

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 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

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Date: 7 March 2016

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 a meeting of the Working Party would be held prior to this meeting. The Working Part met on 9 March and a copy of the notes appears at Agenda item No. 10 |
| 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. 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. At the last meeting it was agreed that the Managing Director of the 2020 Vision Partnership be invited to attend this meeting to provide an update on the project. |

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| 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 At the last meeting it was agreed that, as the Council's efficiency programme had effectively been superseded by the 2020 Vision Project, item No. 4, Service Efficiency Reviews, be deleted from the Work Programme. |
| 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 | The Budget for 2016/2017 was approved by the Council at its meeting held on 24 February. |

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| 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 was considered and endorsed at the meeting. The revised strategy was subsequently approved by the Council at its meeting held on 24 February. |
| 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 | 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. | To be advised | 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. The Strategic Director will report further at the meeting. |
| 11 | 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 December 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. |