

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2015

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

(Contact: Claire Locke, Tel: (01993) 861344)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2014/2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2014/2015.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At the meeting of the Committee in July 2014 initial consideration was given to the Work Programme for the year having regard to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council, 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 2014/2015 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.

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Head of Environment and Commercial Services

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Background Papers
None

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	Waste Contract	<p>The new contract has been in operation since November 2010. Members have previously agreed that progress should be monitored by the committee.</p> <p>An update from the contractors will be given at this meeting.</p>	April 2015	ENV
2	Flood Prevention	<p>The committee has already undertaken significant work in respect of flooding issues.</p> <p>At the July 2014 meeting the committee requested that a further letter be sent to the local MP outlining concerns about a number of issues.</p>	On-going	ENV
3	OCC consultation on the Oxfordshire Flood Risk Management Strategy	<p>Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) undertook a consultation in respect of the Oxfordshire Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>This committee made recommendations to Cabinet in September 2014 and a response was then approved for submission to OCC.</p> <p>OCC considered responses at a Cabinet meeting on 16 December 2014 where it was resolved to note the consultation responses and approve an amended strategy in light of those responses.</p>	Completed	ENV
4	Thames Water – Infrastructure Issues	<p>During discussions with Thames Water the issue of the adequacy of the sewage infrastructure to meet the requirements of new developments has been raised.</p> <p>This issue is for the committee to examine in more detail.</p>	On-going	ENV

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
5	Open Space Grass Cutting	<p>The issue of grass cutting has been agreed as an item for consideration.</p> <p>In light of potential reductions in funding for such works and different authorities having responsibility the committee has decided to consider how best to take the matter forward.</p> <p>The Environmental Engagement & Landscape Manager gave a presentation at the September meeting and an update report was received at the November 2014 meeting.</p> <p>As suggested at the last meeting officers are talking to a couple of local councils to pilot the provision of maps showing responsibility for grass cutting in those parishes.</p>	On-going	ENV
6	Low Carbon and Environmental Plan	<p>The new WODC Low Carbon and Environmental Plan was approved in February 2014.</p> <p>Members received the annual update at the last meeting.</p>	February 2015	ENV
7	Car Park Strategy	<p>At the November 2014 meeting it was requested that the committee be kept advised of progress in respect of the strategy for off street parking.</p> <p>A specification is being prepared so that the procurement process can commence to appoint a consultant to carry out the work.</p>		