

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**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

(Author: Frank Wilson, Tel: (01993) 861291; EMail: [frank.wilson@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:frank.wilson@westoxon.gov.uk) )  
Date: 21 January 2016

Background Papers  
None

<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/2016</b>				
	<b>Work Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date</b>	<b>Originator</b>
<b>Items Originated by the Committee</b>				
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 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 superfast broadband.		It was agreed that updates would be provided at key stages of the project. Final project approval has been received from the Community Interest Regulator enabling work to commence. The programme, which will provide, as near as possible, 100% superfast broadband coverage throughout the District, is to commence in March 2016 with completion due the following year.
3	2020 Vision Project	Reports will be brought forward as the project develops.		FMOS It was agreed at the December 2014 meeting that the Committee should monitor the 2020 Vision Project with further updates being provided as appropriate. Following consideration by this Committee in September a report on the final business case was approved by Council at its meeting on 21 October.

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.	FMOS 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.  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'
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.	
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	A report setting out initial base budgets for 2016/2017 was considered at the last 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	The report on the annual refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy is to be considered at this meeting as Agenda item No. 8
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.  At the last meeting the Committee noted that the Government had recently released details of a pilot scheme for the extension of Right to Buy to Housing Association properties in which Sovereign Housing would be participating. That Association operated within West Oxfordshire and it was hoped that a preliminary report could be submitted to this meeting. The Strategic Director will report further at the meeting.
12	Changes in the allocation of Business Rates	To receive a report on the potential impact of changes in the allocation of Business Rates	To be advised	FMOS At the last meeting it was agreed that a report on the potential impact of changes in the allocation of Business Rates on the Council would be submitted to a future meeting.