

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 November 2015

Work Programme 2015/16

Report of Head of Law and Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

This report presents the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2015/16 for consideration.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/16 as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 1.2 To select a service plan to review at an informal meeting early in 2016.
- 1.3 To note updates on the current reviews taking place.
- 1.4 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 2015/16.
- 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 2015/16 is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.2 Each future agenda item includes an overview of the item and reason for consideration by the Committee.

Service Plan Review

- 3.3 Every year the Committee selects a service plan to review at a special, informal meeting to which all Members are invited. Over the last 3 years, the Committee have looked at:
 - 2015 – Waste Collection and Street Cleansing
 - 2014 – Housing Services
 - 2013 - Enforcement
- 3.4 Following consideration of quarter 2 Performance Monitoring information earlier on the agenda, the Committee are requested to choose a service area for review.

Training and visit to Westminster

- 3.5 The trip to Westminster on 4 November was very successful. Members who attended will have an opportunity to give feedback at the meeting.
- 3.6 The Parliamentary Outreach Service have provided details of trainers they use for questioning skills training. Officers will contact the trainers with a view to arranging training for early in 2016.

Executive Work Programme

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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 2015/16.
- 3.10 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is December 2015 to March 2016 and can be found at: www.cherwell.gov.uk

Update on current work programme items

Youth Engagement Review

- 3.11 The Youth Engagement Review working group will be asked to give a verbal update at the meeting.

Recycling Review

- 3.12 Following the attendance of the Head of Environmental Services at the September meeting Committee and the strategic review of recycling, the Committee are asked to consider whether this review should be continued or concluded.

Future meetings Schedule

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2015/16 12 January 2016, 6.30pm 23 February 2016, 6.30pm 5 April 2016, 6.30pm
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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:
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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 overstretched. 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 2015/16
Background Papers	
None	
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