blank

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

Committee considering report:	Executive on 16 July 2020
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Howard Woollaston
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	28 May 2020
Report Author:	Nick Carter
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3900

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider options and recommendations concerning the future management of Public Health across Berkshire West.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To dissolve the current arrangement between the six unitary authorities across Berkshire and move to a shared arrangement between West Berkshire Council, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council (Berkshire West).
- 2.2 To create a shared Director of Public Health (DPH) role for Berkshire West which will lead the public health system, working closely with the local authorities and in partnership with the Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership. There will also be a shared Hub Team providing health intelligence, health protection and commissioning support to public health teams in each local authority. It is proposed to delegate the establishment of these functions to the Chief Executive.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The new arrangement will cost West Berkshire Council an additional £75 - £100k per annum. This is the additional cost associated with having two Directors of Public Health (DPH) for Berkshire and additional costs associated with the two hubs for Berkshire rather than one. At this point it is assumed that the additional cost will be met from the 2020/21 increase in the ring fenced Public Health Grant.

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

Human Resource:	A new DPH will need to be appointed along with new staff for the Berkshire West Public Health Hub. It is not clear at this stage who the employing Authority will be but it is likely to be Reading BC.			
Legal:	The new arrangement will need to be drawn up as a contract between the three Authorities.			
Risk Management:	Whilst the current arrangement has worked relatively well for West Berkshire it has proven more problematic across the County as a whole. There has been a particular issue with the capacity of the DPH where the role has been shared across all six Unitary Authorities. No such arrangement exists elsewhere in the country where generally any sharing is limited to two, at most three authorities. It is now generally accepted that the role cannot be effectively delivered across such a large geographical area and needs to be split. The current DPH will leave the position in August and our ability to recruit to this challenging role is likely to be problematic, if the current issues are not addressed.			
Property:	None.			
Policy:	The paper has no direct policy implications. The issue at play relates to how Public Health is managed and delivered.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

<p>A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The Council's Public Health responsibilities will be key to the delivery of the Council Strategy 2019-2023. These responsibilities will be delivered directly in support of the priority 'To support everyone to reach their potential' and more specifically the commitment to 'improve the health and wellbeing of our residents through appropriate interventions and policies'. Public health is also key to helping to support a number of the wider determinants of health which are reflected in a number of the priorities including 'Maintaining a green district'.</p> <p>Addressing health inequalities is a significant objective for Public Health and the priority 'Ensuring vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes' reflects this objective in part.</p> <p>This proposal does not create more resource to help deliver more front line public health programmes. Its focus is on the management of Public Health, particularly at a strategic level. The new resources will go into supporting additional strategic capacity with the expectation that this additional capacity will be able to harness additional resources to support delivery of the Council Strategy as well as ensuring those resources are deployed to the most effective interventions.</p>
<p>B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>No.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact:</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>This proposal is concerned with the provision of additional staffing. It creates no environmental impact.</p>

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

Health Impact:	X			The proposal is aimed at creating greater capacity within our Public Health Team, notably within the shared function. The emphasis is on development strategic capacity as outlined in the paper so there should be an expectation that there will be a requisite improvement in health outcomes.
ICT Impact:		X		None identified
Digital Services Impact:		X		None identified.
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			Consider whether the proposal will support any of the Council's Priorities for improvement or if it is business as usual. If you consider that the proposal supports any of the Council's Priorities, you must explain how it will do so by reference to the commitments detailed within the Strategy. If the impact is positive or negative, you must provide an explanation for your answer.
Core Business:		X		None identified.
Data Impact:		X		None identified.
Consultation and Engagement:	The proposal has been the subject of consultation with both the Berkshire Chief Executive's Group and the Berkshire Leaders Group.			

4 Executive Summary

Overview

- 4.1 The proposal is to dissolve the current arrangement between the six Local Authorities across Berkshire and move to one which involves only West Berkshire Council, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Council (Berkshire West).
- 4.2 It is proposed to create a shared Director of Public Health role for Berkshire West to lead the public health system, working closely with the local authorities and in

partnership with the Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership. There will also be a Hub team providing health intelligence, health protection and commissioning support to support public health teams in each local authority.

4.3 This new arrangement is expected to deliver the following;

- improving the health of our population and reducing health inequalities thereby improving outcomes for our residents and reducing demand for services;
- retaining the local nature of public health, enabling local needs to be prioritised;
- improving the value from our investment in public health capacity – to make Public Health more visible, engaged, integrated and most importantly, effective, across the Local Authorities;
- effectively aligning Public Health with the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) with more strategic leadership capacity from the Director of Public Health (DPH);
- enhancing the information and intelligence we have to improve the health of the population, integrating it with the Integrated Care Partnership;
- Improving value for money from Public Health contracts.

4.4 The proposal will create a single Director of Public Health for Berkshire West thereby enhancing the capacity available locally to develop and implement the strategic public health agenda, and engage more effectively with partners. This will come at a cost and it is anticipated that this will cost somewhere between £75k and £100k to implement for West Berkshire Council. This is discussed further in the report.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

5.1 The purpose of this report is to lay out the rationale for altering the current arrangements for public health across Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire. It also seeks to request delegated authority to proceed with developing a shared Director role and a Hub Team to support local public health teams in each of the three Local Authorities.

Background

5.2 Since 2013 the Berkshire Public Health System has operated on a hub and spoke model with Public Health teams delivering in each of the six unitary authorities supported by a Shared Team hosted by Bracknell Forest Council.

5.3 The overall aim of the Berkshire Public Health System is to deliver the core duty for local authorities, namely to improve health and decrease health inequalities. This will include actions, not only within each Council but across the wider system of public services. The aim of the System is also to take positive action on the wider determinants of health, focus on health improvement, provide health protection and provide public health support to NHS commissioning.

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

- 5.4 National policy supports the importance of prevention of ill health – through the recent green paper for prevention within the NHS Long Term Plan. Locally, the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategies support increased activity to promote good health and prevent ill health.
- 5.5 Upper tier Local Authorities receive a per capita ring fenced grant for public health of circa £36m across Berkshire. In the three authorities in the west of the county, this totals around 20m, around half going to Reading and a quarter each to Wokingham and West Berkshire. Each authority spends a broadly similar amount on staffing its public health teams with varying contract values and investments in broader services and programmes for public health.
- 5.6 Berkshire Chief Executives collectively oversee the functioning of the public health system through the Public Health System Board. Increasingly, they were concerned about the ability of the public health set up to deliver what they needed to improve health, prevent illness and decrease demand for health and care services.
- 5.7 The set up in Berkshire has shifted from the original vision which relied on a collective responsibility between local authorities. The system has become unbalanced and it has been difficult to recruit to public health leadership positions. With the development of Integrated Care Systems demands on public health are increasing and the Director post is particularly stretched, covering 6 local authorities, 2 CCGs and 2 ICSs. Imbalances in the System have arisen as Authorities have invested in different programmes and staffing structures.
- 5.8 In 2019 Berkshire Chief Executives requested a review. They considered the effectiveness of the current model, the changing context and opportunities for public health, current costs, and alternate models. They recommended dissolving the current arrangement and moving to two hub and spoke arrangements across 3 borough geographies.

Proposals

- 5.9 The proposal is to dissolve the current arrangement between the six LAs and move to an arrangement between West Berkshire Council, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Council.
- 5.10 A shared Director of Public Health role for Berkshire West will lead the public health system, working closely with the local authorities and partners in the integrated care partnership. There will also be a hub team providing health intelligence, health protection and commissioning support to support public health teams in each local authority.
- 5.11 The opportunity we have by doing this together is to;
 - Improve the health of our population and reduce inequalities to improve outcomes for our residents and reduce demand for services.
 - Retain the local nature of public health, enabling local needs to be prioritised.

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

- Improve the value from our investment in public health capacity – to make Public Health more visible, engaged, integrated and most importantly, effective, across the Local Authorities.
- Effectively align Public Health with the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) with more strategic leadership capacity from the Director of Public Health (DPH)
- Enhance the information and intelligence we have to improve the health of the population, integrating it with the Integrated Care Partnership
- Improve value for money from Public Health contracts

Director of Public Health role

- 5.12 The three Local Authority Chief Executives will take collective responsibility for recruiting and supporting this role. They will all sign off an annual work programme and undertake their Director's appraisal together.
- 5.13 The role will have director level influence in each Local Authority. It will have a seat at the 'top table', access to the Chief Executive and lead Member and be able to shape resource and priority decisions.
- 5.14 The DPH will have leadership of the delivery of the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will be the guiding Strategy for the Integrated Care Partnership as well as the Health & Wellbeing Boards.
- 5.15 The DPH will be the Senior Responsible Officer for public health ICP programmes and will be able to influence any collective strategy for procurement of public health services.
- 5.16 While the DPH will not line manage the local Public Health Consultants, they will provide professional supervision, influence their work programmes and participate in their appraisal.

Finance

- 5.17 It is recognised that this new model will increase the costs provision of public health expertise in the range of £75k to £100k per Local Authority.
- 5.18 To reduce the costs to the lower end of this range, the system could investigate joining with other public sector partners to provide health intelligence across the ICP. Although early indications suggest this is unlikely to be fruitful.
- 5.19 The time spent by the local PH Teams working on themes that span the Local Authorities is recognised as part of the shared PH resource. This would be mapped and included in the annual work programme agreed by the three CEOs and DPH.
- 5.20 Each Local Authority will commit to the delivery of this work and not withhold resource in the teams that will deliver it. The additional costs will be met equally by the three LAs.
- 5.21 It is proposed that the DPH and Hub are hosted by Reading Borough Council for practical transport reasons.

6 Other options considered

6.1 A range of other options have been considered by the six Chief Executives and other partners. These include variations based around enhancing the current position, to creating a single Public Health Team within each Unitary Authority, each with its own DPH. At the end of the day there needs to be a balance between cost and effectiveness. Some Public Health functions are better delivered at scale and creating a local function would undoubtedly bring with it higher costs and concerns around resilience. A shared function over the larger geography reduces cost and improves resilience but in the Berkshire setting has created significant concerns around effectiveness. The option set out here is a compromise between all of these and one which currently has the support of all partners. It also provides an alignment with the Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Whilst the current arrangements for Public Health have served West Berkshire well, in recent years the underlying structure has become unstable, in particular, is not seen to be sustainable. In particular the scope of the DPH role is seen to be too wide making it impossible to service the six authorities that are part of the joint arrangement. This paper sets out a new proposal which will address this concern and effectively creates two shared Public Health arrangements across Berkshire rather than one. The new arrangement aligns with the new Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership.

7.2 It will cost more and it is proposed to meet this cost from the enhanced 2020/21 public health grant.

8 Appendices

None.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Document Control

Future Arrangements for the Provision of Public Health across West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 15.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank