

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 April 2016

Work Programme 2015/16

Report of Head of Law and Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

This report gives an update on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2015/16.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note updates on the current review taking place.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The work programme report identifies the topics and issues under consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Report Details

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 3.1 As this is the last Overview and Scrutiny meeting before elections in May, there are no outstanding items on the work programme.

Update on current Scrutiny reviews

Youth Engagement Review

- 3.4 The Youth Engagement Review was established in October 2014, and a scoping document was signed off by the Committee. Councillors Bryn Williams and Neil Prestidge were appointed to the working group, along with Councillor Dan Sames. Councillor Sames left the Committee in 2015
- 3.5 The working group have provided the following update on their work to date

“Last June we sent out letters to all of the secondary schools in the district to see if they wanted to be part of the school champion scheme that we wanted to set up, to have councillors engage with young people at the schools. One school got back to us; this was the North Oxford Academy in Banbury. Cllr John Donaldson agreed to be the member champion for this school. John and Councillor Prestidge had a meeting at the school during Local Democracy week (12 – 18 October) to speak to the students to see what they wanted to get out of it. The meeting was productive, however since the meeting the school have not been in touch with John or Neil. Letters went out again after the winter break and will go out again before the schools break up for summer.

There was a debating event that was held at Cherwell District Council during Parliament Week (14 – 20 November) that was hosted by Victoria Prentis MP, six of the secondary schools in the district sent a debate team to the event. There were a series of debates during the day, along with a question time style session with Barry Woods, Victoria Prentis, Barry Richards and Paul Angus from Banbury Sound.

We have tried to have trips to Westminster, the first time this was cancelled because the House of Lords had to convene and this would have meant that the tour would be cut short. The second time it was cancelled because Victoria Prentis had to go overseas. This was very disappointing for the young people who were supposed to be going on the trip, Victoria Prentis will now visit the Youth Action Groups for a Q and A session. A date for this has not yet been set

Councillor Prestidge is currently reviewing and updating the Youth Activators website to make it more current, as a lot of the information on the site is out of date”.

Executive Work Programme

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is April to July 2016 and can be found on the following page of the website: [Cherwell Forward Plan](#)

Future meetings Schedule

- 3.10 The meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2016-2017 Municipal Year are listed below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2016/17 31 May 2016, 6:30pm 12 July, 6:30pm 6 September, 6:30pm 11 October, 6:30pm 22 November, 6:30pm 10 January 2017, 6:30pm 21 February, 6:30pm 4 April, 6:30pm
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- 3.11 Membership of the Committee for the 2016-2017 year will be confirmed at the annual council meeting on 16 May.
- 3.12 At the first meeting of the Committee on 31 May, officers will lead discussions regarding items to add to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for the year ahead.

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:
Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement, 0300 003 0106,
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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.

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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
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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