

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2015
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016
REPORT OF FRANK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
(Contact: Frank Wilson, Tel: (01993) 861291)

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with an update on the Work Programme for 2015/2016.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2015/2016.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to the development of its Work Programme for the year 2015/2016 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 2015/2016 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 2015/2016 which is attached as an Appendix to this report.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the 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.

Frank Wilson
Strategic Director

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Date: 17 November 2015

Background Papers
None

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/2016				
	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
Items Originated by the Committee				
1	Affordable Housing Working Party	In February 2015 it was agreed to establish a Working Party to give consideration to alternative methods by which affordable housing developments could be financed.	Spring 2016	FMOS At the last meeting it was agreed that it would be preferable to defer holding a meeting of the Working Party until such time as further information regarding the Government's intention to extend the Right to Buy became available.
2	Rural Broadband Project	To monitor and review the project for high speed rural broadband.		It was agreed that updates would be provided at key stages of the project. At its meeting held on 11 November, the Cabinet approved a change to the Heads of Terms, amending the interest rate on the Council's loan to Cotswolds Broadband to 3.6% and authorised the Strategic Director to agree the final loan document following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the appropriate Cabinet Member. The project is due to go before BDUK's Assurance Board on 26 November for the final checkpoint which, if successful, will give the project the green light to proceed.

3	2020 Vision Project	Reports will be brought forward as the project develops.		<p>FMOS</p> <p>It was agreed at the December 2014 meeting that the Committee should monitor the 2020 Vision Project with further updates being provided as appropriate. A report on the final business case was considered at the last meeting and the recommendations contained therein were subsequently approved by Council at its meeting on 21 October.</p>
4	Service Efficiency Reviews	In February 2012 it was agreed that Service Heads be invited to attend Committee meetings to discuss the operation of their services.	Strategic Director to agree programme with Chairman.	<p>FMOS</p> <p>Having regard to the significant demands placed upon senior staff by the on-going evolution of the 2020 Vision Project, Members were invited to consider if there were any particular service areas they would wish to consider.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Shared Head of Revenues and Housing Support be invited to attend a future meeting once the new service had been given the opportunity of 'bedding in'</p>
5	Performance Indicators	To receive information on performance indicators relating to Corporate Resources, Business Information and Change, Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits, and Legal and Democratic Services.	Reports on Performance Indicators are considered on a quarterly basis.	

6	Treasury Management Activity and Performance	To receive information on treasury management and the performance of in-house and external fund managers' Activity.	Reports on treasury management activity and performance are considered on a quarterly basis.	The Committee received a presentation from the Council's treasury management advisers, Arlingclose, at the June meeting. At the July meeting Members advised that the Committee was of the opinion that the contract with Arlingclose should be extended for a further two years.
7	Budget	To consider the initial draft base budgets, draft fees and charges for and the latest Capital Programme for the current and future years.	December 2015	The Cabinet is required to consult Overview and Scrutiny Committees on its budget proposals in accordance with the Council's Constitution. A report setting out initial base budgets for 2016/2017 is to be considered at this meeting.
8	Medium Term Financial Strategy	To consider the annual refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	A report is submitted on an annual basis	
9	Investment Property Review	To advise Members of current property investments and their performance since the last review.	A report is submitted on an annual basis	The annual report was considered at the July meeting.
10	Council Tax Collection Rates	To receive an update on Council Tax Collection Rates in light of the changes to Council Tax Support.	July 2015	FMOS A report was submitted to the July meeting.
11	Extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Association properties	To receive a report on the impact of the Government's proposals to extend the Right to Buy to Housing Association properties.	Autumn 2015	FMOS At the July meeting it was agreed 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.