

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2016

MAIN POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW UP ACTION

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

(Contact: Peter Emery, Tel: (01865 731199))

(The report is for information).

1. PURPOSE

To consider the main points arising from the meeting held on 28 September 2016 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 28 September 2016, consideration was given to nine 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 20 July 2016.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme

The Committee received an update on its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

Affordable Housing

It was agreed that the Cabinet and the Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee be advised that the Committee is of the opinion that the Council should seek to address the question of unaffordability by seeking to promote a housing mix incorporating more affordable units more suited to meeting housing demand within the District.

Members noted that a report on the introduction of a mortgage support scheme was to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting in October. At that meeting the Cabinet approved the development of a Local Authority Partnership Purchase Broker Scheme and requested the Council allocates an initial £500,000 to the 2016/17 capital programme from the Affordable Housing Fund to finance the scheme.

It its meeting held on 26 October, the Council acceded to that request.

Investment Property Review

The Committee noted that the Council had just completed a significant acquisition and was actively engaged in securing one other site. It was acknowledged that, whilst the Council had no further usable capital receipts and could not fund further acquisitions without borrowing, it would be prepared to consider doing so and reports would be brought forward should any suitable opportunities arise.

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

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 20 September 2016.

Amendments to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme

It was noted that public consultation on amendments to the Council Tax Support Scheme were underway and that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee prior to consideration by the Cabinet. The report appears on this agenda as Item No. 10

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Performance Indicators – Quarter 1 2016/2017

The Committee received a report providing information on the Council's performance at the end of the first quarter of year 2016/2017.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Treasury Management Activity and Performance 2016/2017

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 1 April to 31 August 2016.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Members' Questions

The Committee noted that consideration was being given to a review of the committee structure and it was expected that a report would come forward as part of the budget process.

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.

P Emery

Chairman

Date: 27 October, 2016

Background Papers

None.