

Actions arising from previous Meetings

Members are requested to consider the following list of actions and note the updates provided.

Ref No:	Date	Item/Action	Member/Officer	Comments/Update
79	06/09/2022	Economic Development Strategy - Operational Review Investigate the KPI for engagement with the top 10 employers in the district.	Katharine Makant	Complete (04/09/2023) - The Council's Business Engagement Officer is actively engaging with the top employers in the district and setting up regular catch-ups to understand their plans, needs, employment issues and any opportunities to work more closely with the Council
88	07/03/2023	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP Review Consider what KPIs would be appropriate for the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	Katharine Makant	Complete (04/09/2023) - There was an announcement on 4th August that LEPs would stop receiving central government funding from the 2024/25 financial year, and LEP functions will be brought in-house to Local Authorities. We are waiting on central government to confirm what the local level funding arrangements will be, and how exactly these functions will be delivered across Berkshire.
89	07/03/2023	Libraries Review Consult with town / parish councils to understand what they wanted from the service	Felicity Harrison	In progress - Report has been updated and is programmed to go to Executive on 21 September 2023.
90	07/03/2023	Libraires Review Ensure that 'priorities', 'review recommendations' and 'opportunities for future investment are aligned and that targets are set	Felicity Harrison	In progress - Sections aligned in revised report. Report scheduled to go to Executive on 21 September 2023.
91	07/03/2023	Libraires Review Libraries report to be updated before submitting it to the Executive	Felicity Harrison	In progress - Report has been updated and is programmed to go to Executive on 21 September 2023.
99	20/06/2023	Appointment of Task and Finish Groups Nominate Members to sit on the Covid and Recovery Task Group by 20 July 2023	Lib Dem and Conservative Groups	Complete (07/08/23) - See Item 9 of the agenda.
100	20/06/2023	West Berkshire Council Forward Plan Officers to confirm if Parish Plans are part of the Local Plan and how they are approved.	Gordon Oliver	Complete (12/07/23) - Confirmed that Parish Plans do not form part of the Development Plan, as they are not subject to independent examination. However, they can be adopted by Council and become a material consideration. As such, they can be subjected to scrutiny.
101	20/06/2023	West Berkshire Council Forward Plan Officers to confirm details of the petition to come to the next Executive	Gordon Oliver	Complete (12/07/23) - There were two petitions discussed at Executive on 8 July 2022 : one related to Charges for Council Services and the other related to 'Save the Readibus'.
102	20/06/2023	West Berkshire Council Forward Plan Meet with the Leader of the Council to discuss the Forward Plan and what changes are planned	Cllr Carolyne Culver	Complete (10/08/2023) - Met with the Leader of the Council on 10 August, where some possible topics were discussed. The Forward Plan will be a key element of the Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Event on 19 September.
103	20/06/2023	West Berkshire Council Forward Plan Review and update officer details on the Forward Plan.	Gordon Oliver	Complete (16/08/2023) Details have been amended for officers who have left. This will be reviewed for future updates.

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104	20/06/2023	Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Have an initial discussion with Joseph Holmes around grants.	Cllr Christopher Read	Complete (04/09/2023) Confirmed that a certain revenue grants are allocated automatically. Some of these require reporting, others do not. Some require the Council to submit a bid - recent successes include: Transforming Digital Services, Planning Software Improvement Fund, and the Swimming Pool Fund. Capital grants often feature a bidding system - sometimes these are weighted to government objectives (e.g. levelling up). Unfortunately, there is no central system for notifications of bidding opportunities. While it would be good to have dedicated resources to support bid-writing, this would be subject to what bidding opportunities were coming up, which is not always known in advance.
105	20/06/2023	Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Set up a special meeting of the Scrutiny Commission on 6 February 2024 to consider the draft Budget.	Gordon Oliver	Complete (12/07/2023) - Meeting confirmed in the corporate diary.
106	20/06/2023	Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Liaise with colleagues in Highways and Planning regarding the impacts of changes to developers' rights of connection to water and sewage networks	Gordon Oliver	Complete (31/08/2023) - The Highways and Planning Departments do not have any influence over connections to the water and sewage networks. This is determined by national legislation. There is a policy within the recent Local Plan Review encouraging new homes to aim for a water consumption of 120 litres per person per day. Based on the Water Strategy and the Local Plan evidence base, there is not currently a case to adopt a target of 80 litres per person per day across West Berkshire as a whole. However, this may change in future.
107	20/06/2023	Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Consult with the Leader of the Council regarding a scrutiny work planning event.	Cllr Carlyne Culver	Complete (10/08/2023) A date has been proposed for 19 September 2023.
108	20/06/2023	Scrutiny Commission Work Programme Arrange an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Commission to review the Ombudsman ruling.	Gordon Oliver	Complete (17/07/2023) Meeting took place on 17 July 2023.

Last updated: 4 September 2023