

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY 24 MARCH 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.

Christine Gore  
Strategic Director

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Date: 1 March 2016

Background Papers  
None

|   | Work Area   | Comments   | Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date | Originator |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Waste Contract  | <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 7<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>A summary report on the consultation was considered at the last meeting.</p> <p>A report on the new contract will be submitted to Cabinet in May 2016 and this committee has requested to consider the report ahead of it being presented to Cabinet.</p>  |                                       | ENV        |
| 2 | Thames Water Flood Prevention and Infrastructure Issues | <p>The committee has already undertaken significant work in respect of flooding issues.</p> <p>The Committee has received regular updates regarding drainage issues in the district. Thames Water will attend this meeting to provide a progress report in respect of drainage strategies at Brize Norton, Carterton and Standlake.</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>March 2016</p> <p>On-going</p>     | ENV        |

|          | <b>Work Area</b>                  | <b>Comments</b>  | <b>Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date</b> | <b>Originator</b> |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>3</b> | 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>Oxfordshire County Council has withdrawn funding for grass cutting and a report will be considered by Cabinet in respect of options for delivery of services by this council as a result.</p> <p>In addition 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> <p>The Committee has requested the opportunity to consider both these reports.</p> | On-going                                     | ENV               |
| <b>4</b> | 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>   | June 2016                                    | ENV               |
| <b>5</b> | 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 public consultation exercise has been undertaken and a verbal update will be given at this meeting.</p>   | On-going                                     |                   |

|          | <b>Work Area</b>  | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date</b> | <b>Originator</b> |
|----------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>6</b> | Recycling Bring Sites and Household Waste Recycling Centres | <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 Centres and a consultation exercise was carried out. This Council submitted a response expressing concern at the potential closure of the facility at Dix Pit.</p> <p>At a Cabinet meeting in December 2015 the County Council resolved not to implement any closures immediately but to review each site individually as part of a revised strategy.</p> | On-going                                     |                   |