

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 14 JULY 2016

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

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

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To give further consideration to the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers and determines its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to its Work Programme for the current year and requested that the Strategic Director prepare a draft Work Programme, incorporating the matters identified by Members at the meeting, together with any other issues outstanding from the previous year, for further consideration at this meeting.

3.2. Officers have prepared a draft programme as requested which is attached for Members' consideration as [Appendix B](#) to this report.

3.3. In giving further consideration to the draft Work Programme, Members are invited to take note of the Scrutiny Toolkit/Assessment Criteria, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. In particular, Members are requested to give consideration to the purpose and scope of any specific investigation or review and the Council's ability to influence a positive outcome in any given area.

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 determine its Work Programme.

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Strategic Director

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Date: 6 June 2016

Background Papers

None

SCRUTINY TOOLKIT/ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The potential scrutiny issue should:

- Be of local and preferably current concern
- Have a clear purpose
- Be linked to the Council's corporate objectives
- Be capable of being influenced by the Committee
- Be of manageable scope – focussed rather than too wide ranging
- Be of sufficient scope to warrant a scrutiny review – not something that can easily be fixed by meeting with the service provider or, for example, a future officer presentation or report
- Not be being scrutinised by another Scrutiny Committee”

In addition, the following should be considered:

- Is there a minimum of, say, four councillors who wish to participate in the review (where a working group is to be established) or who wish to
- Does it require any financial resources?
- How much Officer time would be required?
- Does the concern on the issue extend to the public?

Once a matter has been agreed for inclusion in the work programme, the following considerations should form the basis of the planning of the review:

- How long should the review be scheduled to take?
- How will we judge whether the review was successful?
- Will there be distinct stages to the review?
- What documentation/evidence/research may be needed and why?
- Will there be a need for site visits, where and why?
- Who might be called as witnesses and why?
- How might the cabinet/executive be called to account?
- What challenges might this raise for scrutiny members?
- What support will be required from officers?
- How will we deal with public relations/media interest?
- How will we engage with the public?
- What other issues or barriers need to be addressed?

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	RAF Brize Norton	Meetings of the Liaison Group are on-going. At the last meeting activities/development at RAF Brize Norton and the consequent impact upon Education and the availability of private rented accommodation were identified by Mrs Crossland and Mr Cooper as potential items for further consideration	On-going for periodic updates	E & S
2	Quality of Care/Review of Community Hospitals.	Members will be aware there are significant changes taking place in the delivery of health services. A comprehensive review of Community Hospital provision in the County is to commence shortly and this was identified by the Strategic Director as a potential item for consideration at the last meeting.	On-going as required	E & S
3	Police, Community Safety and CDRP	The Committee receives an annual update from the Thames Valley Police Area Commander regarding policing priorities for the area. The scrutiny of individual organisations in the CDRP is a separate issue.	September 2016	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.</p> <p>The draft plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The first hearing sessions were held in November 2015. The Inspector has published his initial report and whilst supporting many aspects of the plan he has raised some concerns about the proposed housing target.</p> <p>The second hearing session, provisionally planned for February, has now been postponed to allow the Council to carry out further work. Suggested changes to the plan will be reported to Cabinet and Council (expected to be in September) before submission to the Inspector.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report appears as Agenda item No. 9</p>	July 2016	E & S
5	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>It was agreed that this task was effectively completed but that an update report would be presented on an annual basis.</p> <p>The last update report was submitted in March 2016. As the Marriotts Close development is now well established, the Committee is invited to consider whether there is any merit in receiving further reports as a matter of course.</p>		E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
6	Welfare Reform Act – Meeting with Registered Social Landlords	<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 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 RTB.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>September 2016</p>	E & S
7	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>The Committee 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>Following the last meeting, it has been suggested that the Committee may wish to consider how the Council could assist in response to the withdrawal of County Council subsidies. Members may wish to consider establishing a working party to investigate further.</p>	On-going	E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
8	Leisure Management Contract Working Party	At the last meeting the Committee agreed to constitute a Working Party to give consideration to the procurement of the leisure management contract and delivery of the current service. The inaugural meeting took place on 7 June, the notes of which appear as Agenda item No. 11	On-going	E & S
9	Operation of the Ambulance Service	Identified by Mr Barrett as a potential item for consideration at the last meeting.		
10	West Oxfordshire Medical Centre	Identified by Mr Eaglestone as a potential item for consideration at the last meeting.		
11	Blenheim World Heritage Site Management Plan	Identified by Mr Cooper as a potential item for consideration at the last meeting.		
12	Fire Service Recruitment	Identified by Mr Handley as a potential item for consideration at the last meeting.		