

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13

5 March 2013

Report of Head of Law and Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the 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 note the update on the Council's Partnership with Oxfordshire Rural Community Partnership.
- (3) To note the update on the Council's partnership with Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.
- (4) To note the updates on other work programme items as set out in section 4 of this report.

Details

1 Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13

- 1.1 The Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13 is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.2 Each future agenda item includes an overview of the item and reason

for consideration by the Board.

Work Programme Items

- 1.3 Board Members may wish to suggest other items for inclusion on the work programme during 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.
- 1.4 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 Partnership Scrutiny Update: Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

- 2.1 In 2009/10 the Board scrutinised the Council's partnership with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. The Board's report was submitted to the Executive in April 2010. The Executive commended the report and accepted all of the recommendations.
- 2.2 In September 2010 and June 2011 the Board received updates in progress against the recommendations. Whilst very satisfied with the progress, the Board had noted that in light of emerging budget and service pressures all of the Council's partnerships were being kept under review and requested that they receive a further update on progress against the recommendations in 2012/13.
- 2.3 Appendix 2 details further progress against the recommendations.

3 Partnership Scrutiny Update: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP)

- 3.1 In 2010/11 the Board scrutinised the council's role in the OWP in 2010/11 and agreed to retain the item on the work programme to monitor in light of uncertainty about the financial arrangements.
- 3.2 In July 2012 the Head of Environmental Services provided an update on the financial matters advising that the County Council had stated it wished to reduce payments to collection authorities but was unable to unilaterally implement changes as they needed to be agreed by all partners.
- 2.4 Discussions were ongoing between OWP partners and a paper went to the January meeting of the OWP at which the financial arrangements were considered.
- 2.5 The report and minute of the item relating to the OWP financial arrangements is attached at Appendix 3.

4 Update on Work Programme Items

Landscape Maintenance Contract

- 4.1 The Head of Environmental Services will be present at the April meeting for this item. Members are asked to give consideration to any questions or matters and advise the Democratic and Elections Team Leader in advance of the meeting to ensure all relevant information is provided to Members.

Tourist Information Centre / Courtyard

- 4.2 This item was added to the work programme for review in 2012/13. Members are requested to clarify the purpose and outcomes of any review.

Contract Review: Spiceball Sports Centre

- 4.3 The Head of Community Services advises that no contract review is being undertaken and the contract is managed in accordance with the contract requirements. There is nothing to report and therefore it is proposed that this item be deleted from the work programme.

Banbury Museum

- 4.4 This item was added to the work programme for review in 2013/14 as an outcome of the 2011/12 budget scrutiny process. Since that time considerable progress has been made and the council is in the midst of negotiating the Museum Trust arrangements, which is being done in line with Executive approvals. It is unlikely that a scrutiny process

would add any value, therefore it is proposed that this item be deleted from the work programmes.

Trade Waste Collection

4.5 During the budget 2013/14 scrutiny review process, Members recommended that consideration be given to requesting officers to develop a business case for commercial waste collection. The Board had noted that waste collection from residents in the district was the primary function of the waste service but considered that the collection of commercial waste could generate an income for the Council. It was acknowledged that the cost of such a service could outweigh any benefits and agreed that giving consideration to the feasibility of offering such a service through a cost/benefit analysis would be the most appropriate course of action in the first instance.

4.6 This piece of work has been progressing and it is proposed that the Head of Environmental Services attend the April meeting to present the business case.

5 Future Meetings Schedule 2012/13

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	16 April 2013, 6.30pm
Finance Scrutiny Working Group	n/a
Performance Scrutiny Working Group	n/a
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	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	Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13
Appendix 2	Update on Oxfordshire Rural Community Council scrutiny review recommendations
Appendix 3	Report to Oxfordshire Waste Partnership – Financial arrangements
Background Papers	
None	
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