

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2016

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016

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 2015/2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2015/2016.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At the meeting of the Committee in June 2015 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 2015/2016 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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Strategic Director

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Date: 5 January 2016

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 agreed that progress should be monitored by the committee.</p> <p>A member workshop in respect of the new Waste service was held in September, a public consultation exercise was undertaken and a workshop for Town and Parish Councils was held on 7th December.</p> <p>A summary report on the consultation is attached to this agenda for consideration.</p> <p>A report on the new contract will be submitted to Cabinet in March.</p>	January 2016	ENV
2	Thames Water Flood Prevention and Infrastructure Issues	<p>The committee has already undertaken significant work in respect of flooding issues.</p> <p>At the April 2015 meeting consideration was given to a strategy prepared by Thames Water. Representatives of Thames Water attended the June meeting and a meeting between interested parties has taken place at Brize Norton and Carterton.</p> <p>An update report was considered at the November 2015 meeting.</p> <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>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	ENV

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
3	Open Space Grass Cutting	<p>Work with local councils to pilot the provision of maps showing responsibility for grass cutting in parishes is on-going.</p> <p>A report on a land swap with Witney Town Council to help facilitate grass cutting will be considered by Cabinet at a future meeting.</p>	On-going	ENV
4	Low Carbon and Environmental Plan	<p>The WODC Low Carbon and Environmental Plan was approved in February 2014.</p> <p>Members receive an annual update on progress with actions in the plan.</p>	March 2016	ENV
5	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>The Head of Environment and Commercial Services presented an update at the July 2015 meeting.</p> <p>A report requesting additional funding to engage consultants for some aspects of the work was agreed by Cabinet at the October meeting and therefore consultants have now been engaged to produce a questionnaire for public consultation.</p>	On-going	

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
6	Recycling Bring Sites	<p>At the April 2015 meeting consideration was given to a report outlining the outcomes of a survey of users of the sites.</p> <p>As part of those discussions it was agreed that there was little prospect of the County Council funding a replacement for Dean Pit. It was agreed that work to explore ways in which an alternative facility could be provided should continue and the committee kept advised of progress.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has undertaken a review of the Household Waste Recycling Centre and a report was considered at the last meeting where recommendations were made to Cabinet.</p> <p>These were approved by Cabinet at the October meeting and a response was sent to OCC.</p> <p>At the OEP meeting on 30th October OCC reported they had received 2800 responses and a report was considered at the December Cabinet meeting at OCC.</p>	On-going	