

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2014
MAIN POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW UP ACTION
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
(Contact: Colin Dingwall, Tel: (01993) 706363)

(The report is for information).

1. PURPOSE

To consider the main points arising from the meeting held on 23 July 2014 and to update the Committee on the follow up action which has been taken.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Committee held on 30th April 2014, consideration was given to eight substantive items of business.

3.1. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme

The Committee approved a work programme for 2014/2015.

In addition to the items suggested in the report it was agreed that consideration of the use of roof space in Council owned property, to include where appropriate the possibility of installing solar panels be added. The committee also requested that the monitoring and review of the project for the provision of high speed broadband in rural areas, to which the Council was contributing a significant capital sum be included.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 7: Cabinet Work Programme.

The Committee noted the Cabinet Work Programme published on 17 June 2014.

3.3. Agenda Item No. 8: Green Deal Together

The Committee received a presentation from Brad Hook, Chief Executive of Green Deal Together, in respect of operational and financial aspects of the company.

The Committee noted the information that had been provided.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 9: Call In of Cabinet Decision – Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Committee received and considered a report advising of the call in request relating to a Cabinet decision of 18 June 2014. The request related to the appointment of representatives to the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee.

After discussion it was resolved:

- (a) That the request for Cabinet to reconsider its decision in this matter be rejected; and
- (b) That, notwithstanding the decision at (a) above, the Cabinet be requested to
 - (i) consider the appointment of Councillor A S Coles as a nominated deputy for either of the two representatives; and (ii) request an increase in the Council's representation on the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee to three.

The request of the committee shown at (b) above was considered by Cabinet on 20 August and it was resolved not to support the request.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 10: Performance Indicators – Year End 2013/2014

The Committee received details of the Council's performance as at the end of quarter 4 2013/2014.

Consideration was given to a number of indicators in respect of payment of invoices, sickness absence, collection of Council Tax and customer satisfaction.

It was resolved to note the report.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 11 – Treasury Management Activity and Performance 2014/2015

Consideration was given to an update detailing treasury management activity and the performance of internal and external fund managers.

The committee resolved:

- (a) That treasury management and the performance of in-house and external Pooled Funds' activity for the period 1 April 2014 – 30 June 2014 be noted; and
- (b) That the intention that Arlingclose Ltd, or an alternative company, be invited to attend the next meeting to present some training to members be noted and endorsed.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 12 – Start Time of Meetings

The Committee resolved that meetings for the 2014/2015 municipal year be held at 2.00pm.

3.8. Agenda Item No. 13 – Annual Investment Property Review

A report advising members of current property investments and their performance since the previous review, in June 2013 was received.

The committee considered the current investment strategy including the balance of commercial properties, return on investment and the possibility of investing in residential properties in conjunction with social housing providers.

The report was noted by the committee.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. REASONS

The Chairman's summary of the previous meeting is an opportunity for the Chairman to outline to Members progress made on their ideas and suggestions from the last Committee meeting. It will also provide Members with a further chance to comment on these subjects and provide a transparent method of showing the effectiveness of member's contributions to this Committee and its key Overview and Scrutiny role.

Colin Dingwall
Chairman

Date: 21 August, 2014

Background Papers
None.