

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

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 2 December 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 2 December 2015, consideration was given to seven substantive items of business.

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

The Committee noted the report of the Chairman, which gave details of the main points arising from its meeting held on 23 September 2015.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme –

Affordable Housing Working Party/Extension of Right to Buy to Housing Association Properties

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.

Rural Broadband Project

The Committee noted that final project approval was imminent with sign-off from the Community Interest Regulator expected in the next few days enabling work to commence. Approval was subsequently received and the programme, which would provide, as near as possible, 100% superfast broadband coverage throughout the District, as to commence in March 2016 with completion due the following year.

Business Rates

The Committee noted proposed changes in the allocation of Business Rates and it was agreed that a report on the potential impact on the Council would be submitted to a future meeting and incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme

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

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 10 November 2015.

It was noted that consideration of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy by the Cabinet had been delayed pending the outcome of the autumn statement and grant settlement. The revised Strategy is submitted for consideration by the Committee at this meeting.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Budget 2016/2017

The Committee noted the position in respect of the 2016-2017 Budget. Revised budget proposals were considered by the Cabinet and Council on 13 and 20 January, respectively, and final recommendations will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 24 February 2016.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Council Plan

The Committee considered and endorsed the draft Council Plan 2016 – 2019. The Plan will be considered by the Cabinet on 10 February and submitted to Council for approval on 24 February.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Treasury Management Activity and Performance

The Committee received and noted the report of the GO Shared Service Head of Finance giving details of treasury management activity and the performance of internal and external fund managers for the period April to October 2015.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 11: Performance Indicators 2015/2016 – Quarter 2

The Committee considered the quarter 2 Performance Indicators relating to Business Information and Change, Customer Services, GO Shared Services, Democratic Services and Revenues and Strategic Housing.

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: 21 January, 2016

Background Papers

None.