

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: Tuesday 31 January 2012
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

Councillor Kieron Mallon (Chairman)	Councillor Lynn Pratt (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ann Bonner	Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Chris Heath	Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor Neil Prestidge	Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Daniel Sames	Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Lawrie Stratford	Councillor Rose Stratford

Substitutes

Councillor Andrew Beere	Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE	Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor David Hughes	Councillor George Parish
Councillor Alaric Rose	Councillor Douglas Williamson

AGENDA

Overview and Scrutiny Members should not normally be subject to the party whip. Where a member is subject to a party whip they must declare this at the beginning of the meeting and it should be recorded in the minutes.

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on .

5. The Council's Approach to Empty Homes (Pages 5 - 12)

Report of Head of Regeneration and Housing

Summary

To provide an update on the steps being taken to bring empty homes into use, outline the strategic approach to empty homes that it is intended should form part of the new Housing Strategy now in preparation, and set enforcement powers in this wider context.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the actions being undertaken to address empty homes issues.
2. Support the principles set out in this report as the basis for the Council's approach to empty homes.
3. Support the proposal that Head of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, should be responsible for considering the business case for intervention to return specific empty properties to use.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011- 2012 (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of Head of Law and Governance

Summary

To update the Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (February – May 2012) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.

- (2) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (3) Determine the agenda items for the 13 March 2012 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221583 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Catherine Phythian, Law and Governance
catherine.phythian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221583

Sue Smith
Chief Executive

Published on Monday 23 January 2012

Agenda Item 4

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 6 December 2011 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Lynn Pratt (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)

Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Daniel Sames
Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Lawrie Stratford

Also Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Nicholas Turner, Lead Member for ICT

Apologies for absence: Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Rose Stratford

Officers: Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Pat Simpson, Programme Manager
Catherine Phythian, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

34 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

35 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

36 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman clarified a clerical error in the meeting agenda which listed Councillor Turner as a member of the Committee. She confirmed that Councillor Turner was present at the meeting as a guest to discuss agenda item 6.

37 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of that Act.

38 **A shared Information Services/Information Technology (IS/IT) service**

The Chairman welcomed the Lead Member for ICT and the Chairman of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board to the meeting.

The Lead Member for ICT presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the key elements of the business case. He explained that the possibility of a shared ICT service was raised by the ICT steering group and that in July 2011 an in principle agreement was reached at both SNC Cabinet and CDC Executive to fully investigate the costs, benefits, risks and opportunities afforded by the proposal. The ICT Steering Group and the Joint Arrangements Steering Group had each met on 28 November 2011 supported in principle the business case for a shared ICT service pending a high level presentation of the capital costs on 7 December. As part of the consultation process the business case had also been considered at the SNC Community and Resources Review and Development Committee on 30 November 2011. A final version of the business case would be considered at CDC Executive on 9 January 2012 and at SNC Cabinet on 16 January 2012.

The Chairman of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board informed the Committee that his members had looked at the budgetary implications for CDC if the shared IS/IT service was not implemented. The Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board had concluded that implementation of the shared IS/IT service should be supported as it would reduce the pressure on the Council's capital budget.

The Committee considered the financial, legal and staffing implications of the business case for both sovereign authorities. The Committee noted that the future harmonisation of specific service related software across the two councils was not included in this business case; this was an area of potential savings that would be explored as part of a future work strand.

Finally, and on a separate point, the Committee noted that video-conferencing was being trialled on a limited basis by councillors and officers at both SNC and CDC. This would become more widely available in due course but this would depend on ICT staff resources which were currently focused on higher priority projects.

In conclusion the Committee agreed that the business case should be supported and they commended the work of the officers across both authorities for their hard work in bringing the case forward.

Resolved

That the implementation of a shared IS/IT service with SNC be supported.

39 **Re-admittance of Press and Public**

Resolved

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

40 **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011 - 12**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law & Governance which updated Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12. The Committee noted that the presentation from Bomber Command Heritage on their plans for RAF Bicester had been cancelled. Bomber Command Heritage had indicated that they would prefer to present to a wider audience of councillors from the district and town and parish councils and that they were planning such an event for early 2012.

Forward Plan

The Committee agreed that there were no items on the Forward Plan for November 2011 – February 2012 that they wished to include on their work programme in 2011/12.

Potential Work Programme Items 2011/12

Local Development Framework

The Committee noted that the Local Development Framework was likely to be discussed at Executive in April 2012. They agreed that it should be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March 2012 for pre-decision scrutiny.

Registered Social Landlords Policy Relationship Policy

The Committee noted the report prepared by Cllr Bonner, on behalf of the working party looking at the Registered Social Landlord's Policy, which explained how initial concerns about the Council's Registered Social Landlords Policy Relationship Policy had been resolved. The report concluded that there was no requirement for further scrutiny of this topic.

Agenda for 31 January 2012

The Committee requested that the scheduled discussion on the Empty Homes Policy should be broadened to include information on the use of a loan fund to assist home-owners and potential tenants in bringing empty homes back into circulation and that the relevant lead members and officers be invited to attend the meeting.

Resolved

- (1) That there were no items in the current version of the Forward Plan (November 2011 – February 2012) to include on the work programme for 2011/12.
- (2) That the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 be noted and that the Local Development Framework should be added to the work programme for March 2012.
- (3) That the report on the Registered Social Landlord's Policy be noted.
- (4) That it be noted that the 31 January 2012 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider an update on the draft Empty Homes Policy and that this should include information on the use of a loan fund.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council's approach to Empty Homes

31 January 2012

Report of Head of Regeneration and Housing

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the steps being taken to bring empty homes into use, outline the strategic approach to empty homes that it is intended should form part of the new Housing Strategy now in preparation, and set enforcement powers in this wider context.

This report is public

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- (1) Note the actions being undertaken to address empty homes issues.
- (2) Support the principles set out in this report as the basis for the Council's approach to empty homes.
- (3) Support the proposal that Head of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, should be responsible for considering the business case for intervention to return specific empty properties to use.

Details

Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 15 November 2011 the Committee considered a report on empty homes in the district and proposals for an Empty Homes Policy setting out the Council's approach to enforcement. The views of the Committee on the use of Compulsory Purchase powers and of Empty Dwelling Management Orders were also sought.
- 1.2 The Committee concluded that it wished to consider the Council's approach to empty homes more widely before expressing its views on the use of enforcement powers to bring empty homes back into use. In particular, Members asked to be provided with information on the extent and cost of

using temporary accommodation to discharge the Council's homelessness duties, so that they could consider the use of enforcement powers as a means of securing the accommodation required.

- 1.3 As a result, this report provides the additional data on temporary accommodation requested, but it also sets out both the range of actions currently being undertaken to bring empty homes into use and those future actions being considered for inclusion in the new Housing Strategy.

Definition of empty home

- 1.4 Empty homes are those domestic properties which have been disused for 6 months or more. Second homes (ie those used periodically by their owners) are not empty homes.

Empty homes in Cherwell District Council

- 1.5 The most recent data analysed (September 2011) shows that 567 homes had been empty for 6 months or more. The number empty for longer periods drops quite sharply with 393 empty for at least 12 months (a 30% drop) and 230 empty for 2 years or more (a 60% drop overall). 53 properties (9% of the total) had been empty for 5 years or more.
- 1.6 In terms of location, 39% of the empty homes are in Banbury, 65% in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington combined, and 35% in rural areas. However, the balance shifts as the length of time empty increases: 45% of properties empty for at least 2 years are in rural areas and this proportion increases to 48% at 4 years or longer empty.

The problems with empty homes

- 1.7 There are 2 principle issues raised by empty homes. The first is that they are empty at all when people need homes and the second is that they can cause specific problems or concerns to others (typically neighbours) as a result of remaining unused. (Although empty homes can give rise a number of problems most relate to unsightliness and the concerns of neighbours about what might happen to them.)

The Council's involvement with empty homes

- 1.8 Historically, the Council's main involvement has been to respond to complaints, most of which concern the condition of empty properties. In the calendar year 2011, the Council's Private Sector Housing Team received 11 complaints about empty homes. All were investigated but their condition did not warrant enforcement action to address physical issues; this emphasises an important point: that relatively few empty homes, whether as a result of their location, or their general state of repair, present a significant physical problem to their neighbours which the Council is able to address. There are however exceptions and some cases do require intervention.
- 1.9 More recently however, the Council has been exploring strategic interventions and a number of projects based on government funding are being developed. Opportunities for strategic interventions, subject to funding being available, present a new means of bringing empty premises back into use and an alternative to enforcement. (These opportunities and the projects which are being developed will be discussed and presented as case studies during the meeting on 31 January.)

Demand for homes

- 1.10 There are over 3960 households (December 2011) on the Council's Housing Register seeking alternative accommodation. On average, about 150 new social-housing units are delivered each year and a total of 350 tenancies granted. There has been a steady rise in applications to the Council's Housing Register for help with housing over the past year.
- 1.11 The Council has a statutory duty to provide accommodation for households who meet the statutory definition of homelessness and uses a variety of accommodation to meet that need. In 2011 the average number of households in Temporary Accommodation was 30 (with a maximum of 40 and a minimum of 27). These relatively low numbers reflect the success of the Council's Temporary Accommodation Strategy and its Homelessness Strategy, which have also had the effect of reining in costs: In the first 3 quarters of 2011-12 (i.e. April - December) the total net cost to the Council of providing temporary accommodation was £27,092. Temporary Accommodation is being delivered on budget and at a fraction of the cost of 5 years ago. (More detail is provided in Appendix 1).

Proposals

2.1 Proposed Principles for the Council's approach to empty homes

- 2.1.1 The Council wants empty homes to be used.
- 2.1.2 The Council will encourage and facilitate their re-use (e.g. by providing advice, grants and loans).
- 2.1.3 The Council will take action to resolve specific issues caused by empty homes (where powers permit).
- 2.1.4 The Council will take action to secure re-use of empty homes where a business case exists.

2.2 Explanation of Principles

The Principles (see preceding paragraph) and a number of case studies will be the subject of a Power-point presentation at the meeting intended to aid discussion of the issues

- 2.2.1 Encouragement and facilitation: The Council provides advice and information on request and always makes this available as part of our response to complaints. We also routinely make owners aware of our Empty Homes Loan and Landlords Home Improvement Grant (which can be used for empty homes).
- 2.2.2 Action to address physical problems: A range of enforcement powers exist to deal with specific problems. Their use is relatively straightforward and, since the majority apply to residential premises generally and not just empty dwellings, they are already in regular use by the Council's Private Sector Housing Team.
- 2.2.3 Action to secure re-use: Dealing with physical problems (see preceding paragraph) does not, in itself, bring about the re-use of empty property, even though that may be a positive consequence. The only statutory provision specifically enacted to bring about re-use of empty dwellings is the Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) procedure (details of which were included in the Committee's November report). Properties purchased using Compulsory Purchase powers (CPOs) can also be returned to residential use although that

is not their specific or only purpose. The Council has not previously considered use of EDMO or CPO powers as a means of restoring empty dwellings to use because of the potentially significant cost and uncertainty of outcomes. Application of the Principles outlined in this report will however include consideration of their use when a suitable business case can be established.

Enforcement is not however the only or best means of bring problem property back into use and negotiated sale, leasing and redevelopment are proving to be effective tools; they do however depend upon funding being available and sometimes quite complex schemes being put-together.

The need to take account of quite substantial costs and the value of the likely outcomes does therefore need careful evaluation when the possible re-use of a building is being evaluated. It is proposed that the Head of Regeneration & Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, will be responsible for considering whether or not a viable business case exists.

Conclusion

- 3.1 The application of the principles proposed in this report will provide a balanced approach to the issue of empty homes; delivering a measured and effective response that takes careful account of the particular issues, the potential benefits of re-use and the resource implications for the Council.

Implications

Financial:	Approval of the principles in this report will have no financial implications. The consideration of each specific business case will allow proper account to be taken of the financial issues. Comments checked by Karen Curtin, Head of Finance and Procurement 01295 221634
Legal:	Approval of the principles in this report will have no legal implications. The consideration of each specific business case will allow proper account to be taken of any legal issues. Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and litigation 01295 221687

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

Cherwell: A district of opportunity
Cherwell: An accessible, value for money Council

Executive Portfolio

Councillor Debbie Pickford
Portfolio Holder for Housing

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Temporary Accommodation
Background Papers	
Report on Empty Homes presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 15/11/11	
Report Author	Tim Mills, Private Sector Housing Manager
Contact Information	01295 221655 tim.mills@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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Temporary Accommodation

The Council has a statutory duty to provide accommodation for households who are deemed by strict definition of law to be 'homeless'. This duty will either be an 'interim' duty while investigations are made to establish the full facts of the case, or a 'full' duty where the case is decided. In both cases the Council must provide Temporary Accommodation (TA) until suitable alternative accommodation can be found.

The Council has several types of TA available to it, with significant cost variations dependant on the type. The Council use a mix of self-contained accommodation provided by Registered Providers (RPs)(or Housing Associations), single rooms in Houses in Multiple Occupation in the private rented sector and rooms in Bed & Breakfast establishments and in Hotels/Motels (as a last resort). The Council's Temporary Accommodation Strategy envisaged the provision of new temporary accommodation through RSL's would provide better quality accommodation at social housing rent levels with no additional costs for the Council and minimal use of the more expensive types of temporary housing above.

However more recent changes in the economic climate and the proposals for change in the welfare benefits system indicate there may be an increased demand for TA in future which could in turn lead to greater use of the more expensive B&B, hotel and guesthouse TA placements. Although households in this type of TA do not have a tenancy agreement and are there on a 'licence', they are expected to pay for their accommodation either through Housing Benefit or paying themselves. However, there is often a shortfall between what can be recovered from the household or under benefit rules and the actual cost of the accommodation.

Fig. 1 Average numbers of households in TA per month during 2011

Month (2011)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of households (averaged over the month)	28	31	30	29	31	36	36	40	32	33	31	27

Due to the fluctuating nature of TA usage, and in order to illustrate the spread of accommodation used, figures for the week ending 28/10/2011 are used below as an example. During that week there were 35 households in TA, of those:

- 23 households were in self contained RP units (2 RP units were void),
- 4 households were in HMO type accommodation
- 5 households were in the Muskateer Motel (B&B)
- 3 households were in Calthorpe Lodge (B&B)

Cost of Temporary Accommodation:

During the 9 months up to and including December 2011:

Council's budget for TA was	<u>£39,684</u>
Gross cost of TA was	£78,827 (a)
Costs recovered (Housing Benefit and service charges) was	<u>£51,735</u> (b)
Unrecovered costs (net cost to the Council)	£27,092 (a-b)

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2011/12 Work Programme

31 January 2012

Report of Head of Law and Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (February – May 2012) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.
- (2) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (3) Determine the agenda items for the 13 March 2012 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Details

1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12

- 1.1 Appendix 1 sets out the existing work programme for both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board, as agreed at the committee meetings in October 2011.
- 1.2 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (February – May 2012) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.

- 1.3 The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found at <http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=115&RD=0>

2 Potential Work Programme Items 2011/12

Local Development Framework

- 2.1 The Local Development Framework is due to be discussed at Executive in April 2012. The Committee have agreed that it should be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March 2012.

3 Agenda for 13 March 2012

- 3.1 This is the draft agenda for the meeting on 13 March 2012:
- Local Development Framework
 - Work Programme 2011-12 (regular agenda item presented by the Scrutiny Officer).

4 Future Meetings Schedule

- 4.1 The future meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board are listed below.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 March 2012
Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	10 January 2012 28 February 2012

Implications

- Financial:** There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.
Comments checked by Sarah Best, Senior Accountancy Assistant 01295 221736
- Legal:** There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.

Comments checked by Paul Manning, Solicitor, 01295 221691

Risk Management: If the work programme contains too many items there is a risk that scrutiny agendas become overloaded. This undermines effective scrutiny because Members are unable to concentrate on the key issues and officer resources are over-stretched. It may be necessary to hold further meetings during the year if the risk of not achieving the work programme becomes apparent. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific risk issues.

Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager, 01295 221587

Wards Affected

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected

Corporate Plan Themes

Each scrutiny review will identify the relevant corporate plan themes

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2011/12
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Catherine Phythian, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
Contact Information	01295 221583 Catherine.phythian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12

Title	Sub-committee	Comments	Meeting		
			Jan	Mar	Later
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE					
Scheduling – to identify and agree potential topics for scrutiny					
Scrutiny – agreed topics for consideration at committee meetings					
Local Development Framework	OSC	For pre-decision scrutiny prior to submission to Executive. Agenda item for 13 March 2012.	✓		
Empty Homes Policy	OSC	For policy development review by Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to submission to Executive. To include consideration of a loan fund to bring empty properties back into use. Agenda item for 31 January 2012.	✓		
Task & Finish Groups – agreed topics for review outside committee meetings					
None					
Monitoring – to examine responses to scrutiny reports and to check on progress on implementation of recommendations					
Youth Services	OSC	Monitor developments in OCC and CDC Youth Services.			✓

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12

Title	Sub-committee	Comments	Meeting			
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Later
RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY BOARD						
Scheduling – to identify and agree potential topics for scrutiny						
Partnerships: Bicester Vision	R&PSB	Agenda item for February meeting. Chairman to submit a scoping document for consideration.		✓		
Scrutiny – agreed topics for consideration at committee meetings						
Budget Scrutiny 2012/13	R&PSB	Consideration of items deferred from November 2011 meeting to agree recommendations to Executive in February 2012.	✓			
Contracts review – Landscape Maintenance	R&PSB	2 Members nominated to work with officers regarding the Landscape Maintenance contract. Update to be provided on the contract review process and performance in light of the reduction in service.	→	→	→	✓
Concessions Policy	R&PSB	Cllrs Cullip and Tompson to work with officers to develop the policy which will feed into the 2012/13 budget.	→	→	→	✓
Planning Applications Charges	R&PSB	To consider changes to charges for planning applications in line with government guidance and CDC policy – timescale dependent on Government issuing guidance				✓?
Task & Finish Groups – agreed topics for review outside committee meetings						
None						
Monitoring – to examine responses to scrutiny reports and to check on progress on implementation of recommendations						
Partnerships: ORCC	R&PSB	Progress against recommendations accepted by Executive in April 2010				✓

OSC: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
T&FG: Task & Finish Group

R&PSB: Resources & Performance Board

FSWG: Finance Scrutiny Working Group
PSWG: Performance Scrutiny Working Group

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12

Title	Sub-committee	Comments	Meeting			
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Later
RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY BOARD						
		reviewed in September 2010 and June 2011. Retain on work programme in light of budget position, to review again				
Partnerships: Cherwell Safer Communities	R&PSB	To receive an update on the partnership and to consider the impact of funding cuts and how the CSCP is preparing for these cuts from the Local Police Area Commander. To include impact of budget reductions on crime and anti-social behaviour.				✓
Partnership Scrutiny: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership	R&PSB	Monitor OWP review of Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and financial arrangements				✓
Disabled Facilities Grants	R&PSB	Progress against implementation of policy and any wider implications in light of budget position				✓
The cost and use of external consultants by Cherwell District Council	FSWG	Monitor consultancy costs through the information provided to the Finance Scrutiny Working Group				✓
Budget 2012/13	R&PSB	Request during budget scrutiny that once the 2012/13 budget is finalised, reissue analysis with bullet point analysis				✓

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