

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

MAIN POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW UP ACTION

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

(Contact: Toby Morris, Tel: (01993) 849402)

(The report is for information).

1. PURPOSE

To consider the main points arising from the meeting held on 15 July 2015 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 15 July 2015, consideration was given to nine substantive items of business.

3.1. Agenda Item No. 5: Main Points of the Last Meeting and Follow up Action

3.1.1 Affordable Housing Working Party

The Chairman advised that an informal meeting of the Working Party had been held in March and a scoping document would be prepared for future consideration. It was agreed that arrangements be made for a formal meeting of the Working Party to be held in September or October.

3.1.2 Right to Buy

In response to questions from Members the Strategic Director advised that a report on the impact of the Government's proposals to extend the Right to Buy to Housing Association properties would be submitted once more detailed information became available.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme –Rural Superfast Broadband Project

The Committee approved its Work Programme for 2015/2016. It was noted that Cotswold Broadband had secured conditional state aid clearance on 29 June and arrangements for the private funding had to be finalised. It was envisaged that contracts would be signed towards the end of August.

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

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 23 June 2015.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: 2020 Vision Partnership Project

The Committee considered a report prepared by the Programme Team setting out suggested principles and the organisational model for the 2020 Vision Partnership and the proposed services/functions to be initially retained.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: The Guildhall, Chipping Norton

The Committee considered a report giving details of the commercial arrangements surrounding the occupation of the Guildhall by Chipping Norton Town Council and decided to take no further action on the matter.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Council Tax Support Scheme and Collection Rates

The Committee received and noted a report giving details of collection rates of Council Tax for taxpayers who previously were in receipt of full Council Tax Benefit but under the new regime have to pay a minimum of 8.5% of full Council Tax irrespective of circumstances.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 11: Treasury Management Advisors

Members received and considered a report regarding the available options for obtaining Treasury Management advice when the current contract with Arlingclose comes to an end and expressed the opinion that the existing contract should be extended for a further two years.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 12: – Annual Investment Property Review

The Committee received and noted a report detailing the Council's current property investments and their performance since the last review in July 2014.

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.

T J Morris
Chairman

Date: 5 August, 2015

Background Papers
None.