

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

(Contact: Paul Cracknell, Tel: (01993) 861523)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2017/2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2017/2018.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to the development of its Work Programme for the year 2017/2018 having regard to the changes to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council on 22 October 2008.

3.2. Attached at Appendix A is the approved Work Programme for 2017/2018 incorporating items rolled forward from last year, taking account of the discussions at the last meeting and providing an update on progress in relation to each item.

3.3. In addition to the items contained in the Work Programme there will still be the opportunity to bring forward one-off reports and papers on particular issues of interest to the Committee but it will also be necessary to maintain a general overview of the ways in which external agencies are responding to community concerns. The inclusion of a standing agenda item for Members' questions also provides the opportunity to raise relevant issues.

3.4. The Committee is invited to consider progress in respect of the agreed Work Programme for 2017/2018 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.

Keith Butler
Head of Democratic Services

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Date: 21 November 2017

Background Papers
None

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	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 June meeting 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.</p> <p>Representatives of both the strategic and operational management at Thames Water attended the July meeting.</p>	On-going	ENV
2	Open Space Grass Cutting	<p>Following the County Council's withdrawal of funding, West Oxfordshire had agreed to supplement the resultant shortfall in grass cutting.</p> <p>The Council has also been looking at options for a more coherent approach including collaborative working with town/parish councils but has found it difficult to make progress.</p> <p>At the June meeting it was acknowledged that there were other, more pressing, demands upon the Council's resources and agreed that the project be adjourned for the present and revisited when resources allowed.</p>	Adjourned for the present and revisited when resources allowed.	ENV
3	Implementation of Car Parking Strategy	<p>At the June meeting it was noted that the Cabinet was to give consideration to the implementation of the Car Parking Strategy and agreed that this item be added to the Work Programme.</p>	A report on the implementation of the Car Parking Strategy was considered at the last meeting.	ENV

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
4	Waste and Recycling Contract	At the June meeting it was agreed that updates on the implementation of the waste and recycling collection contract would be provided as appropriate.	An update is to be provided at this meeting.	ENV
5	Review of Member Structures and Democratic Costs	At the June meeting it was noted that the Council had invited the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to give consideration to, and make recommendations upon, the options for amending the Council's Committee structure and the question of the electoral cycle and the number of members of the Council.	A report was considered at the July meeting and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees were considered by the Council on 25 October when it was resolved that no further action be taken.	Council
6	Low Carbon and Environmental Plan	The WODC Low Carbon and Environmental Plan was approved in February 2014. Members receive regular updates on progress with actions in the plan. A presentation regarding the Council's Air Quality Monitoring activities and Air Quality Action Plan was received at the June meeting.	On-going	ENV
7	Environmental Regulations	At its meeting held on 21 July 2016 the Committee agreed to monitor the aftermath of Brexit and the dismantling of the Department for Energy and Climate Change in relation to environmental laws and regulations and, in particular, two issues with a direct bearing on West Oxfordshire; air quality	On-going	ENV

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
		and flood alleviation measures.		
8	Release of Balloons and Sky Lanterns	At the June meeting it was agreed that Officers be requested to give consideration to the current campaigns and report back on ways in which the Council could devise a scheme that could work in West Oxfordshire at a future date.	A report appears as Agenda item No. 10	ENV