

## Scrutiny Commission Work Programme

Last Updated:  
31/01/2025

Item	Scrutiny Theme	Purpose	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder/ Lead Member	Pre or post decision?	
<b>1 July 2025</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 / Rebecca Wilshire	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	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 / Rebecca Wilshire	Cllr Heather Codling (Children and Family Services)	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	Transformation Programme Update	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To receive an update on the Council's Transformation Programme	Gabrielle Mancini	Cllr Vicky Poole (Transformation and Corporate Programme)	Pre-Decision
	Libraries Service	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To review the performance of the Libraries Service and its funding model.	April Peberdy / Felicity Harrison	Cllr Nigel Foot (Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside)	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	2024/25 Performance Report Year End	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To provide assurance that the core business and council priorities for improvement measures in the Council Strategy are being managed effectively, and where performance has fallen below the expected level, present information on the remedial action taken and the impact of that action.	Sarah Clarke / Beatriz Teixeira	Cllr Jeff Brooks (Leader, Strategy and Communications)	Pre-decision
	Revenue Performance Report Outturn 2024/25	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To report on the financial performance of the Council against the revenue budget. The report is Quarter Four, the provisional outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year. The outturn is the culmination of budget monitoring and management accounting throughout the financial year. The report highlights where over and underspends against budget have occurred during the year and reasons for these, as well as the overall position for the financial year.	Joseph Holmes / Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
	Capital Financing Performance Report Outturn 2024/25	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	The financial performance report provided to Members reports on the under or over spends against the Council's approved capital budget. This report presents the provisional outturn position for financial year 2024/25.	Joseph Holmes / Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision

	Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	The Annual Scrutiny report for 2024/25 provides a summary of the work of the Scrutiny Commission, and Health Scrutiny Committee, as well as the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Gordon Oliver	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision
<b>16 September 2025</b>						
	Community Safety	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	Meeting in its capacity as West Berkshire Council's Crime and Disorder Committee, to receive a presentation from the Building Communities Together Partnership.	C/Supt Felicity Parker/ Joseph Holmes	Cllr Justin Pemberton (Public Safety and Community Engagement)	Scrutiny Commission Decision
	Revenue Performance Report Q1 2025/26	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To report on the financial performance of the Council's revenue budgets for Quarter One of the 2025/26 financial year.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
	Capital Financing Performance Report Q1 2025/26	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	The report presents the provisional outturn position for financial year 2025/26 against the approved capital programme and financing implications for financial year 2026/27.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
<b>25 November 2025</b>						
<b>10 February 2026 (Budget Scrutiny)</b>						
	Medium Term Financial Strategy	<i>Corporate Effectiveness</i>	To set out the financial planning assumptions for future years and how these align 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.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-Decision
	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.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	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.	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.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	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.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	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.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	Cllr Iain Cottingham (Finance and Resources)	Pre-decision
<b>17 March 2025</b>						
<b>To Be Programmed</b>						
	Thames Water and The Environment Agency	<i>Partnership Effectiveness</i>	To understand how Thames Water is investing in its networks to support planned development and manage pollution incidents in West Berkshire and how the Environment Agency is holding the water company to account.	TBC	N/A	Scrutiny Commission Decision

**NB: There is a proposal to review the scrutiny structure at the Annual Meeting of Council. Each review will be programmed by the relevant scrutiny committee once formed.**

#### 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