

Appendix 1

Suggested responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Working Group

	Comment:	Response	Recommendation:
1	<p>General consistency:</p> <p>The consistency of the objectives could usefully be improved. For example:</p> <p>Many Council activities which need to be maintained are not mentioned, presumably due to brevity, yet Medium Term Objective (MTO) 4 refers to maintaining landscape maintenance.</p> <p>Some objectives are very high level (e.g. 'implementing the Local Transport Plan') yet others are very detailed (e.g. MTO 7 contains five objectives around equality issues, written in some detail).</p> <p>All MTO's and key objectives should be succinct, and not go into detail. The more detailed information should be available in the departmental service plans and the Council's strategies and policies.</p>	<p>There is a variety of phrasing regarding the objectives. This reflects the variety of the council's activities and would require significant reworking of the draft work plans before the start of the next financial year. Nevertheless, this issue should be taken into consideration by managers during detailed work planning for 2010/11 and as part of the review of the MTOs for 2011/12</p>	No change
2	<p>MTO1 Bracknell town centre:</p> <p>We understand and accept that the economic downturn requires major change to this MTO, but we are concerned at the dramatic reduction from 8 to 3 key objectives, and the extent of the 'dilution'</p>	<p>Previous years' objectives were focused on the start of the development programme, constructing the new civic hub and other initial phases. These objectives are not now realistic and instead, the focus is in establishing a</p>	Accept in part

	<p>of the key objectives to the point they appear anaemic.</p> <p>The objectives need to reflect residents' strong wish to see more tangible progress and less emphasis on plans, approvals and documents. Specifically, we suggest replacing the third objective with: 'Actively encouraging and agreeing new proposals to start the regeneration of the town centre and making tangible progress'.</p>	<p>viable way forward for the scheme. This is set against the toughest conditions for the construction industry for many years. Nevertheless, the objective could be worded more positively</p>	
3	<p>MTO3 Housing and infrastructure:</p> <p>Given its importance, we suggest that the third objective should be amended to: 'Updating and implementing the Local Transport Plan, including cycle ways and other improvements to sustainable transport'.</p>	<p>This would be difficult to do in the light of the budget savings proposed for the coming year. The reduction in resources means that the council will have to focus on projects which will improve highway safety and necessary junction improvements, rather than extensions to the cycleway network or other measures.</p>	No change
4	<p>MTO4 Clean and green</p> <p>The third objective fails to recognise the increasing significance of 'reduce, re-use, recycle'. We suggest expanding the objective to read: 'Work in partnership to improve waste minimisation, re-use, also an increase in recycling rates to at least 50% through the Re³ initiative'.</p>	<p>The objectives have been drafted to be achievable as far as possible. Whilst a target beyond 50% recycling rates would undoubtedly be aspirational, it would be unrealistic.</p>	No change
5	<p>MTO4 clean and green</p> <p>The fourth objective looks too narrow. We suggest it is expanded to read: 'Improving energy management in Council and school facilities, and encouraging better energy management throughout</p>		Accept change

	the borough’.		
6	MTO5 Health and wellbeing The second objective is incomplete. It should read: ‘Working with health partners to secure more outpatient and diagnostic services, acute and secondary health services in the borough’.	NHS Berkshire East do not plan to increase acute health care provision in the borough; the remainder of the suggestion would improve the key objective	Accept in part
7	MTO5 health and wellbeing The third objective would benefit from a small expansion on a significant function: ‘Focusing on prevention, for example by supporting smoking cessation and by increasing the number of adults.....’	This issue is led by NHS Berkshire East rather than the council.	No change
8	MTO6 outcomes for children and families The second objective could usefully be expanded to read: ‘Make sure there are enough good school buildings.....Garth Hill College and a new sixth form for Edgbarrow School.’		Accept change
9	MTO6 outcomes for children and families The ninth objective should be strengthened, to read: ‘Taking all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.’		Accept change
10	MTO7 inclusion and access The second objective should fittingly refer to Bracknell Forest rather than Bracknell.	The council’s Customer Contact Centre is in Bracknell and will continue to be developed there.	No change

11	MTO7 inclusion and access We suggest deleting the words 'and through the LAA' from the sixth objective, as they appear superfluous, as are some other words. It could more fittingly read: 'Implementing the Community Cohesion Strategy to give people a sense of belonging and identity as members of their community.'		Accept change
12	MTO7 inclusion and access In the final objective, the term 'Think Family' is not widely familiar and needs explanation.		Accept change
13	MTO8 crime: The fifth objective should make it clear that it is a national strategy (against violent extremism).	Local partners have produced a strategy against violent extremism which is consistent with the national Prevent framework	No change
14	MTO8 crime: The wording of the penultimate objective on safeguarding is very unclear.		Accept change
15	MTO8 crime The final objective is too narrow. We suggest: 'Work with and support all partners to resolve the issues of greatest concern to residents, from the 2009 neighbourhood survey'.		Accept change

16	MTO10 accountability and value for money This MTO might be the appropriate place to mention the Sustainable Community Strategy, which certainly needs to be referred to given its importance.		Accept change
17	MTO13 impact of the recession We suggest replacing the second key objective with the more positive key objective from 2009-10: 'Promote the take-up of benefits, allowances and concessions provided by the Council.'		Accept change
18	MTO13 impact of the recession We consider that the final objective concerning NEET young people should appear under MTO 12 (to promote workforce skills).		Accept change