

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016

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: 29 February 2016

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 next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2016 and a verbal update will be given at the meeting of this Committee.	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>At the July 2015 meeting concern was raised regarding the staffing situation at Chipping Norton Hospital. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) undertook a consultation in respect of Intermediate Care in North Oxfordshire and the council submitted a response.</p> <p>The OCC Cabinet considered a report at a meeting held on 26 January 2016 where it was resolved:</p> <p>To agree to move to implementation of Model A: the Intermediate Care Unit in Chipping Norton continues and the full 14 bed service is provided by the Orders of St John Care Trust</p> <p>The issue of planned ward closures at Witney Hospital was discussed at a previous meeting following a briefing held for members in August. The Cabinet Member and Strategic Director met with representatives from the NHS Trust in early February when it was confirmed that the reopening of the wards was due to take place according to the schedule previously advised. Any further updates will be given as necessary.</p>		E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
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>	Completed	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. It was agreed that this task was effectively completed but that an update report would be presented on an annual basis.</p>	March 2016	E & S
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 2015 meeting to provide an update.</p> <p>An initial report in respect of the procurement process for the new contract was considered by Cabinet at the October meeting. The initial stages leading up to the procurement process are due to commence in the near future and updates will be provided to Committee at each meeting hereafter.</p>	July 2015	E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
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 considered the consultation responses and resolved to approve funding cuts.</p> <p>A further report is to be considered by OCC on 15 March 2016 regarding this issue and the position will be updated at this meeting.</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> <p>This will be arranged once details of the new services/timetables have been finalised.</p>	On-going	E & S