

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2017

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 7 December 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 7 December 2016, consideration was given to ten 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 28 September 2016.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme

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

Affordable Housing

Members noted that, following the Council's Decision to allocate funding, the development of a Local Authority Partnership Purchase Broker Scheme was underway.

Re-organisation of Local Government

The Committee noted that a report on the principle of a devolution deal incorporating a Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor was to be considered by the Cabinet the following week. At its meeting held on 14 December the Cabinet recommended that the Council supports the principle of a Devolution bid with Oxfordshire partners underpinned by governance arrangements of a Combined Authority and elected Mayor so that it can maximise the infrastructure improvements desired by residents in the swiftest way possible. That recommendation was approved and adopted by Council at its meeting held on 18 January 2017.

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

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

Performance of Ubico

The Committee noted that a report outlining the financial savings secured as a result of the transfer of services to Ubico was to be submitted to this meeting. A report appears as Agenda Item No. 9

Acquisition of Land for the Provision of a Waste Depot

At the last meeting it was noted that this item had been removed from the Cabinet Work Programme as a site had yet to be identified. The matter has subsequently been reinstated.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Budget 2017/2018

The Committee gave consideration to the initial draft base budgets for 2017/18, draft fees and charges for 2017/18 and the latest Capital Programme for 2016/17 revised and future years.

The Draft base budgets for 2017/18 were approved by the Cabinet on 11 January and the revised Capital Programme for 2016/17, the draft Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 and the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 were approved by the Council on 18 January.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016 - 2026

The Committee considered the annual refresh of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and resolved that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee is concerned over the potential level of budget deficit from 2020 onwards and is of the opinion that consideration should be given to addressing this position without delay by identifying areas in which expenditure may be reduced.

The Strategy is to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 15 February.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Council Tax Support Scheme

The Committee considered the proposals for revising the current Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme was endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 December and approved by the Council on 18 January.

3.7. Agenda Item No. 11: Performance Indicators – Quarter 2 2016/2017

The Committee received and considered information on the Council's performance at the end of the second quarter of 2016/2017.

3.8. Agenda Item No. 12: Treasury Management Activity and Performance

The Committee considered information on the performance of in-house and external fund managers for the period 1 April to 31 October 2016.

3.9. Agenda Item No. 13: Mortgage Support Schemes

The Committee received an update on the development of the Local Authority Partnership Purchase Broker Scheme and considered the potential introduction of Custom and Self Build and Local Authority Mortgage schemes. It was noted that, whilst it was unlikely that such projects could be developed at this juncture, both schemes could be brought back for further consideration as appropriate.

3.10 Agenda Item No. 14: Members Questions

The Committee received a verbal update from the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service containing exempt information regarding the current position of this project.

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: 19 January, 2017

Background Papers

None.