

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 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 4 October 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 4 October 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 31 May 2017.

**3.2. Agenda Item No. 6: Committee Work Programme**

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

**Rural Broadband Project**

It was noted that tenders had been received and a preferred bidder identified. Contract assurance work would be carried out in conjunction with BDUK during the coming month and once this had been concluded, design and project planning would get underway. An update report appears as agenda item No. 8.

**2020 Vision Project**

There was discussion regarding the adoption of a standard format for email addresses and branding following the transfer of staff to Publica Limited

**Budget 2018/2019 – Members' Allowances**

A question was raised regarding the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Panel met on 1 November and Members were invited to submit any observations they wished to make. The Panel will report to the Council meeting in January.

### Medium Term Financial Strategy

It was noted that the annual refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be considered in January 2018.

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

The Committee noted the contents of the full Cabinet Work Programme published on 19 September 2017.

#### 3.4. Agenda Item No. 8: Proposal to Submit a Bid for Oxfordshire to Become a 100% Business Rates Retention Pool Pilot

The Committee proposals for the Oxfordshire local authorities to submit an application to become a 100% Business Rates Retention Pool pilot in 2018/2019 and recommended the the Cabinet to agrees to participate in the submission of an application to become a 100% Business Rates Retention Pool pilot in 2018/2019, without the inclusion of a 'no detriment' clause. The Recommendation was considered and approved by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 October

#### 3.5. Agenda Item No. 9: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the work of the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Working Party and sought guidance on the future direction of its work. It was requested that the Working Party continue its investigations and report back to a future meeting.

#### 3.6. Agenda Item No. 10: Procurement of Treasury Management Advisory Services

The Committee received a report which provided an update on arrangements for the procurement of treasury management advisory services to the Council. It was noted that that the Council had intended to take part in a joint procurement for the service with various other councils. However, it had been concluded that the joint procurement route would not have provided sufficient flexibility over the award of the contract and decided that a separate procurement exercise with Cotswold District Council would be carried out.

That exercise has now been concluded and the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 15 November, agreed to the award of a contract for a 3 year period from 1 December 2017, with the option to extend for a further two years.

#### 3.7. Agenda Item No. 11: Treasury Management Activity and Performance

In addition to receiving details of the performance of in-house and external fund managers for the period 1 April to 31 August 2017, the Committee considered an update to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy to enable the Council to add Publica Group (Support) Ltd and Ubico Ltd to the list of Counterparties for investment purposes and a recommendation to authorise Officers to apply for the Council to be recognised as a professional client for treasury management transactions.

The Committee's recommendations were endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 October and approved by the Council on 25 October.

#### 3.8. Agenda Item No. 12: Performance Indicators – Quarter 1 2017/2018

The Committee received and considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Communities providing information on the Council's performance at the end of the first quarter of year 2017/2018.

#### **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: 16 November, 2017

Background Papers

None.