

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2019

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019
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 2018/2019.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2018/2019.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. Attached as an [Appendix](#) is the approved Work Programme for 2018/2019 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.

3.2. 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.

3.3. The Committee is invited to consider progress in respect of the agreed Programme.

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 January 2019

Background Papers
None

Appendix

	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>Thames Water has agreed to keep the Committee updated on progress with the strategies.</p> <p>At the meetings in June and July discussion took place about representatives of Thames Water and the Environment Agency being invited to attend an event to respond to Members' concerns regarding sewage treatment infrastructure and water quality in rivers in the District.</p> <p>This is took place on Thursday 4 October.</p> <p>At the last meeting it was agreed that a similar event would be held later in the year.</p>	October 2019	Environment O&S
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>	Adjourned for the present to be revisited when resources allow.	Environment O&S
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> <p>At the July meeting there was discussion around the enforcement of on-street parking and the adequacy of bay markings, which are the responsibility of the County Council and the Group Manager undertook to establish whether other districts enforced on-street parking on behalf of the county.</p>	Further updates will be provided as appropriate.	Environment O&S

4	Single Use Plastics	<p>At the last meeting it was agreed that a Working Party be established to interpret the provisions of DEFRA's Resources and Waste Strategy and to make recommendations to the Cabinet on delivering a reduction in single use plastics.</p> <p>The Strategy Document has now been published and arrangements will be made for the Working Group to meet.</p> <p>A report on single use plastics will also be submitted to the Cabinet on 17 April.</p>	April 2019	Environment O&S
5	Approval of Tree Management Policy	<p>At the last meeting the Committee indicated that it wished to consider the report prior to its submission to Cabinet.</p> <p>It is currently anticipated that the report will be presented to Cabinet in April.</p>	April 2019	Environment O&S
6	Low Carbon and Environmental Plan - Biodiversity	<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> <p>In considering a report on 12 July, the Committee agreed to request an update from planning officers on biodiversity and how it is integrated with the planning function.</p> <p>A report was considered at the last meeting when it was resolved that the Cabinet be recommended to carry out a review of the Low Carbon and Environmental Plan as a matter of urgency and to action the objectives identified in the summer and set out in the report as a matter of urgency.</p>	On-going	Environment O&S
7	Environmental Regulations	<p>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 and flood alleviation measures.</p>	On-going	Environment O&S

8	Fly-tipping at Bring Sites	A request was made for a report to highlight key issues around the problem of fly-tipping at Bring Sites including enforcement/education.	Completed A report was considered at the last meeting	Environment O&S
9	Oxfordshire Energy Strategy	A report on the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy will be submitted to this Committee prior to its consideration by the Cabinet on 17 April.	April 2019	
10	Waste Collection Contract	In light of the concerns expressed regarding the substantial overspend in the current financial year and the projected increases in budget in 2019/2020, Gareth Edmundson, the Managing Director of Ubico, and John Hays, the Finance Director, are to attend this meeting to outline the unavoidable growth and operational pressures and respond to Members' questions.	February 2019	Environment O&S