

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 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 12 July 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 12 July 2017, consideration was given to six substantive items of business.

3.1. Agenda Item No. 5: Review of Member Structures and Democratic Costs

The Committee received the report of the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service which invited Members to make comments upon the report submitted to the Council on 26 April in response to the Leader of the Council's commitment for a review of the current committee structures, electoral cycle and the number of Members of the Council.

Following consideration of the report it was resolved that the Council be advised that the Committee is of the opinion that, in light of the Local Plan Examination in Public currently taking place and the likelihood of any accepted plan providing some 15,000 more homes in West Oxfordshire, there would be a need for a review of the boundaries as the houses came on line which might mean several new Wards and Members for the Council which would be a more appropriate time to consider a review of these questions in the round.

The Council will consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at its meeting on 25 October.

3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: 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 31 May 2017.

3.3. Agenda Item No. 7: Committee Work Programme

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

2020 Vision Project

It was noted that arrangements were being made for a meeting to be held in September to give consideration to the 2020 service specifications. A Member workshop was held on 21 September.

Re-organisation of Local Government.

The Committee noted that, following the election, there was little impetus from Central Government for local government reorganisation and it was thought unlikely that there would be any progress during the life of the current Parliament.

Introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Committee noted progress on this project.

Local Authority Partnership Purchase Scheme

It was noted that the Local Authority Partnership Purchase Scheme was soon to come into operation.

The Scheme was launched on 21 August and had been well received and 37 applications had been received in the first few weeks. Whilst it had originally been intended that the scheme would remain open until 31 October, as at 1 September, 14 applications had gone forward to the broker with a further 14 being held on a waiting list.

3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Cabinet Work Programme.

The Committee noted the contents of the full Cabinet Work Programme published on 22 June 2017.

3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Rural Broadband Project Update

The Committee received an update from Mr Simon Furminger of Broadband Delivery UK, the Government delivery agency overseeing the procurement process and noted that the closing date for the submission of tenders was 15 August.

Following the evaluation of tenders, a report regarding the award of a contract was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 September when a preferred supplier to enable the procurement exercise to progress to the final stages and the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service was authorised to award the contract in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Shared Services once the procurement exercise has been completed.

3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Annual Investment Property Review

The Committee received the annual report giving details of the Council's current property investments and their performance since the last review in July 2016.

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: 21 September, 2017

Background Papers

None.