

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

(Contact: Ralph Young, Tel: (01993) 861295)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2013/2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2013/2014.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. At the meeting of the Committee in June 2013 initial consideration was given to the Work Programme for the year having regard to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council on 22 October 2008, 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 2013/2014 which is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 3.5. The Committee will be considering a new Work Programme for 2014/2015 at its meeting in July 2014.

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.

Ralph Young
Strategic Director

(Author: Ralph Young, Tel: (01993) 861295; EMail: ralph.young@westoxon.gov.uk)
Date: 6 March 2014

Background Papers
None

| ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014 | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------|
| | Work Area | Comments | Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date | Originator |
| 1 | Air Quality Strategy | At the September 2013 meeting the committee requested an update on progress with the Air Quality Strategy plans for Witney and Chipping Norton. An update was presented at the January 2014 meeting. | Completed | ENV |
| 2 | Waste Contract | The new contract has been in operation since November 2010. Members have previously agreed that progress should be monitored by the committee. A contract monitoring report will be considered at this meeting. | Ongoing March 2014 | ENV |
| 3 | Climate Change Action Plan | The Committee received an update report in respect of Climate Change actions at the September 2013 meeting. The new WODC Low Carbon Plan was considered at the last meeting and was subsequently approved by Cabinet. | Ongoing January 2014 | ENV |
| 4 | Commercial Waste and Recycling Services | A report on future marketing of the service was presented to the July 2013 meeting. | Completed | ENV |

| | Work Area | Comments | Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date | Originator |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 5 | Flood Prevention Update | <p>There is an on-going programme of flood prevention works.</p> <p>A report summarising on-going discussions with Thames Water together with an update on the impact of flooding in the district during the recent bad weather is attached to this agenda for consideration.</p> <p>Officers will be present at the meeting to answer member questions.</p> | <p>The Committee receives regular updates on flood prevention work.</p> <p>March 2014</p> | ENV |
| 6 | Night Time Economy | <p>It was agreed at the November 2012 meeting that the possibility of considering issues relating to the Night Time Economy, in conjunction with the Economic and Social O&S Committee, be explored.</p> <p>A report was considered at the July 2013 meeting.</p> | Completed | ENV |
| 7 | Traffic Management Matters in Bladon | <p>At a previous meeting the Committee gave consideration to a Notice of Motion referred by Council on 16 January.</p> <p>The Committee considered a report together with input from interested parties. The recommendations of the Committee were considered and supported at the Council meeting held on 4 September 2013 and passed to Oxfordshire County Council.</p> | Completed | Council |