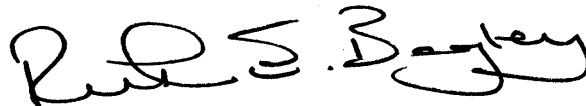


Date of issue: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> (Councillors O'Connor (Chair), Bal, Hussain, Malik, M S Mann, Minhas, Nazir, Small and Smith )
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	MONDAY, 8TH JULY, 2013 AT 6.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	MEETING ROOM 3, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)</b>	GREG O'BRIEN 01753 875013

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



**RUTH BAGLEY**  
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</b>		
1.	Declaration of Interest		

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM**

**REPORT TITLE**

**PAGE**

**WARD**

*All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.*

*The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.*

*All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.*

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4th June 2013 1 - 4

**SCRUTINY ISSUES**

3. Member Questions

*(An opportunity for Committee Members to ask questions of the relevant Director/ Assistant Director, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated).*

4. Cllr Plimmer Call-in: Leaseholder Annual Service Charge Statements 5 - 22
5. Childhood Obesity Review 23 - 32
6. Forward Work Programme 33 - 38
7. Attendance Record 39 - 40
8. Date of Next Meeting - 10th September 2013

**Press and Public**

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th June, 2013.**

**Present:-** Councillors O'Connor (Chair), Bal, Hussain, Malik, M S Mann, Minhas, Nazir, Small and Smith (Vice-Chair)

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Abe (left at 8.03pm), Coad (left at 8.03pm), Plenty, Plimmer and Wright (left at 8.03pm)

**PART I**

**1. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Bal declared a personal interest as his daughter worked for the Council.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9th April 2013**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013, subject to the inclusion of Cllr Bal's apologies.

**3. Appointment of Scrutiny Panels**

The Committee considered a report seeking approval to the establishment of three Scrutiny Panels and the members to serve on them for the 2013/14 municipal year.

The Committee noted the seat allocations that had been calculated to reflect Political Group membership and statutory proportionality entitlement, which equated to eight appointments for the Labour Group, and one for the Conservative Group. The Chairs of the Panels would be offered to a member of the Administration and Vice-Chair positions would be offered to the Opposition Group. The Leading Group had indicated that a seat would be offered to Cllr Plimmer (Liberal Democrat) on the Health Scrutiny Panel. Details of the nominations received from the political groups were received, including a late change to the effect that Cllr Malik will replace Cllr Aujla on the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panels and the nominated members. Details were also presented of the co-opted members (with details of the nominations where known) for formal approval.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the Panels set out in paragraph 5 of the report be appointed for the 2013/14 municipal year.
- (b) That the Committee note the allocation of seats to the Panels as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.
- (c) That the Committee agree the allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Panels on the basis set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report and that each Panel be invited to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting.
- (d) That Members be appointed to serve on each of the Panels in accordance with the wishes expressed by Political Groups in respect

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 04.06.13

of seats allocated to them as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report, subject to the replacement of Cllr Aujla by Cllr Malik on the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel.

(e) That the co-opted Members listed in paragraphs 5.5 to 5.7 of the report be appointed to the respective Panels.

### 4. Member Questions

There were no question received from Members.

### 5. Cllr Coad Call-in: Officer Delegated Decision 14/13 - 20 mph zone covering Langley Road, Station Road and High Street, Langley

The Committee considered a report advising receipt of a Member call-in (by Cllr Coad) of a significant officer decision relating to the implementation of an experimental 20 mph zone in Langley Road, Station Road and High Street, Langley. The report included a summary of the reasons why Cllr Coad had submitted the call-in and she addressed the Committee amplifying those reasons. In addition she referred to material circulated in supplementary agenda papers for the Committee which contained copy correspondence and emails between local residents and Transport Officers, a report by the Langley St Mary's Neighbourhood Action Group and photographs and maps illustrating traffic congestion.

Cllr Coad's address to the Committee referred to the following main points:

- She had received a large number of representations from local residents objecting to the experimental scheme and the congestion caused.
- Although the poor accident record in the area had been cited as the reason for implementing the scheme, this was not borne out by data supplied by Thames Valley Police.
- There was severe traffic congestion at peak times (with some queues even off peak) resulting in difficulties for traffic to emerge from the residential side roads with junctions on Langley Road, Station Road and Langley High Street, together with increased noise and pollution.
- There was confusion about cycle routes and the interaction of cyclists and pedestrians.
- The congestion problems were exacerbated (and road safety further compromised) by pupils and parents going to and from Langley Hall School crossing the road at or close to the roundabout rather than using the appropriate zebra crossing.
- Increased bus journey times of 12 minutes had been reported.
- The scheme had been implemented against the wishes of residents expressed during the public consultation.

The Chairman invited a response from the officers (Lynsey Brookfield and Hayley Fails from the Transport Department) who referred to details of the significant decision contained in the supplementary agenda papers, tabled a

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 04.06.13

large scale map of the area showing the type and location of accidents, and related the following background to the scheme:

- The Council had a statutory duty to reduce and prevent road accidents.
- Following recent successful actions to reduce fatal/serious accidents in the Borough, seven areas with a concentration of vulnerable road users and a record of minor injury accidents (of which Langley was the worst) had been identified for action.
- The accident record of 39 injury accidents (resulting in 47 casualties) recorded at the Harrow Market roundabout and along Langley Road in the three years to May 2012 prompted an initial consultation about traffic calming measures in July 2012.
- As the majority of residents responding did not support the scheme and objected to the vertical traffic calming measures such as raised tables and speed cushions, a design workshop was organised in conjunction with the Langley Neighbourhood Forum (attended by over 50 members of the public) on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- The outcome from the workshop was that a smaller 20 mph zone be established, to which were added traffic calming measures such as road narrowing, textured surfacing and signing and temporary cycle lanes, to be implemented in an experimental traffic scheme.
- A significant officer decision was taken under delegated powers to make the necessary traffic order and the works were carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- It was proposed to maintain the experimental schemes for six months to allow time to undertake journey time surveys, speed surveys, monitor congestion, collate accident figures and collect and assess all feedback received.

In considering the matter the Committee questioned the officers about:

- The number of accidents, their location and possible cause.
- Whether measures could be targeted on the side road junctions with Station Road and Langley High Street where the majority of accidents seemed to occur.
- How much longer the experimental scheme would need to be in place before any updated accident figures were available.
- The effect of indiscriminate crossing of the road by pedestrians.
- Whether there would be any advantage in erecting barriers on the footway to force pedestrians to use the designated crossings.
- The details of the consultation and the views expressed at the design workshop.

Having considered responses to these points, the Committee drew the conclusion set out in the resolution below, taking particular account of the strength of views expressed by local residents, by ward and other local Councillors, who had experienced the significant disruption to the flow traffic in Langley.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 04.06.13

**Resolved** – To RECOMMEND the Cabinet to direct officers that because of the impact on levels of congestion in Langley:

- the narrowing of the approaches to the roundabout be removed as soon as possible;
- the 20 mph zone be retained; and
- alternative measures be considered to assist road safety in the area, particularly in Station Road.

### 6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered a report outlining a number of topics suggested for scrutiny during the coming year, allocated against the timetable of meetings, with some items yet to be programmed.

Members made a number of suggestions for additions to the programme, some of which were appropriate to refer for scrutiny by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel. Other suggestions could be forwarded direct to the Scrutiny Officer, Sarah Forsyth.

Appendix B to the report set out a draft programme for a detailed review of childhood obesity, which had been held over from 2012/13. This included a plan of the areas it was proposed to investigate together with the aims for each element of the review.

#### **Resolved-**

- (a) That the work programme for the 2013/14 Municipal Year be agreed, subject to the inclusion of items on work apprenticeships, the Aspire programme and the effect of Benefit changes.
- (b) Members be invited to submit any other suggestions for the work programme to Sarah Forsyth.
- (c) That items on rent arrears, the role of landlords, service charges for Council tenants in blocks and business rates be referred to the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel for inclusion in their work programme for the coming year.
- (d) That the programme for the Obesity Review be approved.

### 7. Members Attendance 2012/13

The Committee received a report setting out Members' attendance over the past year.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

### 8. Date of Next Meeting - 8th July 2013

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.12 pm)

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 8 July 2013

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Forsyth (Scrutiny Officer)  
**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875657

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor James Swindlehurst (Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal)

**PART I**  
**CONSIDERATION & COMMENT**

**REQUEST FOR REVIEW – LEASEHOLDER SERVICES**

1 **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To advise the Committee of the receipt of a Member Request for Review and to seek the Committee's views and instructions on how it wishes to deal with it.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the Request for Review from Councillor Plimmer and to decide what action it wishes to take in response to it.

3 **Key Priorities and Other Implications**

3.1 There are no such implications arising from this administrative report.

4 **Call-in Information**

4.1 A Member Call-In has been received from Councillor Plimmer, requesting a review of a function of the Authority.

4.2 Councillor Plimmer has submitted the following call-in:

"I would like to call in to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the Leaseholders Annual Service Charge Statement for 2013-14 and the current arrangements for the collection of service charges by the Revenues Department.

I have been a Slough Borough Council leaseholder for the past 15 years and I have noticed that, despite improvements during People 1st Slough's management of housing services between 2006 and 2009, there appears to be lower than expected standards of service delivered by Housing Services towards leaseholders.

The most recent concern of poor performance has been the Leaseholders Annual Statement of service charges dated Tuesday 19th February 2013.

This letter was not dispatched from Airways House until Friday 22nd February and sent out by 2nd class post which was received by myself and other leaseholders on Tuesday 26th February.

The deadline for leaseholders to apply for payment by monthly instalments from the Revenues Department was at 4.00pm on Thursday 28th February which was less than 48 hours upon receipt to respond.

I complained about this deadline to Amanda Richards of the Revenues Department who advised me that the delay in sending out the annual statement of service charges was the fault of Leaseholder Services, and Revenues were unable to extend the deadline of 28th February.

This delay in sending out the annual service charges also occurred in 2012 when there was a delay in sending out the statement letters so that most leaseholder residents including myself only had four days to respond to the Revenues Department's imposed deadlines for applying for payment by monthly instalments.

I would like to know why the Revenues Department will not accept standing instructions by leaseholders to arrange monthly instalment payments on an on-going annual basis?

The other main issue concerning annual service charge statements is the continuing failure to list how the figure for responsive repairs has been calculated? I attended People 1st Slough leaseholder forums during 2007 and 2008 when recommendations by leaseholders to clearly show the responsive repairs that they have to make a contribution for, would be considered for inclusion on the annual statements. This inclusion has still not happened, and results in enquiries to the Right to Buy and Leaseholder Services team on a regular annual basis every February and March.

I have also noticed that there has been a significant increase in the administration cost on the annual service charge statement this year. Please can you clarify if there is a contribution towards the cost of the shared service agreement with the Arvato partnership for collecting these services charges?

Please can you arrange for a report to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny from the officers in Leaseholder Services and Revenues Department concerning these issues and how they can be resolved to the satisfaction of Slough Borough Council's leaseholder residents in future years?"

## **5 The Leasehold Services Team commented as follows:**

### **5.1 Service Charge Accounts-Background**

The leasehold service charge accounts are closed six months after the end of the financial year to reconcile actual spend of the service charges against the estimated amount of service charges collected from the lease (in general as a minority of leases vary on these terms and therefore procedure).

The standard Slough Borough Council lease covenants' for the leaseholders to be billed bi-annually in advance as an estimate of service charges. Subsequently, service charge estimates are calculated for the forthcoming year and then divided into two equal bills that are issued to the leaseholder in April and October each year. The estimate is calculated by the Leasehold Team and issued prior to the first debit in April, usually around the end of February to comply with the lease by notifying the leaseholder of this years coming service charge bill before billing them in April. The statement of account is done each year by the Leasehold Team and issued prior to 30 September; again this complies with statute of the 18 month ruling from the 1985



Landlord and Tenant Act (sections 18-30). Therefore, service charge statements and estimates are separate elements to the Leasehold accounting period as the latter is usually produced a year behind (within 18 months of incurring costs) and the former produced in advance of the financial year.

Statements and Estimates are mail merged letters issued manually from Leasehold Services. In both cases, the bills and associated invoices are raised by the Revenues Team directly to the leaseholder. Revenues are furnished with the amount to bill each leaseholder at both bi-annual debits from the Leasehold Team via a spreadsheet. The statement produced below, takes into account the amount spent for that financial year on the various elements of service charge and the amount already paid on the estimated service charge billed and calculates whether a credit or debit results.

A copy of a Service Charge Statement for last financial year closed (2011/12) is attached at Appendix A. A copy of a Service Charge Estimate for financial year 2013/14 is attached at Appendix B.

## 5.2 **Estimated Service Charge letters**

The covering letters and estimates were composed beforehand and produced by Leasehold Services on 19 February 2013 and dated accordingly. They were posted and franked at £0.44p frank on 22 February 2013. The Post Room confirmed this is a first class franking charge for a physical envelope and size of letter issued for the estimates, as they stated that franked letters cost less than stamped letter. The odd returned to sender letters confirmed this frank of £0.44 was on the letters. It is standard policy for letters to be issued second class from Housing Services unless a specific request is submitted for first class. Normally statements and estimates are issued 2<sup>nd</sup> class, however, given the delay in logistics of the documents between the Printing Team and Housing Services a request was issued for these letters to be issued first class in this instance.

The delay in the estimates being issued were due to several factors; namely using Printing Services for the first time, a reduction in staff available to help collate the various documents required for each letter and an IT issue with the spreadsheets and mail merge document from corrupted data.

The letters and estimates were composed on 19 February 2013 at Leasehold Services. The summaries of rights and obligations, a statutory document that accompanies service charge demands were emailed to Printing Services on 19 February 2013 to be printed and returned to Leasehold Services. However, it became apparent that the mail merge document was problematic and once issues were resolved it was then emailed to Printing Services on 20 February via email in order to print and return to the Leasehold Team.

The letters and estimates were emailed to Printing Services on 20 February 2013 due to administrative issues with the manual spreadsheets. Printing Services returned the letters and estimates, printed and collated by 21 February 2013 and Customer and Business Support commenced filling the envelopes on 21 February and they were sent to the Post Room on 21 and 22 February to be franked and posted on this date.

Prior to this financial year, printing of the documents, associated collating and enveloping of letters and estimates, as well as the issuing of said documents to the Post Room in order to frank is usually undertaken by Leasehold Services with the support of Housing's Customer and Business Support Services. This was the first

time the resource of using Printing Services had been used by Leasehold Services, as it was suggested to be more effective process, given the amount of manual labour involved and inconvenience to colleagues by blocking printers when producing the mail merge manually. A copy of a Service Charge Estimate covering letter issued in February 2013 is attached as Appendix C.

### 5.3 **Monthly Instalments**

The standard Slough Borough Council lease covenants that the council demands service charges from the lessee bi-annually and in advance. However the Council allows a monthly repayment for the annual Service Charge Estimate over ten equal monthly instalments for Leaseholders whom request this.

The majority of Leaseholders made the deadline for their requests for monthly instalments of their service charges as enquiries were received earlier than 26 February; phone calls and emails were received by Leasehold Services on Monday 25 February. The deadline of Thursday 28 February 2013 for requesting monthly repayments was decided by the Revenues Team; as usual each year in order that they can issue all their demands and other invoices. Further to this, they allowed an informal extension until Monday 4 March 2013 close of business. After receipt of Cllr Plimmers' email at Leasehold Services on the evening of Monday 4 March, I requested that Revenues extend this deadline in order to capture any straggling requests as he noted he had received his letter by 26 February and hadn't made the deadline. Unfortunately, Revenues could not agree to this due to their other workload and deadlines. As the majority of letters would have been received Saturday 23 February, this allowed over one week requesting monthly repayments in most cases. The covering letter clarifies contact emails and phone numbers for leaseholders to use to request monthly repayments from either Revenues (Arvato) or the Leasehold Team

We are not able comment on what happened in 2012 as there was an interim Leasehold Manager and Service Charge Officer in posts who are no longer employed by the Council.

### 5.4 **Responsive Repairs**

Responsive repairs on the estimated service charge bill are only an estimate and therefore the figure cannot be confirmed with a breakdown at estimate stage; it is only an expected cost of repairs for the coming financial year. However, when the statements of account are issued before 30 September each year, the actual spend on the repairs can be broken down and provided to Leaseholders upon request. The break down of repairs are not provided with the accounts as this is not a requirement under statute when producing the statement; equally it would increase the resource required and time to produce the accounts particularly as not all leaseholders request this information. The cover letter with the statement of accounts offers the provision of further information i.e. queries, calculations or breakdowns of costs by submitting a request, either via email, letter or telephone. Should a dispute be raised over an element of service charge, it must be done in writing enabling an audit trail to be followed, should the case be escalated to Court or Leasehold Valuation Tribunal in future. It is not in the council's interest to withhold such information as a breakdown of repairs as it is contrary to the transparent Leasehold Service as well as the statute pertaining to statements of accounts. Furthermore, it enables a quicker resolution of disputes by addressing and/or restating accounts where necessary should queries be raised at this point in time and limits any future liability on the council should legal action commence.

It is not appropriate nor a statutory requirement to include a full breakdown of repairs with each statement of account produced. However, it is a statutory requirement to provide this information upon request within a given timeframe. A copy of the cover letter issued with Service Charge Statements is attached at Appendix D.

5.5 Leasehold Forums are held bi-annually for each of the three housing management areas of the Borough and leaseholders are invited by way of formal letter prior to the event, with a copy of the agenda. The last Leasehold Forums were held November/December 2012 and Service Charges were discussed as one of the agenda items. It is standard for Leasehold Services to include Services Charges as a topic at the winter Leasehold Forums because the statement of accounts will have been issued prior to the Forums therefore, most queries are raised at this time so, in effect we offer a platform to discuss them and individual queries. It is considered an important condition of being transparent with service charges and good practice as we also consult Leaseholders as to whether they wish any changes to their services during the Winter Forums. A copy of the invite/agenda to the last Leaseholder Forums held is attached at Appendix E.

**5.6 Administration Costs**

Administration costs or Management Fee are calculated at 25% of the cost of variable service charges as implemented during People First. Administration costs (Management Fees) for Major works are calculated by Property Services and they employ a staggered percentage calculation dependent upon the works. However, it is reasonable for service charges to increase each financial year, for example utilities for landlords lighting increase each year and the contract for Grounds Maintenance has an uplift to increase each year at an agreed rate in the contract as well as an increase in inflation, labour costs generally increase too which could affect caretaking or repairs. However, a recent Leasehold Valuation Tribunal dated 4 June, which is a matter of public record, confirms that the Service Charges billed by Slough Borough Council are at the lower end of the scale for that particular block and we believe this to be the case generally across the Borough from benchmarking data and particularly on Management Fees (Source Housing Quality Network- Leasehold Excellence Network). For example, caretaking did not increase for the last three years prior to this financial year.

5.7 Having checked the complaints received by Leasehold Services for both 2012 and 2013 from February through to May, of the two complaints received, neither is pertaining to the points raised in this report. Furthermore, the Complaints Co-ordinator within Housing Services confirmed she did not receive any formal complaints about the short deadline for requesting monthly repayments. The two complaints received during both these periods for 2012 and 2013 are below.

Logged Date	Service Area	Description
<b><u>Leaseholder (Housing Service, Leaseholder)</u></b>		
19/03/2013 15:18	Leaseholder (Housing Service, Leaseholder)	Complaint regarding correspondence being sent to wrong address
<b>1 Row(s)</b>		
<b>Total 1 Row(s)</b>		
Logged Date	Service Area	Description
<b><u>Leaseholder (Housing Service, Leaseholder)</u></b>		
27/04/2012 15:45	Leaseholder (Housing Service, Leaseholder)	tenant still completing the Right to Buy has been billed for service charges.

- 5.8 We encourage all our leaseholders to attend the Forums in order that we can address any queries about individual service charge accounts or the accounting process for clarification. We have had requests via email and letters for a breakdown of the repairs undertaken to blocks after the statement of accounts are issued by 30 September each year and these are provided as standard.
- 5.9 Further to a meeting with Arvato and Leasehold Services, Arvato have agreed to a rolling continuation of monthly repayments from Leaseholders year on year. Therefore any leaseholders who request a monthly repayment term will have this automatically offered and implemented next financial year of 2014/15, unless a request to opt out is submitted by the Leaseholder.
- 5.10 To clarify, the statements of accounts are produced before 30 September each year and any credits or debits are added to the lessees account on 1 October each year. Any breakdown of spend or costs pertaining to financial spend of service charges can be requested within six months of the actual accounts being issued each year. The estimates are produced before 1 of April each year and are only an estimate of the forthcoming financial service charge costs, i.e. the anticipated spend.
- 5.11 There is a service charge project that endeavours to add the leasehold service charge accounts to the Housing Management System, Capita, in order to streamline the service charge accounts going forward. This project should allow leaseholders the opportunity to pay by Direct Debit (DD), hopefully reducing the request further for monthly repayments each year as there will be an automatic renewal of monthly DDs each financial year unless the leaseholder requests otherwise. It is best practice to offer such payment options to Leaseholders. Furthermore, the Capita Housing System should be able to produce the service charge estimates and statements of account letters, all things being equal. Whilst it is possible there could be teething problems this should result in the end of the manual and labour intensive current process.
- 5.12 Whilst it is regrettable that leaseholders had a limited window of opportunity to request monthly repayments for the estimated service charge accounts, it is not an obligation of the council to offer such a service in order to comply with Leasehold Statute. Affordability is an issue considered to be at the heart of the service and the team has worked tirelessly to bill major works and agree repayment agreements whilst dealing with historic disputes and debts. Monthly repayments are offered by Housing Services but it is not an obligation or statute for the council to do so to its leaseholders.
- 5.13 Leasehold Services are commencing a review of the Management Fee charged to Leaseholders with a view of consulting residents and benchmarking for best practice as to whether it is more appropriate to charge a fixed fee rather than a percentage.
- 5.14 Regarding the comment of “a lower than expected standard of service delivered by Housing Services towards leaseholders”; there have been changes in the service driven with aim of improving the customer experience which are reflected in the Housing Services Strategic Plan. Prior to 2011, Leasehold Forums had not been held for a significant period of time and nor were they successful with substantial combatant discussion. These were overhauled with a strategic view of offering the forum on a bi-annual basis for leaseholders in the three areas of the Borough encouraging Leaseholders to attend and air views and raise questions as appropriate. The Forums include consultations on Services and therefore Service Charges, in line with governance and best practice and speakers present relevant

and informative topics with a view to demystify some Leasehold issues, regulation and statute. We also offer Leaseholders Home Contents Insurance via the Councils Insurers, even though tenants have been able to benefit from this for at least the past 8 years, this commenced in 2011. Slough Borough Council also offers Gas Safety Checks for a very reasonable fee for its Leaseholders as well as any associated works for repairs to their gas appliances, again this commenced in 2011. We have undertaken various repairs for Leaseholders in the event they have paid for this work beforehand and are looking at offering this service in the future across the borough. We also have a complaints dispute resolution process that results in the service charge officer undertaking a full investigation with the associated department of any issues/disputes that arise; this includes site visits to blocks and estates with the production of a formal response to issues raised. The sales enquiry process has been overhauled to streamline the process, resulting in accurate and timely information being provided to solicitors acting on behalf of leaseholders who are selling/buying the Councils Leasehold stock. Leaseholders can email the team on the generic email address allowing quick effective responses to a whole plethora of enquiries.

- 5.15 Housing Services is currently working on a project “tenant on-line” which aims to give all residents access to a service that can confirm amongst other things all communal repairs that have been raised on individual blocks.
- 5.16 Housing Services are also currently embarking on a service charge review across the borough, with a view to assessing service charges; ensuring parity and value for money are achieved whilst residents are consulted on the services they receive. This is an opportunity to reconcile services and service charges for both tenants and leaseholders of Slough Borough Council’s housing services borough-wide.

## 6 **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must decide whether to accept this request to review the function of the Authority dealing with the specific leaseholder service issues raised.
- 6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in considering what action to take, should have regard to:
- the adequacy and completeness of the information available at the meeting;
  - the appropriateness and relevance of the subject matter;
  - the possible implications on other services and available budgets;
  - any other reviews which currently may be undertaken or proposed to be undertaken to avoid any duplication of responsive action; and
  - the respective priority within the Committee/s overall work programme to be afforded to any approved request for review.
- 6.3 In assessing the request for review, the Committee may take the following action on the call-in:
- agree to take no further action on the request;
  - make representations/views known to the Cabinet in respect of decisions taken and implemented within Cabinet or Officer delegated powers;

- agree the request for review of any function of the Authority or matter affecting the Borough or its inhabitants and determine the matter at the meeting or a named future meeting; or
- agree the request for a review of a function or other relevant matter and delegate conduct of the review to a Scrutiny Panel, and determined the priority that should be allocated to it.

## 7 **Appendices**

- A - Copy of a Service Charge Statement for last financial year closed (2011/12)
- B - Copy of a Service Charge Estimate for financial year 2013/14
- C - Copy of a Service Charge Estimate covering letter issued in February 2013
- D - Copy of cover letter that is issued with service charge statements
- E - Copy of an invite/agenda to the last Leasehold Forums held

## 8 **Background Papers**

None.

**Copy of a Service Charge Statement for last financial year closed  
(2011/12)**



The name and address of your Landlord is:  
Slough Borough Council, St Martins Place,  
51 Bath Road, Slough SL1 3UF

**SERVICE CHARGE STATEMENT 2011/2012**

ADDRESS: 16 ABC Road  
BLOCK: 16-30

PROPORTION OF COSTS TO UNIT: 1/8  
PROPORTION OF ESTATE COSTS: 1/2

**ACTUAL COSTS FOR THE YEAR**

SERVICES	BLOCK COSTS		ESTATE COSTS	
ELECTRICITY	275.75			
RESPONSIVE REPAIRS	572.85			
WINDOW CLEANING				
ESTATE SERVICES (CARETAKING)	1,312.00			
BUILDING CLEANING				
INSURANCE	678.00			
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE			0.00	
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	BLOCK 2,838.60		ESTATE 0.00	
<b>YOUR PROPORTION</b>	1/8	(A) 354.85	1/2	(B) 0.00
MANAGEMENT COSTS	(C) 88.71			
<u>TOTAL SERVICE CHARGES 2011/12</u>	(D) = (A) + (B) + (C)		<b>443.53</b>	
INVOICED ON ACCOUNT APR 11 & OCT 12	(E)		465.00	
<u>BALANCE NOW DUE</u>	(D) – (E)		<b>- 21.47</b>	

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## Copy of a Service Charge Estimate for financial year 2013/14



The name and address of your Landlord is:  
 Slough Borough Council, St Martins Place,  
 51 Bath Road, Slough SL1 3UF

**SERVICE CHARGE ESTIMATE  
 FOR 2013/2014**

<b>ADDRESS: 16 ABC Road</b>	
ELECTRICITY	<b>£ 48.99</b>
RESPONSIVE REPAIRS	<b>£ 90.18</b>
WINDOW CLEANING	<b>£ 0.00</b>
BUILDING CLEANING	<b>£ 0.00</b>
CARETAKING	<b>£ 169.08</b>
BUILDINGS INSURANCE	<b>£ 90.70</b>
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	<b>£ 0.00</b>
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 398.96</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION COST</b>	<b>£ 99.74</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 498.70</b>

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Copy of a Service Charge Estimate covering letter issued in February 2013.

19<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Saqlain

Department: Leasehold & RTB  
Contact Name: Ashok Pai/Samaira

Contact No: 01753 875407/5403  
Fax: 01753 875412

Email: [LeaseHoldServices@slough.gov.uk](mailto:LeaseHoldServices@slough.gov.uk)

Our Ref: L/H&RTB

Mrs XXXXXX  
16 ABC Road  
Slough  
Berkshire,  
SL1

Dear Mrs XXXXXX

**Service Charge Estimate for 2013/14**

Please find enclosed your yearly service charge estimate for 2013/14 which has been calculated to more accurately reflect the actual cost of maintenance and services relating to your block of flats. I also attach, Service Charges - Summary of tenants' rights and obligations for your reference.

You will still have adjustments on your account in respect of the difference between the estimate and the actual costs incurred. These adjustments will be collected with the October half-yearly invoice, which is in keeping with the terms your lease.

To help you manage your finances the following two options are available:-

- **To pay as normal the two half-yearly invoices on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. If this option is taken the invoices must be paid by the time specified as you will not be able to make arrangements after this time.**
- **To pay monthly instalments over a 10 months period starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**
- **If you wish to take advantage of the monthly instalment plan, you must contact the Revenues Section on 01753 772190, or e-mail [revenues@slough.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@slough.gov.uk) by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 before 4PM or you will automatically be issued half-yearly invoices in accordance with the terms of your lease.**

Yours sincerely



**Leasehold Team**

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**Copy of cover letter that is issued with service charge statements**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Department: Leasehold Services  
Contact Name: Mr Ashok Pai  
Contact No: 01753 875407  
Fax: 01753 875412  
Email: LeaseHoldServices@slough.gov.uk  
Our Ref: Account statements

2011/12

«FName»  
«Address\_1»  
«Address2»  
«Address3», «Address4»  
«Address5»

**Service Charge Statement 2011/2012 - «Re2»**

Please find enclosed your service charge statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. This statement details the actual costs incurred by Slough Borough Council on the management, maintenance and services provided to your block and/or estate for the financial year April 2011 to March 2012.

It includes details of the actual costs of all services provided to your block during the financial year along with the costs of grounds maintenance provided to your estate, if applicable and the costs have been apportioned to your property in accordance with the terms of your lease.

The balance on the statement reflects the final costs for the year in column (D) minus the sum already invoiced on account (your estimated charges invoiced in April 2011) in column (E). Please note that a figure with a minus (-) in front of it denotes a credit and will reduce your next service charge demand by this amount. If there is an amount owing, a debit, this will be added to your October service charge demand.

The October 2012 half-yearly invoice will be issued directly by the Revenues Team and it should include the balance from the 2011/2012 statement. If you have any queries regarding this invoice, your standing order payments or have any difficulties paying, please call Slough Borough Council's Revenues Team on **01753 875318/875309/875311** to discuss payment options available. Free independent advice on debt problems or welfare benefits may be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau on 0845 1203712.

If you have any queries regarding the service charge calculations please contact the Leasehold Team directly on 01753 875407 or [LeaseHoldServices@slough.gov.uk](mailto:LeaseHoldServices@slough.gov.uk). We would like to consult you on any services you would like to add/change to the management of your block if appropriate therefore, we will be discussing this at the next leaseholder's forum and will send an invite shortly.

*If you would like further details of the actual works or a breakdown which have been carried out during the year, please email me as above or write to me at the following address: Leasehold Department, Slough Borough Council, St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 5UF.*

Yours sincerely



Ashok Pai,  
Leasehold Services Team

Copy of an invite/agenda to the last Leasehold Forums held.

**Leasehold Forum**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Venue:**

Primrose Hall, Goldsworthy Way

6.30pm-8.30pm

1. Introductions & Welcome
  - Formalities
  
2. Topic & Speakers
  - Subletting - Leasehold Services – Ashok Pai
  - Housing Managers Carol Clegg, David Askwith, Mandeep Bhogil

Re: Caretaking/Estate Services
  
3. Updates: Service Charges
  - Leasehold Services – Ashok Pai/Samaira Saqlain/Amanda Talbot – Leasehold Team

Re: 2011/2012 Audited Service Charges
  
4. AOB

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee      **DATE:** 8 July 2013

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dr Angela Snowling (Consultant in Public Health)  
**(For all enquiries)** Dr Onteeru Buchi B Reddy (Public Health Programme  
Manager)  
(01753) 875144

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Commissioner for Health and Wellbeing – Councillor James Walsh

**PART I**  
**CONSIDERATION & COMMENT**

**CHILDHOOD OBESITY REVIEW (MEETING 1): DOES SLOUGH HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CHILDHOOD OBESITY?**

1 **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Committee with national and local information on childhood obesity to facilitate discussion on the level of the problem in Slough.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Committee consider the information provided and garnered through questioning at the committee meeting in order to form conclusions on the level of the problem, the current trends and main factors influencing childhood obesity levels in Slough.

3 **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Priorities:

- Health and Wellbeing

4 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

The JSNA for Slough in 2009, 2010 and 2011/12 all noted the issue of childhood obesity as a priority.

5 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(b) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications relating to this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA relating to this report.

**6 Childhood Obesity – General**

6.1 The World Health Organisation (WHO) regards childhood obesity as one of the most serious global public health challenges facing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In England, the latest figures, for 2011/12, show that 19.2% of children in Year 6 (aged 10-11) were obese and a further 14.7% were overweight. Of children in Reception (aged 4-5), 9.5% were obese and another 13.1% were overweight. This means almost a third of 10-11 year olds and over a fifth of 4-5 year olds were overweight or obese.

6.2 In the UK, the calculation on levels of obesity are based on Body Mass Index (BMI) levels. Assessment of BMI for children is different from adults as it must account for differing growth patterns and therefore variable thresholds are used to take account of children's age and sex. The baseline comparison data is taken from the Reference Population (data from a large sample of children identifying how BMI varies by age and sex across the population establishing an average). In the UK, this allows for the following UK90 Growth Reference classifications:

- Overweight = 85<sup>th</sup> percentile
- Obese = 95<sup>th</sup> percentile

(Dinsdale H et al, 2011)

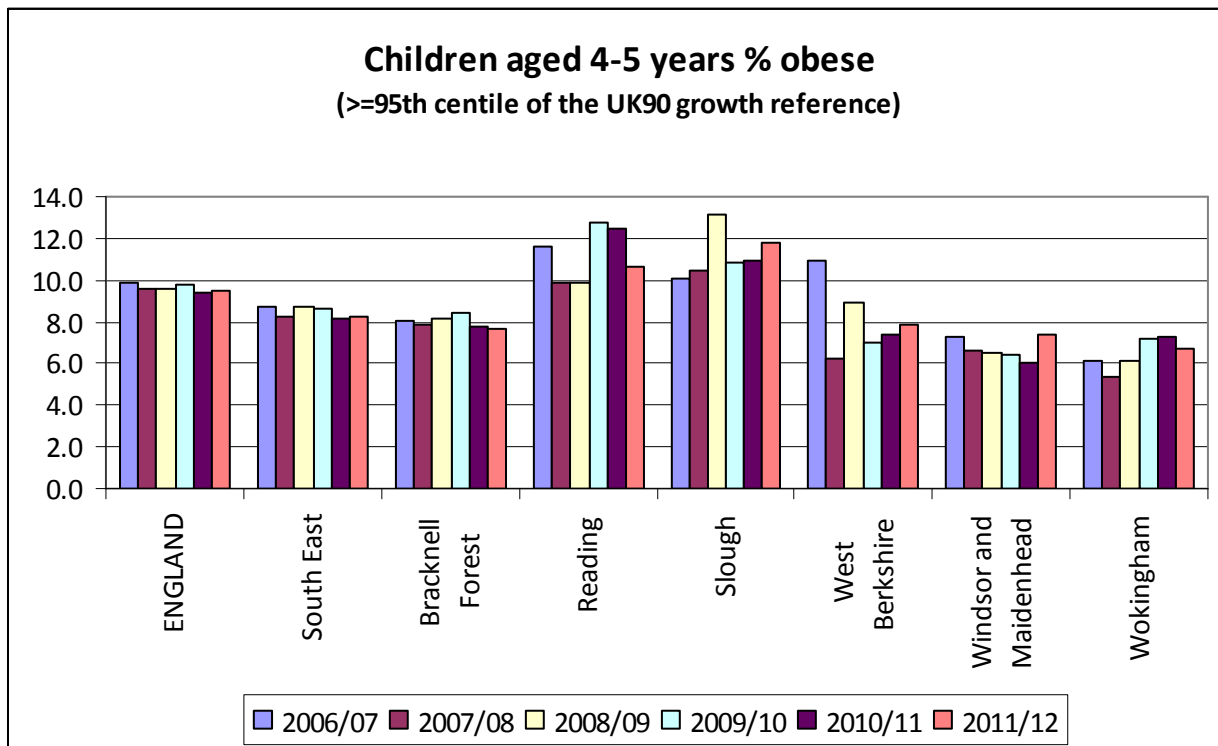
6.3 Obesity is associated with a range of health problems including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, with obese children and adolescents at an increased risk of developing these health problems. The resulting NHS costs

attributable to overweight and obesity (in adults and children) are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year (Foresight 2007). These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

## 7 Data

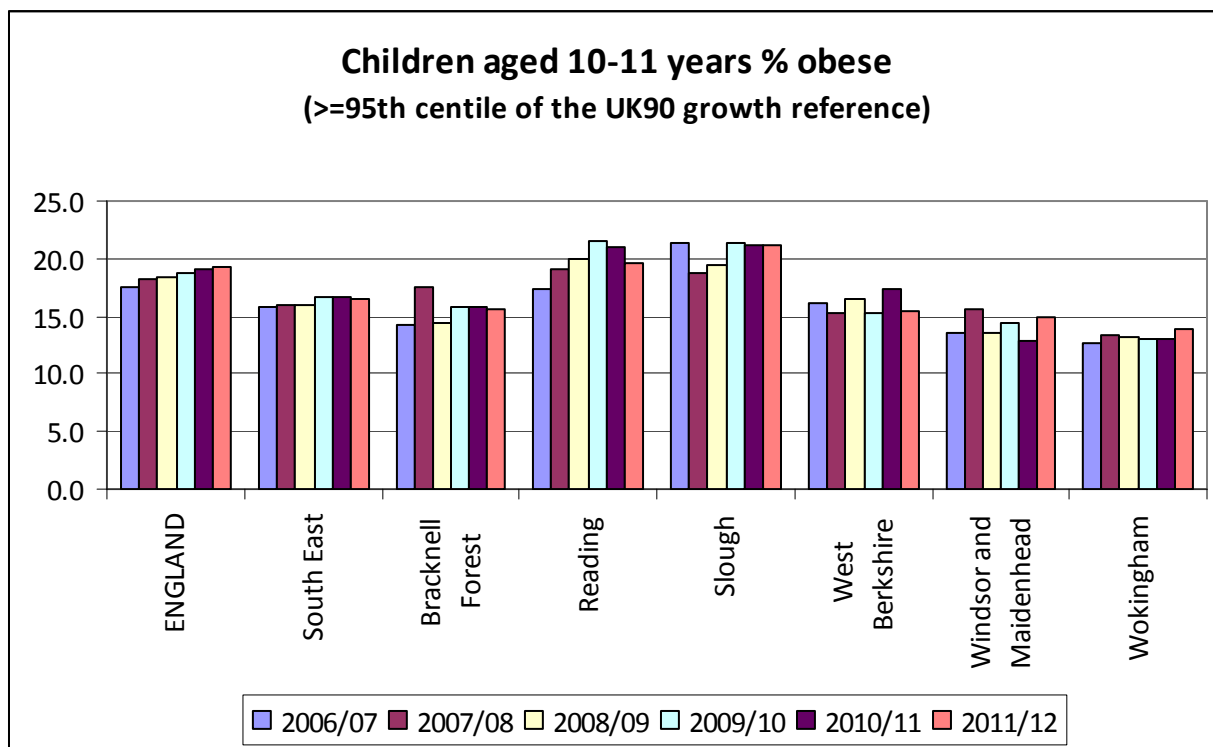
### 7.1 Benchmarking between different geographical neighbours (%) – Reception

LA	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
ENGLAND	9.9	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.4	9.5
South East	8.7	8.3	8.7	8.7	8.2	8.3
Bracknell Forest	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7
Reading	11.6	9.9	9.9	12.7	12.5	10.6
<b>Slough</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>
West Berkshire	10.9	6.2	8.9	7.0	7.4	7.9
RBWM	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.0	7.4
Wokingham	6.1	5.4	6.1	7.2	7.2	6.7



### 7.2 Benchmarking between different geographical neighbours (%) – Year 6

LA	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
ENGLAND	17.5	18.3	18.3	18.7	19.0	19.2
South East	15.9	16.1	16.0	16.6	16.6	16.5
Bracknell Forest	14.3	17.5	14.5	15.9	15.9	15.7
Reading	17.3	19.1	19.9	21.6	21.0	19.6
<b>Slough</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>
West Berkshire	16.2	15.3	16.5	15.2	17.4	15.5
RBWM	13.6	15.6	13.5	14.4	12.8	14.9
Wokingham	12.8	13.4	13.1	12.9	12.9	13.9



### 7.3 Census 2011 – Population Figures

Age	Numbers			% of population		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0-4	6,500	6,300	12,800	4.6	4.5	9.1
5-9	5,100	4,900	10,000	3.6	3.5	7.1
10-14	4,600	4,400	9,000	3.3	3.1	6.4

### 7.4 Obesity Levels - Gender difference 2011/12 results (%)

	Reception		Ratio of boys to girls	Year 6		Ratio of boys to girls
	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls	
ENGLAND	9.9	9.0	1.10	20.7	17.7	1.17
South East	8.8	7.8	1.12	18.1	14.8	1.22
Bracknell Forest	7.2	8.2	0.87	17.8	13.2	1.35
West Berkshire	8.8	6.9	1.27	16.0	14.9	1.07
Reading	11.6	9.6	1.21	21.3	17.7	1.20
<b>Slough</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>1.25</b>
Windsor and Maidenhead	7.7	7.1	1.10	18.3	11.7	1.56
Wokingham	7.7	5.7	1.37	15.6	12.1	1.29

Most areas have a higher proportion of obesity amongst boys than amongst girls – for example, in Year 6 classes locally, 23.5% of boys were obese but only 18.8% of girls. Amongst 4-5 year olds in Slough this difference is less pronounced (11.9% of boys, 11.7% of girls were assessed as obese).

## 7.5 Childhood obesity at ward level

The tables beneath portrays averages of ward level data from the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 results and illustrate the wards with highest to lowest observed childhood obesity rates over this three-year sampling period. Of particular interest, Colnbrook with Poyle has the highest rates locally of obesity amongst both Reception year and Year 6 pupils.

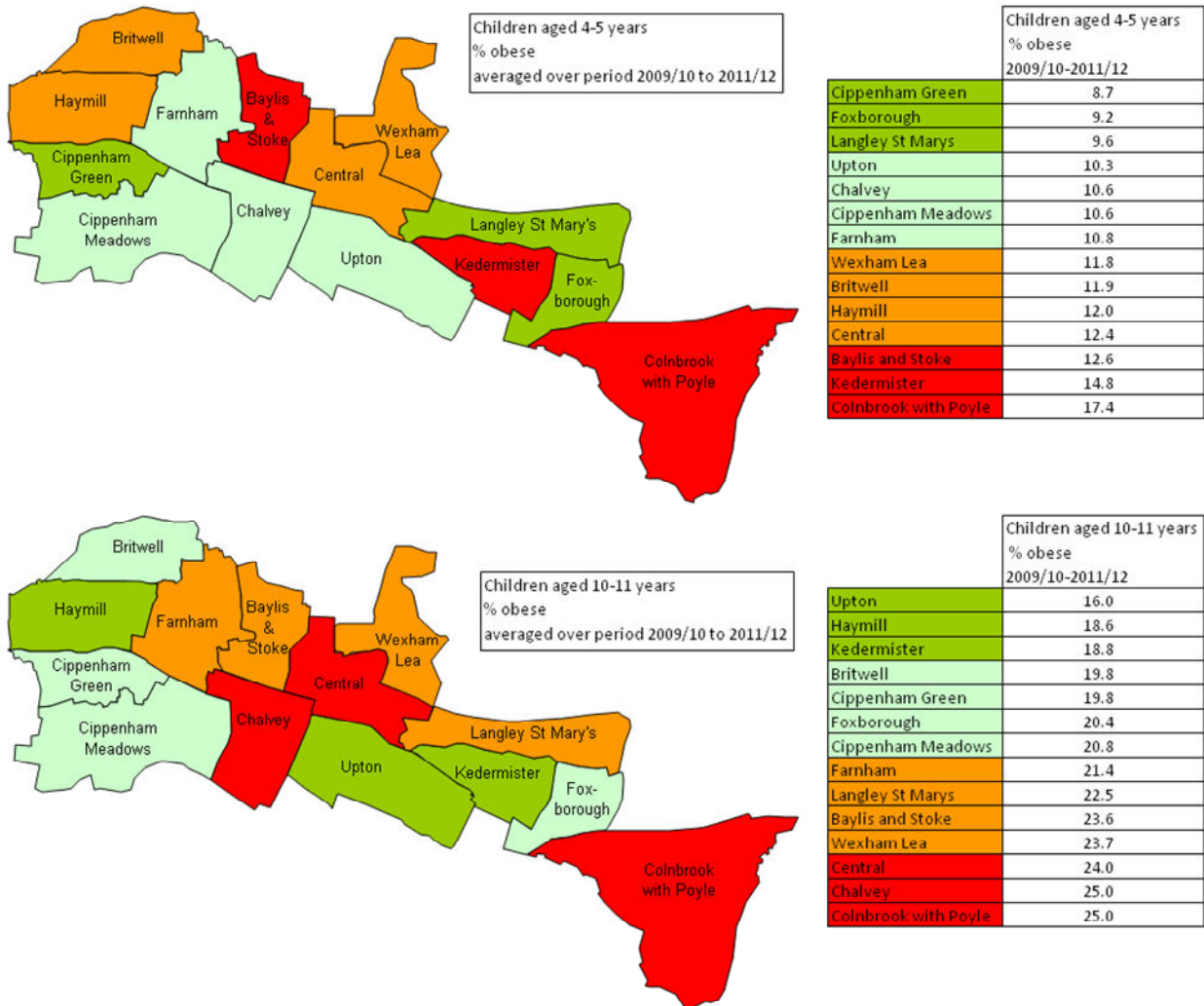
### NCMP 2009/10 to 2011/12

#### Obesity and healthy weight prevalence by school year and electoral ward of child residence

	Reception (age 4-5 years)				
	Number measured	Number obese	% obese	95% confidence limits	
				Lower	Upper
Colnbrook with Poyle	172	30	<b>17.4%</b>	12.5%	23.8%
Kedermister	271	40	<b>14.8%</b>	11.0%	19.5%
Baylis and Stoke	486	61	<b>12.6%</b>	9.9%	15.8%
Central	451	56	<b>12.4%</b>	9.7%	15.8%
Haymill	324	39	<b>12.0%</b>	8.9%	16.0%
Britwell	396	47	<b>11.9%</b>	9.0%	15.4%
Wexham Lea	417	49	<b>11.8%</b>	9.0%	15.2%
Farnham	351	38	<b>10.8%</b>	8.0%	14.5%
Cippenham Meadows	444	47	<b>10.6%</b>	8.1%	13.8%
Chalvey	426	45	<b>10.6%</b>	8.0%	13.8%
Upton	291	30	<b>10.3%</b>	7.3%	14.3%
Langley St Marys	188	18	<b>9.6%</b>	6.1%	14.6%
Foxborough	283	26	<b>9.2%</b>	6.3%	13.1%
Cippenham Green	335	29	<b>8.7%</b>	6.1%	12.2%

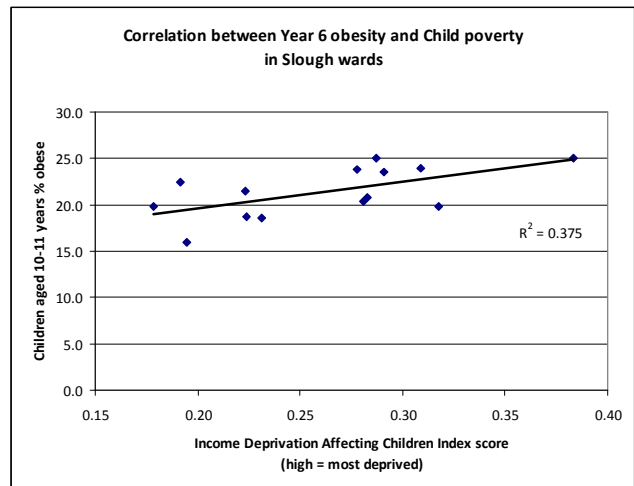
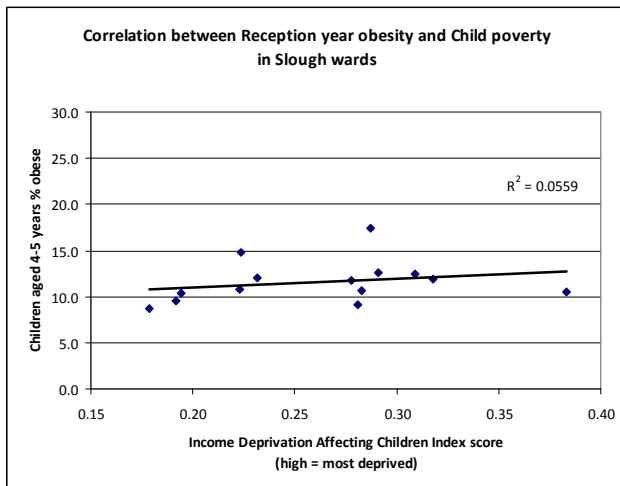
	Year 6 (age 10-11)				
	Number measured	Number obese	% obese	95% confidence limits	
				Lower	Upper
Chalvey	296	74	<b>25.0%</b>	20.4%	30.2%
Colnbrook with Poyle	148	37	<b>25.0%</b>	18.7%	32.5%
Central	346	83	<b>24.0%</b>	19.8%	28.8%
Wexham Lea	417	99	<b>23.7%</b>	19.9%	28.1%
Baylis and Stoke	428	101	<b>23.6%</b>	19.8%	27.8%
Langley St Marys	209	47	<b>22.5%</b>	17.4%	28.6%
Farnham	350	75	<b>21.4%</b>	17.5%	26.0%
Cippenham Meadows	384	80	<b>20.8%</b>	17.1%	25.2%
Foxborough	285	58	<b>20.4%</b>	16.1%	25.4%
Cippenham Green	293	58	<b>19.8%</b>	15.6%	24.7%
Britwell	354	70	<b>19.8%</b>	16.0%	24.2%
Kedermister	309	58	<b>18.8%</b>	14.8%	23.5%
Haymill	285	53	<b>18.6%</b>	14.5%	23.5%
Upton	213	34	<b>16.0%</b>	11.7%	21.5%

This same data is presented beneath as two maps, with the three wards having highest obesity shaded red, the three of lowest obesity bright green.



## 8 **Analysis**

- 8.1 The charts beneath compare the average ward-level obesity rates (2009/10-2011/12) to a measure of low income amongst families in those wards. There is a weak statistical correlation between ward level childhood obesity and low family income (as established by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index Score from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010). Therefore, whilst low income appears to have a role in describing Slough childhood obesity, it is not the only factor involved locally.



- 8.2 With deprivation and ethnicity correlated with higher rates of childhood obesity, children from Asian and Black Groups are also more likely to be obese than white ethnic groups (NOO, 2012).
- 8.3 Alongside deprivation and ethnicity there are a number of factors that have an influence on levels of obesity (both positive and negative): media; social; psychological; economic; food; activity; infrastructure; developmental; biological; and medical.
- 8.4 The risk factors for obesity include absence of breast feeding, parent feeding practices & nutritive quality of food consumed (cooked meals vs takeaways), activity levels and parental obesity, food security, parental psychosocial factors, stress and other contextual determinants. In terms of children, the total screen time during weekdays and weekends, emotional wellbeing, access to timely, healthy meals at home and school, recognition of portion sizes of food, physical activity status, safety at home and in open green spaces etc (Hearst, 2012)
- 8.5 Hearst says (2012) “Families with higher social risk (less safety, more stress, and food insecurity) also reported fewer family meals, more child screen time and trends indicated greater social-emotional developmental needs of the children. Parent stress and more child screen time also were positively correlated with developmental concerns with the child. The observed correlations of obesity-risk, social-emotional developmental and social conditions do suggest that a common intervention approach that touches on the interconnected nature of all of these components may improve aspects of each, such as ways to reduce family stress, creation of a neighbourhood safety watch and policies to increase equitable and affordable food access within and across neighbourhoods.”
- 8.6 Children from families where one or both parents are obese, lower socioeconomic, deprived, ethnic groups, where there are unhealthy lifestyle choices, inactivity, cultural, environmental factors and genetic susceptibility are at a higher risk for childhood obesity.
- 8.7 The rising prevalence of obesity is multi-factorial, including genetic factors influencing the susceptibility of a given child to an obesity-conducive environment. However, environmental factors, lifestyle preferences, behavioural, psychological, social, cultural and environmental factors are thought to determine the increasing prevalence of obesity. In the current obesogenic environment, wider determinants of health have a huge influence on childhood obesity.

## 9 **Motivations and Barriers to Combating Childhood Obesity**

9.1 In June 2010, Morgans' undertook detailed social research looking into the motivations and barriers in Slough relating to the issue of childhood obesity, looking for key themes for motivating children and their parents.

<b>Motivations for Children and Parents</b>	
<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Play with friends	Cheap childcare
Be happy and have fun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want to be challenged</li> <li>• Needs to be age specific</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and secure</li> <li>• Local – easy access</li> <li>• Doesn't involve/require their involvement</li> </ul>
Somewhere to go <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe – but not constrained</li> <li>• Local – can walk/cycle</li> <li>• Basic amenities (e.g. toilets)</li> </ul>	Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritising – for self and child</li> </ul>

<b>Barriers for Children and Parents</b>	
<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Know more about health messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From school, parents, peers</li> <li>• Mix messages</li> </ul>	Variable health knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically simplistic and media led</li> <li>• Risk may feel undermined</li> </ul>
Potential pester power good but can backfire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rifts in family if child critical</li> </ul>	Culture and upbringing powerful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May have been limited health messages</li> <li>• Lack of skills</li> </ul>
Traditions can clash with peers/fitting in	Merging into new culture, transition issues, want more guidance
Want activities, keen for challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access issues</li> </ul>	May overestimate child's physical activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically revolves around school</li> </ul>
Like activities to be in safe environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust, where they know</li> </ul>	Not aware of local, diversity of activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time issues critical</li> </ul>
Messages communicated and processed but not able to drive change	Limited emotional engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disassociated from problems</li> </ul>

## 10 **Strategies for Tackling Obesity**

10.1 The Foresight Report (2007) set out a multifaceted strategy to tackle issues of obesity, with three strands of activity:

- the promotion of healthy diets
- redesigning the built environment to promote walking
- culture changes to shift societal values and around food and activity

10.2 The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) identifies and coordinates local, regional and national evidence of what works in tackling childhood obesity, and creates a single comprehensive picture of effective practice. This information is used to support local authorities, working with them to improve outcomes. This work focuses on nine themes:



- Early Years
- Disabled Children
- Vulnerable (Looked After) Children
- Child Poverty
- Safeguarding
- Schools and Communities
- Youth
- Families, Parents and Carers
- Early Intervention and Prevention

10.3 The Childhood Obesity National Support Team (CONST), has produced the Strategic High Impact Changes document, capturing the learning and evidence gathered from 44 visits to local health economies across the country. CONST uses this learning to activities that could make the greatest impact in addressing obesity in a local area. This programme has identified four key areas for implementation:

- Building local intelligence
- Harnessing the contribution of existing community resources within local healthy weight pathways
- Workforce development
- Workforce health

## 11 **What are we currently doing?**

### 11.1 Early Years –

- recognising risk of obesity in pregnancy and working with Wexham Park Hospital Maternity Services to manage this risk;
- working to improve rates of uptake of breastfeeding remain a priority in order to increase awareness that feeling full starts at birth. Expanding the programme of antenatal and post-natal breast feeding support through a peer-led breast-feeding programme to compliment work of midwives.

### 11.2 Schools –

- Adopting a whole school approach to tackling obesity was the basis of the national healthy schools programme standards. In Slough, eight schools are working towards the enhanced health schools programme. This requires action to promote:
  - understanding of the principles of nutrition, including health lunchboxes, healthy menus, cooking and gardening skills;
  - free school meals and healthy eating environments; and
  - ensuring that information is provided throughout the curriculum to aid healthy choices as well as increasing physical activity both in school and through active travel to school and after school activities.
- From the health consultation that is being conducted for the JSNA by Slough Wellbeing Board to support the needs that have been identified.

11.3 Physical activity – improving awareness of how much physical activity is required, and encouraging active play sessions. (Detailed action on this will be available following the release of the draft Physical Activity Strategy shortly.)

11.4 Targeted family-based weight management programmes – the More Life programme has a strong evidence base and is one of only a few nationally approved programmes. In Slough weight management programmes look to target children and

families living in areas of high deprivation and health inequalities. Difficulties with recruitment into these programmes are best overcome using summer holiday periods to promote these services. Once engaged, retention in the programmes is high.

#### 11.5 Other -

- Incorporating measures to tackle obesity into strategic town planning and place shaping initiatives; and
- Continuing to update the care pathways for children and adults.

### 12 Conclusion

The issue of childhood obesity is complex and there are a number of causation factors including ethnicity and deprivation which impact on the levels in a particular area. This report is aimed at providing the provisional data for Members to consider as they investigate this issue and consider options for tackling it going forward.

### 13 Background Papers

- 1 - Dinsdale H, Ridler C, Ells L J. A simple guide to classifying body mass index in children. Oxford: National Obesity Observatory, 2011
- 2 - National Obesity Observatory (NOO). [www.noo.org.uk](http://www.noo.org.uk)
- 3 - Foresight – Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' project. Foresight Programme, Office of Science and Innovation, 2007
- 4 - Rice H, Fauth R, Reeves A – What works in combating childhood obesity: an anthology of the literature on effective whole-system approaches. C4EO, 2011
- 5 - Hearst M, Martin L, Rafdal B, Robinson R, McConnell S. Early childhood development and obesity risk-factors in a multi-ethnic, low-income community: Feasibility of the 'Five Hundred under Five' social determinants of health pilot study. Health Education Journal 2013, published online 18 March 2012

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 8 July 2013

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Forsyth – Scrutiny Officer  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875657

**WARDS:** All

**PART I**

**TO NOTE**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2012/13 WORK PROGRAMME**

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the current work programme for the Committee.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Committee note the current work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year.

3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- **Economy and Skills**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Housing**
- **Regeneration and Environment**
- **Safer Communities**

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee leads the Council's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

4. **Supporting Information**

Work Programme

4.1 The current work programme is based on the discussions of the Committee at its previous meetings, looking at requests for consideration of issues from officers and issues that have been brought to the attention of Members outside of the Committee's meetings.

4.2 The work programme is a flexible document which will be continually open to review throughout the municipal year.

5. **Conclusion**

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee plays a key role in ensuring the transparency and accountability of the Council's financial and performance management, and strategic direction.

5.2 This report is intended to provide the Committee with the opportunity to review its upcoming work programme and make any amendments it feels are required.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Work Programme for 2013/14 Municipal Year

7. **Background Papers**

None.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

Meeting Date
<b>10 September 2013</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Obesity – Meeting 2: “What options are there to alter the physical environment?”</li> <li>• Q1 Performance and Finance Report</li> <li>• Implications of CSR on medium term financial planning</li> <li>• Leisure Services Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>7 October 2013</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Obesity – Meeting 3: “What is the role of GPs and Primary Care?”</li> <li>• Thames Valley Transactional Service Centre: Update</li> </ul>
<b>12 November 2013</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Obesity – Meeting 4: “What is the role of schools and how can we support them?”</li> <li>• Q2 Performance and Finance Report</li> </ul>
<b>3 December 2013</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Obesity – Meeting 5: “How can we encourage greater physical activity amongst children and young people?”</li> </ul>

Meeting Date	
	<b>14 January 2014</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Obesity – Meeting 6: Sign off report</li> </ul>
	<b>6 February 2014</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q3 Performance and Finance Report</li> </ul>
	<b>4 March 2014</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Constable</li> </ul>
	<b>8 April 2014</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

Currently Un-programmed:

- Bus Station Project
- Review of Neighbourhood Action Groups
- Review of Job Clubs
- Treasury Management
- Economic Development Strategy
- Loanshark Service

- Apprenticeships, work experience and Aspire
- Impact of Benefits Changes
- Delivering Strategic Outcomes from Procurement Strategy

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MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD 2013/2014

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR	04/06	08/07	10/09	07/10	12/11	03/12	14/01	06/02	04/03	08/04
Bal	P									
Hussain	P									
Malik	P									
M S Mann	P									
Minhas	P									
Nazir	P									
O'Connor	P									
Small	P									
Smith	P									

P = Present for whole meeting  
 Ap = Apologies given

P\* = Present for part of meeting  
 Ab = Absent, no apologies given

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