

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 November, 2014

Work Programme 2014/15

Report of Head of Law and Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

This report presents the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2014/15 for consideration.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15 as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 1.2 To note any items of interest in the Executive Work Programme and consider whether to include them on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15.
- 1.3 To note the updates on the Youth Engagement and Recycling Reviews.
- 1.4 To request Councillor Rose Stratford, as Cherwell District Council's (CDC) appointed representative to the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Committee, to advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if there is any role for CDC in assisting to combat and prevent female genital mutilation.
- 1.5 To consider if there are any other items Members would like to include on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The work programme report identifies the topics and issues under consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and allows an opportunity for additional subjects to be identified and included on the programme.

3.0 Report Details

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15 is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.2 Members are invited to make any suggestions to improve the appearance of the work programme.
- 3.3 Each future agenda item includes an overview of the item and reason for consideration by the Committee.
- 3.4 In determining the work programme for 2014/15, the Committee will wish to take into account the terms of reference as laid out in the Constitution (Appendix 2).

Executive Work Programme

- 3.5 As part of the monthly work programme report, the Committee reviews the Executive Work Programme to consider whether there are any issues which they would wish to look at in more detail in advance of the Executive discussion and decision. To facilitate a thorough consideration of the topic the Committee will need to identify the Executive Work Programme items at an early stage of the decision making process.
- 3.6 The Executive Work Programme is updated and published monthly; an electronic copy is available on the council's website and all councillors are sent a prompt containing the website link. Members of the Committee are encouraged to review the Executive Work Programme outside the committee meetings and to contact the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Democratic Services Officer if there is a topic that they wish to review.
- 3.7 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Executive Work Programme and consider whether to include them on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2014/15.
- 3.8 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is December, 2014 to March, 2015 and can be found at: www.cherwell.gov.uk

Updates on Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Items

- 3.9 Youth Engagement. Councillors Claire Bell and Alaric Rose have now joined the Review Panel. Councillors Bryn Williams, and Claire Bell have held an initial meeting with Jon Wild, Senior Recreation Development Officer (Young People & Play). Review Panel members will provide a verbal update to the meeting.
- 3.10 Recycling. Councillor Douglas Williamson has joined the Review Panel. Councillors Claire Bell and David Hughes have held an initial meeting with Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services. Review Panel members will provide a verbal update to the meeting.

Other Matters

- 3.11 Female Genital Mutilation in the Thames Valley. This issue was discussed at the 20 October 2014 Council following the submission of a motion by Councillor Kieron Mallon: [Council agenda](#).

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel has recently written to the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Committee regarding measures taken to identify, combat and prevent cases of Female Genital Mutilation. It is suggested that the Council's representative on the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Committee (Councillor Rose Stratford) be asked to keep the issue under review, and advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if it appears there are measures the District Council might take to assist in this area.

Future meetings Schedule

- 3.12 The future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are listed below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2014/15
	11 December, 2014, 6.00pm (Special)
	13 January, 2015, 6.30pm
	24 February, 2015, 6.30pm
	31 March, 2015, 6.30pm

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations as set out in the report are believed to be in the best interests of the Council.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Option 2: To amend the recommendations.

Option 3: Not to agree the recommendations.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific legal issue.

Comments checked by:

Kelly Wheeler, Service Accountant, 01327 322224,
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Legal Implications

- 7.2 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:

James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager,
01295 221587, james.doble@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Risk Management

- 7.3 If too many items are included on the work programme there is a risk that scrutiny agenda 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 reports of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific risk issues.

Comments checked by:

James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager,
01295 221587, james.doble@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected.

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Each Scrutiny Review will identify the relevant Corporate Plan and Policy framework links.

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15
Appendix 2	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference
Background Papers	

None	
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