

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 10 JULY 2014

MAIN POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW UP ACTION

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

(Contact: Councillor Peter Handley)

(The report is for information)

1. PURPOSE

To consider the main points arising from the meeting of the Committee held on 24 April 2014 and to provide an update on the follow up action that has been taken.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That, the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At the meeting of this Committee held on 24 April 2014 six reports were received and considered.

Chairman's Update Report

3.2. The Chairman's Update Report was received and noted.

Notice of Motion – Support for Local Public Houses

3.3. The Committee received the report of the Strategic Director regarding a notice of motion that had been referred by Council.

3.4. After discussion it was resolved that Cabinet be recommended:

'Pubs are important local assets and West Oxfordshire District Council has a record of supporting pubs across the District. They are under threat as a result of a number of pressures including the economic situation and high property prices.

Therefore the Council supports the proposal that the government help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.

In addition officers be requested to consider strengthening local plan policies regarding change of use of public houses to help protect them as community hubs.'

3.5. The recommendation was considered and supported at the subsequent Council meeting..

Rollout of High Speed Broadband

3.6. An update was given to the committee in respect of the rollout of high speed broadband in the district.

3.7. Members noted the report.

Committee Work Programme

- 3.8. Consideration was given to the report of the Strategic Director updating members in respect of the Committee Work Programme for the year.
- 3.9. Members noted the update and highlighted specific areas that could be included in the future work programme or be the subject for presentations to the committee.

Cabinet Work Programme

- 3.10. The Cabinet Work Programme published on 8 April 2014 was received and noted.

Performance Indicators

- 3.11. The report of the shared Head of Business Information and Change providing information on the Council's performance for the third quarter of the year 2013/2014 was received and noted.

Members Questions

- 3.12. Questions were received in respect of South Central Ambulance Service and the provision of defibrillators in council buildings.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

None.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. RISKS

None.

7. REASONS

The Chairman's summary of the previous meeting is an opportunity for the Chairman to outline to members progress made on their ideas and suggestions from the previous Committee meetings. It will also provide members with a further chance to comment on these subjects and provide a transparent method of showing the effectiveness of members' contributions to this Committee and its key overview and scrutiny role in monitoring, evaluating, questioning, challenging and developing policy.

Councillor Peter Handley
Chairman of Economic and Social Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 June 2014

Background Papers:

None