

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017
REPORT OF FRANK WILSON, HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
(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 2016/2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress with regard to the Work Programme for 2016/2017.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to the development of its Work Programme for the year 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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
Head of Paid Service

(Author: Frank Wilson, Tel: (01993) 861291; EMail: frank.wilson@westoxon.gov.uk)
Date: 20 June 2016

Background Papers
None

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/2017				
	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.		FMOS The Working Party met on 9 March and the notes of that meeting were considered at the March meeting. The Working Party intended to consider the possibility of devising a local key worker scheme further at its next meeting. A report, outlining the operation of the key worker mortgage support scheme operated by Cotswold District Council appears as 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, commenced 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. An update on the project was received from the Managing Director of the 2020 Vision Partnership at the March meeting. A presentation on Local Authority Owned Company Models will be made at this meeting.

4	Re-organisation of Local Government			FMOS At the March meeting the Committee agreed that the re-organisation of Local Government be included in the Committee Work Programme. Price Waterhouse Coopers are currently working on a report on the Council's unitary proposals. Collating some of the data has taken longer than expected and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.
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 2016	
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	FMOS The annual report appears as agenda item No. 12
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. A report regarding Cottsway Housing's desire to introduce a Right to Buy scheme in West Oxfordshire appears as agenda item No. 11
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. A report setting out the timescale for the wider implementation of the proposed changes in the allocation of Business Rates appears as agenda item No. 9