

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2015

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

(Contact: Christine Gore, Tel: (01285) 623605)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2015/2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2015/2016.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At the meeting of the Committee in May 2015 initial consideration was given to the Work Programme for the year having regard to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council, the intention of which was that work programmes should comprise fewer more strategic issues. These would probably be key policy areas either reviewing implemented policies or input to future policy development which the Committee would investigate over several meetings with the aim of adding value.
- 3.2. At that time it was agreed to adopt a “toolkit” approach in deciding whether a major review or Working Party should be implemented. This would initially be completed by the relevant Chairman, Vice Chairman and Strategic Director so as to ensure that all suggested reviews would be subject to a series of criteria before they could proceed.
- 3.3. It is not intended that the ‘toolkit’ be used for small reviews requiring only a brief report. There will still be the opportunity to bring forward one-off reports/papers on particular issues of interest to the Committee outside of the normal Work Programme but it will also be necessary to maintain a general overview of the ways in which external agencies are responding to community concerns including when necessary inviting representatives to attend meetings of the Committee. The inclusion of a standing agenda item for Members questions also provides the opportunity for Members to raise ‘hot topics’.
- 3.4. The Committee is invited to consider progress in respect of the agreed Work Programme for 2015/2016 which is attached as an [Appendix](#) to this report.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, Committee has the power to investigate any matters it considers relevant to its work area, and to make recommendations to the Council, the Executive or any other Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council as it sees fit.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6. REASONS

To enable the Committee to review its Work Programme.

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Strategic Director

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Date:

Background Papers
None

Appendix

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	RAF Brize Norton	Meetings of the Liaison Group are on-going. The most recent meeting took place on 13 October 2015 and covered a range of issues including progress with Project Gateway; aircraft noise, in relation to which there have been significant improvements and progress; major infrastructure projects on the Base; housing and access issues.	On-going for periodic updates	E & S
2	Quality of Care in Hospitals	<p>Members will be aware there are significant changes taking place in the delivery of health services.</p> <p>The Committee has requested that an update be received from representatives of the Ambulance Trust at a future meeting.</p> <p>At the July meeting concern was raised regarding the staffing situation at Chipping Norton Hospital. Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking a consultation in respect of Intermediate Care in North Oxfordshire and a report is included on this agenda for consideration.</p> <p>The issue of planned ward closures at Witney Hospital was discussed at the previous meeting following a briefing held for members in August and a further update will be given at this meeting.</p>	November 2015	E & S
3	Police, Community Safety and CDRP	The committee received an update from the Thames Valley Police Area Commander regarding policing priorities for the area at the September meeting. The scrutiny of individual organisations in the CDRP is a separate issue.	September 2015	Council

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
4	Elements of the Local Development Framework (LDF) as appropriate	<p>The approval of the Local Plan is a statutory process. It may be appropriate for this Committee to consider specific aspects.</p> <p>The draft plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The hearing sessions have been postponed until November at the request of the Inspector.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report was received at the May meeting.</p>	<p>On-going as required</p> <p>May 2015</p>	E & S
5	Meeting the needs of an ageing population	<p>The committee has previously looked at issues regarding the impact of an ageing population and received input from Age UK and Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>A presentation was given at the May 2015 meeting by organisations working with people living with dementia.</p>		E & S
6	Marriotts Walk	<p>A Review Group was established to review the impact of Marriotts Walk from an economic development perspective on Witney and the surrounding area.</p> <p>A report summarising the work of the group has previously been received. The work of the group was noted and it was agreed that this task was effectively completed but that an update report would be presented on an annual basis.</p>	January 2016	E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
7	Leisure Contract	<p>The Committee has previously requested to receive updates, as necessary, in respect of progress against the recommendations of the Leisure Contract Review Group.</p> <p>Greenwich Leisure Ltd attended the July meeting to provide an update. An initial report in respect of the procurement process for the new contract was considered by Cabinet at the October meeting.</p>	July 2015	E & S
8	Welfare Reform Act	<p>A report was received at a previous meeting and the committee agreed that it would be beneficial to receive updates as further changes were implemented.</p> <p>The committee has suggested a meeting with RSL's operating in the district to discuss any housing issues arising from changes in the benefits system and other government legislation such as right to buy.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Meeting to be arranged</p>	E & S
9	Integration of Public Transport	<p>It was suggested at a previous meeting that it may be pertinent for the committee to look at issues of bus services in the district integrating with other public transport more effectively.</p> <p>OCC undertook a consultation in respect of subsidies for bus services in the county and the committee made recommendation to Cabinet at the last meeting. OCC are scheduled to consider the outcome of the consultation on 10 November.</p> <p>The committee has also requested that OCC be invited to a future meeting to discuss the outcome of the review and how bus services will be structured in the future.</p>	On-going	E & S