

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2016**

**COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR**

**(Contact: Christine Gore, Tel: (01285) 623605)**

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

**1. PURPOSE**

To assist the Committee in considering its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee determines its Work Programme for 2016/2017 having regard to the information contained in this report and the recommendations agreed by Council.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. At the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year initial consideration is 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. It is not intended that this toolkit approach be used for small reviews requiring only a brief report to be produced. A copy of the “toolkit” is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3. It is not intended that the ‘Toolkit’ approach 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 which topics are considered the priorities for a strategic review in line with the agreed approach to scrutiny for inclusion in the 2016/2017 Work Programme. A draft programme incorporating items rolled forward from last year is attached at Appendix B.

#### **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: 12 May 2016

Background Papers  
None

## SCRUTINY TOOLKIT/ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The potential scrutiny issue should:

- Be of local and preferably current concern
- Have a clear purpose
- Be linked to the Council's corporate objectives
- Be capable of being influenced by the Committee
- Be of manageable scope – focussed rather than too wide ranging
- Be of sufficient scope to warrant a scrutiny review – not something that can easily be fixed by meeting with the service provider or, for example, a future officer presentation or report
- Not be being scrutinised by another Scrutiny Committee”

In addition, the following should be considered:

- Is there a minimum of, say, four councillors who wish to participate in the review (where a working group is to be established) or who wish to
- Does it require any financial resources?
- How much Officer time would be required?
- Does the concern on the issue extend to the public?

Once a matter has been agreed for inclusion in the work programme, the following considerations should form the basis of the planning of the review:

- How long should the review be scheduled to take?
- How will we judge whether the review was successful?
- Will there be distinct stages to the review?
- What documentation/evidence/research may be needed and why?
- Will there be a need for site visits, where and why?
- Who might be called as witnesses and why?
- How might the cabinet/executive be called to account?
- What challenges might this raise for scrutiny members?
- What support will be required from officers?
- How will we deal with public relations/media interest?
- How will we engage with the public?
- What other issues or barriers need to be addressed?

	<b>Work Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date</b>	<b>Originator</b>
<b>1</b>	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 also held.</p> <p>A summary report on the consultation was considered by this committee.</p> <p>A report on the new contract and the procurement process will be submitted to Cabinet in June 2016 and is also included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	June 2016	ENV
<b>2</b>	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 including a presentation by Thames Water at the last meeting to providing a progress report in respect of drainage strategies.</p> <p>Thames Water has agreed to keep the committee updated on progress with the strategies with the opportunity for input at relevant stages.</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 options for delivery of services by this council as a result will need to be considered.</p> <p>The council is also looking at options for a more coherent approach including collaborative working with town/parish councils.</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 regular updates on progress with actions in the plan.</p>		ENV
<b>5</b>	Car Park Strategy	<p>The committee has previously requested that it 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 strategy is being developed for consideration by members.</p>	On-going	