

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme Suggestions 2009/10

	Suggested topic	Source	Comments
1.	Built Environment Conservation	CDC councillors	Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director agree that this would be a valuable topic. Resource constraints suggest spring 2010 would be appropriate start date. See Appendix 2B
2.	Registered Social Landlords' Management Standards	CDC councillors	The Cherwell Registered Social Landlords' Management Partnership has been identified for possible scrutiny by the Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board. They will be considering this in detail at their meeting on 23 June 2009.
3.	Transport infrastructure (Bicester area; J9 & J10)	CDC councillors	
4.	Partnerships	Tony Baldry MP (See attached letter for details – Appendix 2A)	This comes under the remit of the Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board. They will be considering this in detail at their meeting on 23 June 2009.
5.	Council budget		
6.	Policy guidelines for funding and participating in non-statutory responsibilities		Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board could consider this in the context of their budget/service & financial planning work. Or it could be approached from a policy development perspective.
7.	Preparations for an ageing population		This is a priority for the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Partnership and will be progressed as a county wide priority in 2009/10. A possible scrutiny topic in early 2010/11.
8.	Youth Facility Provision The following areas were identified as potential focus issues: - Types of provision, location and appropriateness - Outreach work to encourage engagement/participation in activities	OCC and Oxford City Council	This is a suggestion for a possible joint scrutiny between OCC and Oxford City Council. They have asked whether other districts would be interested in joining them. They realise that the topic area is potentially enormous and they are undertaking detailed scoping work. To be discussed at the relevant scrutiny committees in June/July.

	- Provision in areas of high urban/rural deprivation		<p>We understand that Cllr Bonner is aware of the proposal from her work on the OCC Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>This is also an emerging issue from the Crime and Anti-social behaviour T&FG</p> <p>CDC's services to young people is to be the subject of a VFM review in early 2010 and the timing of any OSC involvement in a joint scrutiny review should take account of the VFM timetable to make full use of the VFM review data and conclusions.</p>
9.	<p>The only issue we have at this time - is an ongoing one of speeding through the village.</p> <p>The majority of the houses are alongside the A4421 Buckingham to Bicester trunk road.</p> <p>Whilst there is a 40mph limit thru the village much of the traffic ignores it.</p> <p>The main issue is not really a safety one, it is NOISE throughout the day and night.</p> <p>Safety is a secondary issue in that the pavement is right on the roadside and one can be put off balance by the turbulence from the large trucks travelling thru.</p> <p>Our population is generally of mature years and they do use the pavement.</p> <p>Perhaps there are other villages that have a rat run or main road thru their village that have a similar problem and thus some common solution may be worth exploring.</p> <p>I am also in dialogue with Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership on the issue of getting the occasional visit of a mobile speed camera unit.</p>	Newton Purcell PC	<p>This particular problem has been taken up by the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership. They will review with the relevant agencies (OCC/Highways Authority).</p> <p>The issue has been brought to the ward councillor's attention.</p> <p>Not an appropriate topic for scrutiny.</p>
10.	Look at the workings of their council [CDC] and the amount of time being taken up by consultation and box ticking and the fact that there is little evidence that anything changes as a result of this consultation. Are	Steeple Aston Parish Council	CMT have asked the lead officers for Community Planning, Rural Strategy and Parish Liaison and LDF Comments & Engagement to liaise to better co-ordinate parish council consultations.

	the council resources being used to the communities' best advantage?		
11.	It was RESOLVED to ask them to consider looking in to the issue of 15-18 year olds in rural locations and the lack of provision for them – transport, under age drinking etc.	Duns Tew Parish Council	See proposal 8 from OCC and Oxford City Council.
12.	<p>We appreciate that these concerns are not all in the remit of Cherwell District Council, but they are of importance to the two villages in the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speeding along and through the villages on the A422 - Police and Speed Management data shows this to be a big concern, but seemingly little action can be taken until someone is killed. - Parking problems in narrow lanes in rural villages, particularly with the school run from "out-of-village" children. - Public transport is minimal, and is a constant battle to continue this service, particularly through Balscote. - Concerns re threatened reduction in services at the Horton Hospital. <p>However, two other points have been mentioned which are the responsibility of Cherwell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Litter collection on the verges, particularly along the A422 - job for a "lengthsman"? - A concise list of department telephone numbers on the Cherwell web-site. 	Wroxton & Balscote Parish Council	<p>These are not necessarily suitable topics for a scrutiny review but they do reflect more general issues of concern ~ some of which were identified in the work on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (e.g. public transport).</p> <p>Support for the Horton campaign is on-going and it was the subject of a county wide scrutiny review.</p> <p>The issues on speeding and parking in rural villages and litter collection could be considered at the Parish Liaison meeting in the first instance.</p> <p>The request for a telephone list has been passed to the ICT team.</p> <p>Refer to Department for direct response.</p>
13.	<p>Village does not have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our own youth club - Much business in the village - Shop / Post Office / Pond - Nature conservation area (though the school is constructing one) and we are planning a community woodland - Website (in discussion with Oxford CC) - IT training (possible via the School) - Internet cafe / access 	Chesterton Parish Council	Several of these issues reflect underlying themes identified by the work on the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Council - Traffic survey - Housing survey 		
14.	What is CDC doing to prepare for the 2012 Olympics and the tourism potential for the district?	Staff suggestion	<p>Issue identified during partnership briefing discussions. Not only a Cherwell issue. Possible topic for joint scrutiny with neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>PfH has requested an initial briefing report on this subject for the Executive.</p> <p>Review scrutiny involvement following Executive report/discussion.</p>
15.	Issues identified in the year end Performance Management Framework	Officers	These issues will continue to be monitored by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group who will refer any topics that they consider are appropriate for a full scrutiny review.
16.	One Stop Shop ~ is this working and why cannot it cover all Local Government and voluntary sector issues?	Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council	<p>CDC currently in negotiations with other statutory and voluntary bodies about service delivery - these should be in place in 2010/11. One Stop Shops have been subject of previous scrutiny.</p> <p>Defer scrutiny until all of the new arrangements (e.g. including kiosks in village shops etc) have had time to bed down.</p> <p>Possible topic for 2010/11.</p>
	River Cherwell Flood Issues ~ examine issues submitted in a joint flood report with Kidlington Parish Council about how close the summer 2007 floods came to causing local flooding and addressing recommendations from the Pitt Report.		<p>The River Cherwell is a "main river" and as such comes under the purview of the Environment Agency. Gosford & Water Eaton and Kidlington Parish Council submitted a joint report on the "summer flooding 2007 problems" to CDC in January 2009. CDC responded (Feb 2009) and suggested that the Parish Councils should convene a round table discussion of the issue. We are waiting to hear from them.</p> <p>Review potential scrutiny involvement following the round table discussion.</p>
	Monitoring how the Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy will tie together with the numerous service and planning reports prepared by the District and County Councils.		<p>A briefing session on the Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy is on the agenda for the July meeting.</p> <p>Review scrutiny involvement after that meeting.</p>

17.	The lack of speed in taking enforcement action on planning issues and the adequacy of mechanisms for reporting back on that action.	Kidlington Parish Council	Planning enforcement was reviewed in 2008 as part of the Planning Improvement Plan. Significant resources were allocated to the service to deliver improvements. It is actively monitored by the Planning Committee and via the Performance Management Framework which is the remit of the PSWG. Refer to Department for direct response.
	The approach to parking at the renovated Leisure Centre in Kidlington has been completed in isolation not as a comprehensive scheme that deals with the existing parking arrangements. Parking has been located in front of the new entrance with no consideration to the needs of the site as a whole - which includes the school.		This refers to a specific project/service. Recommend that it is dealt with as an individual issue unless there is evidence to suggest that it is an example of a more wide ranging problem. Refer to Department for direct response. Officers advise that consideration has been given to the parking needs of the site as a whole through a joint meeting with Gosford Hill School and OCC. Improvements are planned regarding signage and circulation to incorporate the new parking spaces within available budget parameters.
	The LDF process of going forward with the Core Strategy and the associated engagement with the Parish Council. There has been little information from the District Council about progress or delays in that process.		CDC's approach to communication and consultation as part of the LDF process might be a suitable topic for scrutiny ~ perhaps when the process is complete. Refer to Department for direct response.