

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 24 MAY 2018
MAIN POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW UP ACTION
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
(Contact: Councillor A C Beaney)

(The report is for information)

1. PURPOSE

To consider the main points arising from the meetings of the Committee held on 22 March and 17 April 2018 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 22 March, consideration was given to six substantive items of business.

3.1. Agenda Item No. 5: Meeting with Representatives of Cottsway Housing

Ms Sue Lakin, Operations Manager, and Ms Wendy Hardy, Financial Inclusion Manager of Cottsway Housing attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit.

At the meeting there was some discussion regarding the level of advice available through libraries. Members were advised that, whilst the County was keen to work with West Oxfordshire, there were concerns that staff in libraries were not trained to give advice.

A meeting was to be held with the Business Service Manager for Revenues and Benefits to discuss the matter in more detail but the extent to which any assistance could go was questionable. It was agreed that an update on the outcome of these discussions would be provided at the next meeting.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Members would be provided with a list and contact details of the nine RSL's operating within the District and a fact sheet providing information and contact details regarding the advice and assistance provided by the Council would be made available to all Members. Both documents have since been circulated to all Members of the Council, together with a copy of the slides from the earlier Member briefing on Housing and Homelessness.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: 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 meeting held on 25 January, 2018.

3.3. Agenda Item No. 7: Committee Work Programme

The Committee gave consideration to its Work Programme for 2017/2018.

3.3.1 RAF Brize Norton

The Executive Director (Commissioning) advised that arrangements had been made for the next meeting of the new liaison group to be held in May. In addition, Officers were to meet with representatives of Homes England and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in early April to discuss the future development of the REEMA housing site. The Executive Director (Commissioning) undertook to update Members on progress at the next meeting.

3.3.2 Oxfordshire Health Care Transformation Programme/Deer Park Medical Centre

Members received an update on the new approach to Phase 2 of the Oxfordshire Health Care Transformation Programme. It was noted that no changes were to be made to the current A&E and paediatric services at the Horton hospital or the current midwife led units across Oxfordshire.

3.3.3 Application of Developer Funding

In light of concerns expressed over the application of Section 106 contributions it was agreed that a briefing paper on the application of developer funding would be provided at a future meeting.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Cabinet Work Programme

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 16 March 2018.

3.4.1 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was suggested that a number of the outside bodies to which the Council made appointments no longer met and that a number of Members failed to attend meetings of those outside bodies to which they had been appointed. It was agreed that the Cabinet be requested to consider whether to continue to make appointments to all the outside bodies currently listed. The Cabinet is to give consideration to this request when making appointments at its meeting on 23 May.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2017/2018

The Committee received and considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Communities providing information on the Council's performance at the end of quarter 3 2017/2018.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Notes of the Leisure Management Contract Working Party

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting of the Leisure Management Contract Working Party held on 24 January.

At the meeting of the Committee held on 22 March, consideration was given to two substantive items of business.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 5: Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and Developer Contributions

The Committee received and considered the report of the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing regarding the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and its approach to developer contributions for affordable housing and infrastructure. It was resolved that the Cabinet be recommended to approve the

suggested consultation responses attached as appendices to the report for submission to the Government.

At its meeting held on 18 April the Cabinet approved the proposed consultation responses.

3.8. Agenda Item No. 6: Commissioning Services for Welfare Benefit, Housing, Debt & Money Management and Employment Advice

The Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager for Revenues and Housing Support regarding the proposed commissioning specification for services currently supported by the Grant to Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire. The Committee resolved that the Cabinet be requested to defer consideration of the matter and that Officers be requested to submit a revised report, together with the Equality Impact Assessment, for further consideration by the Committee.

At its meeting held on 18 April the Cabinet resolved that consideration of the matter be deferred pending receipt of further information in relation to European Union Procurement Rules and that Citizens Advice continues to be grant funded until such time as contracts are let. A revised report containing both the information requested by the Cabinet and the Equality Impact Assessment referred to by this Committee is to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 May.

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 A C Beaney
Chairman of Economic and Social Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16 May 2018

Background Papers:

None