

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 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 provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2016/2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2016/2017.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to the development of its Work Programme for the year 2016/2017 having regard to the changes to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council on 22 October 2008.

3.2. Attached at Appendix A is the approved Work Programme for 2016/2017 incorporating items rolled forward from last year, taking account of the discussions at the last meeting and providing an update on progress in relation to each item.

3.3. In addition to the items contained in the Work Programme there will still be the opportunity to bring forward one-off reports and papers on particular issues of interest to the Committee but it will also be necessary to maintain a general overview of the ways in which external agencies are responding to community concerns. The inclusion of a standing agenda item for Members' questions also provides the opportunity to raise relevant issues.

3.4. The Committee is invited to consider progress in respect of the agreed Work Programme for 2016/2017 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.

Christine Gore
Strategic Director

Author: Christine Gore, Tel: (01285) 623605; Email: christine.gore@westoxon.gov.uk

Date: 8 September 2016

Background Papers

None

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	RAF Brize Norton	<p>Meetings of the Liaison Group are on-going.</p> <p>At the last meeting Members expressed concern regarding the delay in providing residential development. The Strategic Director undertook to update Members on the outcome of her meeting with the Commanding Officer of RAF Brize Norton.</p> <p>The meeting took place on 19 July and was most constructive. Detailed discussions are now underway with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation about potential options for bringing forward the development to an earlier date.</p>	On-going for periodic updates	E & S
2	Quality of Care/Review of Community Hospitals.	<p>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 June meeting.</p> <p>At the last meeting, Members expressed concern over the under-utilisation of facilities at the Witney Hospital and indicated that they would wish to see both wards capable of operating at their full capacity of 24 beds as soon as possible.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee requested Officers to investigate proposals for changes to the provision of maternity and paediatric services at the Horton Hospital, Banbury, and possibly to other services across the county, and, given the importance of these services in the districts, to prepare a robust response on behalf of the Council, at the appropriate time, to be agreed by either the Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet Member,</p>	On-going as required	E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
		<p>depending upon any deadlines for responses.</p> <p>A meeting has taken place between the Cabinet Member for Health and the Service Director (Older People's Services) from Oxford Health. At this meeting reassurances were given regarding the current situation at Witney Hospital. Further detail will be provided verbally at the meeting by the Strategic Director and/or the Cabinet Member.</p>		
3	Police, Community Safety and CDRP	<p>The Committee receives an annual update from the Local Police Area Commander regarding policing priorities for the area.</p> <p>Superintendent Kath Lowe is to attend this meeting together with representatives of the Ambulance and Fire Services.</p> <p>The scrutiny of individual organisations in the CDRP is a separate issue.</p>	September 2016	Council
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.</p>	September 2016	E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
		<p>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 was considered at the last meeting.</p>		
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>At the last meeting it was agreed that this would be dealt with at a special meeting of the Committee.</p>	Autumn 2016	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>At the last meeting, the Committee agreed that the Cabinet be requested to give consideration to providing financial assistance in the sum of £800 to meet the initial set up costs of establishing a co-operative to commission local public transport services across the District.</p> <p>The request was considered and approved by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 27 July.</p>		E & S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
8	Leisure Management Contract Working Party	At the June 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 with a further meeting being held on 7 September.	On-going	E & S
9	Operation of the Ambulance Service	Identified as a potential item for consideration at the June meeting. Representatives of the South Central Ambulance Service Trust have been invited to attend this meeting.	September 2016	
10	Fire Service Recruitment	Identified as a potential item for consideration at the June meeting. Representatives of the Oxfordshire Fire Service have been invited to attend this meeting.	September 2016	
11	Blenheim World Heritage Site Management Plan	Identified as a potential item for consideration at the June meeting. At the last meeting the Strategic Director undertook to investigate and provide an update on the timescale for the review of the Blenheim World Heritage Site Management Plan.		
12	West Oxfordshire Medical Centre	Identified as a potential item for consideration at the June meeting. At the last meeting it was agreed that this item would not be included within the Committee Work Programme pending further enquiries by the local representative.		