

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 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 31 May 2017 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 31 May 2017, consideration was given to eight 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 5 April 2017.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme

The Committee gave consideration to its Work Programme for 2017/2018.

Rural Superfast Broadband Project

Members were advised of progress on the Rural Superfast Broadband Project and noted that an update report was to be submitted to this meeting.

2020 Vision Project

It was noted that a briefing meeting was to be held for all Members at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting on 14 June.

Re-organisation of Local Government.

The Committee received an update on proposals for the re-organisation of Local Government. It was noted that the County Council and South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils' had submitted plans for a single unitary authority for the whole of Oxfordshire which would be considered by the new Secretary of State following the impending General Election.

Following the election, counter proposals were submitted jointly by ourselves, Oxford City Council and Cherwell District Council. This report proposes working together with other Oxfordshire councils and our partners to support the local economy and improve housing, transport and other services via a 'combined authority'.

This would bring together all the Council Leaders and the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) to take strategic decisions on these matters, leaving those decisions best made locally to be made at a local (district) level by locally-elected people, in the interest of the whole of the County, without the inevitable distraction that would be caused by a major local government re-organisation exercise

Investment property review

It was noted that the annual investment property review would be considered at this meeting and the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service agreed to consider the suggestion that the Council's interests in shared ownership properties be included in this review.

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

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme published on 14 May 2017. Members expressed the wish that the full Cabinet Work Programme be put before the Committee in future and the report has been revised accordingly

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Committee received a report providing an update on the work of the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Working Party. It was considered that it would be ambitious for the Working Party to complete its work in time for this meeting and agreed that it should aim to submit a final report to the October meeting.

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

The Committee received and considered the report of the GO Shared Service Head of Finance giving details of the performance of in-house and external fund managers for the year 2016/2017.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Performance Indicators – Year End 2016/2017

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Leisure and Communities providing information on the Council's performance at the end of the final quarter of 2016/2017.

3.7 Agenda Item No. 11: Start Time of Meetings

The Committee resolved that meetings for the remainder of the municipal year would commence at 2.00pm.

3.8 Agenda Item No. 12: Members Questions

Protection of the Council's Assets

In response to a question from Mr Cotterill, the Strategic outlined the arrangements to be put in place to ensure that the Council's assets were not at risk following the establishment and transfer of staff to the Publica Group.

Data Protection

In response to a question from Mr Good, the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service outlined the measures put in place to ensure that the Council was prepared to meet the additional responsibilities imposed by the General Data Protection Regulation when they came into force in May 2018.

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: 26 June, 2017

Background Papers

None.