

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board

Draft Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13

12 June 2012

Report of Head of Law and Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the draft Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board work programme 2012/13 for consideration.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board is recommended:

- (1) To consider the Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board work programme 2012/13 as set out at Appendix 1 of the attached report.
- (2) To nominate two Members to work with officers on the development of a Concessions Policy for the Council.
- (3) To note the proposed work programmes of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group and Finance Scrutiny Working Group.

Details

1 Draft Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13

- 1.1 The draft Resources and Performance scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13 is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.2 At the request of R&PSB members and members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the work programmes of the two scrutiny committees have been separated. Members are invited to make any suggestions to improve the appearance of the work programme.

- 1.3 Each future agenda item includes an overview of the item and reason for consideration by the Board.

Concessions Policy

- 1.4 One of the conclusions of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board budget scrutiny 2011/12 was that a Concessions Policy for the council should be developed. Members were nominated to work with officers to develop the policy. The budget 2012/13 process has determined that this will now feed into the budget 2013/14 process.
- 1.5 The Board is asked to nominate two members to work with officers to develop a Concessions policy.

Work Programme Items

- 1.6 Board Members may wish to suggest other items for inclusion on the work programme 2012/13. Members are reminded that in considering the suggestions for the work programme and prioritising topics, it is important to consider the resources available to support the work and the timescales. The Board should also reflect on the demands that scrutiny reviews place on the resources in the individual service areas.
- 1.7 The Board will also wish to consider the priority checklist. The current, informal criteria applied to all suggestions for a scrutiny review are that it must:
- be of concern to a group of people living within the Cherwell District;
 - relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;
 - not be an issue which scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months;
 - not relate to an individual service complaint;
 - not relate to an individual planning or licensing application.

2 Performance Scrutiny Working Group (PSWG) Work Programme

- 2.1 At each meeting of the PSWG will consider the relevant Performance Monitoring report. The Group may refer items to the R&PSB for detailed consideration.
- 2.2 At the 10 July meeting of the PSWG, members will receive an update on the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

Partnership Scrutiny: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

- 2.3 In 2010/11 the Board scrutinised the Council's partnership with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. All of the Board's

recommendations were accepted by the Executive in April 2010.

- 2.4 The Board agreed to retain the item on the work programme to monitor.
- 2.5 The financial arrangements of the Partnership are included on the Council's Risk Register which is reported to the Executive and Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee for monitoring purposes. The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership has been rated as "amber" (net rating) in Quarters 2 and 3. Financial arrangements exist to regulate funds flowing between the collection authorities in Oxfordshire and the disposal authority (Oxfordshire County Council). These are legally binding, however Oxfordshire County Council has indicated that it is not prepared to continue all of the payments in the future which could threaten the partnership.
- 2.6 Discussions regarding the financial arrangements have commenced involving strategic directors and finance officers. The Board requested that an update be provided to Members in due course.

3 Finance Scrutiny Working Group (FSWG) Work Programme

- 3.1 The Board At each meeting of the FSWG will consider the relevant Finance Monitoring report. The Group may refer items to the R&PSB for detailed consideration.
- 3.2 The FSWG will also monitor the cost and use of external consultants by Cherwell District Council, support cost trends and economic development at the appropriate time.

Support Cost Trends

- 3.3 During the budget scrutiny, the Board agreed to make no recommendation in this area but recognised the reduction in support costs. The Board agreed that they should monitor this annually and feed any concerns into the R&PSB.

The Cost and Use of External Consultants by Cherwell District Council

- 3.4 The R&PSB considered this issue, which had been suggested by a former Board member, in March 2011 and received an update in September 2011. Members agreed consultancy costs should be monitored through the Finance Scrutiny Working Group.

Economic Development

- 3.5 During the budget scrutiny 2012/13, the Board agreed to make no recommendation in this area. Members requested that a quarterly report be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committee with regard to inward investment projects detailing expenditure/benefits/success and future plans.

4 Future Meetings Schedule

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	12 June 2012, 6.30pm 17 July 2012, 6.30pm 4 September 2012, 6.30pm 9 October 2012, 6.30pm 20 November 2012, 6.30pm 15 January 2013, 6.30pm 5 March 2013, 6.30pm 16 April 2013, 6.30pm
Finance Scrutiny Working Group	3 July 2012, 6.30pm 18 September 2012, 6.30pm 4 December 2012, 6.30pm 19 February 2013, 6.30pm
Performance Scrutiny Working Group	10 July 2012, 6.30pm 25 September 2012, 6.30pm 1 December 2012, 6.30pm 26 February 2013, 6.30pm
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 June 2012, 6.30pm 11 July 2012, 6.30pm 11 September 2012, 6.30pm 16 October 2012, 6.30pm 27 November 2012, 6.30pm 22 January 2013, 6.30pm 12 March 2013, 6.30pm 23 April 2013, 6.30pm

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, Service Accountant, 01295 221982
- 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 Advocate 01295 221691
- Risk Management:** If too many items are included on the work programme 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 overstretched. 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 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	Draft Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13
Background Papers	
None	
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