

## Scrutiny Commission Work Programme

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






Last Updated:  
13 September  
2024

Item	Scrutiny Theme	Purpose	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder/ Lead Member	Pre or post decision?
<b>17 October 2024 (Special)</b>					
Thames Water	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To understand how Thames Water is upgrading its water supply and foul water networks to support planned development and pollution incidents in West Berkshire and how the Environment Agency is holding the water company to account.	Karen Nelson (Thames Water) Dave Willis (Environment Agency)	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision
Section 19 Water Act Report on 2024 Flooding	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To review the findings of the report and understand lessons learned in terms of flood alleviation and river management authorities.	Jon Winstanley / Paul Bacchus	Cllr Stuart Gourley (Environment and Highways)	Pre-Decision
2024 Flood Investigation Report	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	Investigation into the causes, mechanisms, consequences and responses associated with flooding in each of the affected areas within West Berkshire.	Carolyn Richardson	Cllr Stuart Gourley (Environment and Highways)	Pre-Decision
<b>26 November 2024</b>					
Attainment of Children on Free School Meals	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the reasons for the persistent gap in attainment between those on free school meals and other children living in West Berkshire and the measures to address this.	AnnMarie Dodds / Rose Carberry(?)	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	Scrutiny Commission Decision
Budget Headlines	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the emerging draft budget, budget consultation and expected government settlement.	Joseph Holmes	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
Revenue Performance Report Q2 2023/24	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets.	Joseph Holmes / Melanie Ellis	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
Capital Financing Performance Report Q2 2023/24	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	Reports on the under or over spends against the Council's approved capital budget.	Joseph Holmes / Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
<b>11 February 2025 (Budget Scrutiny)</b>					

	Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2025/26	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To consolidate the investments and borrowing strategy for the year ahead by detailing how and where the Council will invest and borrow in the forthcoming year, within a particular framework. This strategy is monitored throughout the year, with a mid-year report going to the Government and Ethics Committee as well as an annual report being presented to Members.	Joseph Holmes	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-Decision
	Medium Term Financial Strategy	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To set out the financial planning assumptions for future years and how these align these with the Council Strategy to ensure that the Council Strategy will be delivered. The MTFs highlights the overarching key issues facing the Council's finances as well as how there are many different scenarios and uncertainty concerning the future revenue streams for the Council in the future.	Joseph Holmes	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-Decision
	Capital Strategy. Financial Years 2025/26 to 2034/35	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To outline the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2025/26 to 2034/35 and the supporting funding framework, providing a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.	Joseph Holmes/ Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-Decision
	Revenue Budget 2025/26	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the budget proposals for the year ahead that form the basis of the 2024-25 revenue budget and detail the respective Council Tax proposals and resolutions.	Joseph Holmes / Melanie Ellis	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-Decision
	Revenue Performance Report Q3 2023/24	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets.	Joseph Holmes / Melanie Ellis	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
	Capital Financing Performance Report Q3 2023/24	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	Reports on the under or over spends against the Council's approved capital budget.	Joseph Holmes / Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
<b>13 March 2025</b>						
	Review of SEND and the High Needs Block	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To receive an update on spend and transformation activity in this area	AnnMarie Dodds	Children, Education and Young People's Services	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	Libraries Service	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the performance of the Libraries Service and its funding model.	April Peberdy / Felicity Harrison	Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside	Scrutiny Commission Decision

	Housing Task & Finish Group Terms of Reference	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To agree the terms of reference for the Housing Task and Finish Group.	Gordon Oliver	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision
--	---	----------------------------------	---	---------------	-----	------------------------------------

**Council Strategy Priorities**

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