

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017
MAIN POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING 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 25 May 2017 and provide an update on the follow up action that has been taken.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Committee held on 25 May 2017, consideration was given to seven substantive items of business.

3.1. Agenda Item No. 5: Main Points of the Last Meetings and Follow up Action

The Committee noted the report of the Chairman, which gave details of the main points arising from its meetings held on 19 January and 9 March 2017.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme

The Committee gave consideration to its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

3.2.1 RAF Brize Norton

Members noted that, whilst the next meeting of the RAF Brize Norton Liaison Group was not scheduled to take place until September, Officers would continue to pursue the question of the continued delay in the redevelopment of MOD housing land in Carterton at appropriate levels.

3.2.2 Oxfordshire Health Care Transformation Project

It was noted that phase 2 of the Oxfordshire Health Care Transformation Project had been postponed.

3.2.3 Police, Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

In view of the postponement of the Oxfordshire Health Care Transformation Project, Officers were requested to explore the possibility of bringing forward the annual update from the Local Police Area Commander to the July meeting. The new Area Commander, Superintendent Mark Johns has agreed to attend this meeting.

3.2.4 Leisure Management Contract

The Strategic Director undertook to provide an update on the new leisure management contract arrangements to enable Members to consider an appropriate date for a possible meeting of the Leisure Management Contract Working Party.

3.2.5 Review of Member Structures and Democratic Costs

It was noted that the Council had invited the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to give consideration to, and make recommendations upon, the options for amending the Council's Committee structure and the question of the electoral cycle and the number of members of the Council and agreed that this be incorporated into the Work Programme.

A report on this matter appears as agenda item No. 9.

3.2.6 Planning Enforcement

The Strategic Director undertook to provide a briefing paper on the planning enforcement system at a future meeting.

3.3. Agenda Item No. 7: Cabinet Work Programme

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 14 May 2017.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Madley Park Playing Fields Project

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Communities regarding the refurbishment of the existing play area and the addition of new facilities at Madley Park, Witney.

At that meeting it was resolved:-

- (a) That, subject to any necessary planning consent, the Cabinet be recommended to authorise the project to proceed based upon the location, concept plan and advice received as outlined within the main body of the report and requested to refer the matter back to this Committee for further consideration once the final design of the play area has been completed.
- (b) That the Cabinet be recommended to authorise consultation to take place with Witney Town Council regarding a leasehold/freehold transfer and/or management arrangements for the site.

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 14 June approved the recommendations and the matter will be referred back to this Committee for further consideration once the final design of the play area has been completed.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Performance Indicators – Quarter 3 2016/2017

The Committee received and noted performance indicators for the third quarter of 2016/2017.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Start Time of Meetings

Members agreed that, meetings of the committee for 2017/2018 would commence at 6:30pm.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 11: Members' Questions

37.1 Digital Nominations Scheme

It was noted that an update on the operation of the Digital Nominations Scheme would be provided in September.

37.2 Water Meters

It was suggested by Mr Kelland that, in order to reduce water bills, that the Council should encourage those in social rented properties to apply for water meters.

37.3 Leisure Facilities

It was noted that, whilst there were no specific proposals, the new leisure contract would secure investment in all the Council's Leisure Centres. Where development created an increased need for leisure provision, developer contributions would be secured through legal agreements. In addition, Mr Beaney made reference to problems that had arisen at the Witney Leisure Centre and the Strategic Director undertook to investigate and respond to him directly.

It was also noted that quarterly usage reports would enable the Council to identify any displacement of custom from other facilities resulting from investment in the Carterton Leisure Centre.

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: 20 June 2017

Background Papers:

None