

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010

14 July 2009

### Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with background information on possible topics for inclusion in the work programme for 2009/10.

This report is public
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#### **Recommendations**

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The Committee is recommended to:

- (1) consider whether or not to undertake a scrutiny review into the Council's preparations for an ageing population;
- (2) agree that Cllr Mrs Rose Stratford, as the Cherwell District Council representative on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, should be invited to monitor developments relating to "The Demographic Challenge in Oxfordshire" and to brief them as appropriate;
- (3) consider whether to invite the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a more formal and detailed presentation on "The Demographic Challenge in Oxfordshire" at a future meeting of the Committee;
- (4) invite members of the Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Task & Finish Group to brief them on the conclusions of the review at a future meeting of the Committee;
- (5) invite the Portfolio Holder, Customer Service and ICT (with special responsibility for tourism) to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the report on what Cherwell is doing to prepare for the 2012 Olympic Games to access the tourism potential for the district.
- (6) determine which topics they wish to add to their work programme for 2009/10 and agree the timescales for those reviews and whether they should be committee based or a Task and Finish Group review; and

- (7) agree that, in the case of those topics which will be the subject of a Task and Finish Group review, the Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager be delegated to invite nominations to those Task and Finish Groups from the Group Secretaries.

## **Details**

### **1 Potential topics for scrutiny**

- 1.1 The annual work programme canvas identified a number of potential scrutiny topics. At the meeting on 9 June 2009 the Committee agreed that three of those suggestions might be appropriate subjects for scrutiny and asked officers to prepare more detailed briefing and scoping documents.
- 1.2 The three topics are discussed in more detail below.

### **2 Preparations for an ageing population**

- 2.1 Tony Baldry MP suggested this topic, citing the fact that the country as a whole has to confront an ageing population and that the situation is more acute in Cherwell.
- 2.2 This is clearly an important and wide ranging issue for the district but any scrutiny review would need to be limited in scope and clearly defined to ensure that it retained focus and delivered tangible results.
- 2.3 In 2006 the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Oxfordshire County Council's Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review into. The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet considered the final report in November 2008 and in January 2009 respectively.
- 2.4 A copy of the report summary is at Appendix 1. The panel of members examining this issue found that there was, throughout the various relevant agencies and their partners, a significant degree of awareness of the issues around demographic change, and it was clear that much work is already being done to account and plan for it. It is important to note that the report did not make any specific recommendations but instead identified a series of "red flags", i.e. the main issues that needed further consideration:
- The contribution of older people to society
  - The contribution of informal carers
  - Maintaining independent living
  - Partnership working
  - Access to Services
  - Financial issues
- 2.5 The report proposed a conference which would take the red flags as a starting point and would be an opportunity for all relevant agencies to come together to

discuss the issues in greater detail and to begin planning for the future. The conference took place in March 2009 and was attended by Councillor Lawrie Stratford and Councillor Rose Stratford as members of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The conference included an address from the Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire and presentations on the following issues:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Age: We Stopped Counting Years Ago	B&Q
Volunteering and the Older Person's view	Age Concern
Influencing Regional Strategies: introduction to the Age Proofing Toolkit	Nottingham Trent University
20th Century – Last Century of Youth?	Oxford Institute of Ageing

(Copies of the presentation material is available on request from the Democratic Services team).

- 2.6 The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Oxfordshire County Council's Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee concluded that the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board was the appropriate body to ensure that progress was made on these matters as it includes members from all of the Oxfordshire councils, the NHS and voluntary organisations etc. This approach was endorsed by the County Council Cabinet.
- 2.7 In view of the above the Committee may wish to consider inviting Cllr Mrs Rose Stratford, as the Cherwell District Council representative on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to monitor developments in this area and to brief them as appropriate. The Committee may also wish to consider inviting the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a more formal and detailed presentation on this topic at a future meeting.
- 2.8 Appendix 2 provides details of the services that Cherwell District Council currently offers to older people. This information was prepared for a county wide mapping exercise of services to older people. It serves as relevant background information for the Committee's discussions.
- 2.9 The Committee may consider that there are specific issues relating to Cherwell's ageing population which might benefit from further scrutiny.

### **3 Youth Service provision**

- 3.1 The Head of Recreation and Health will be present at the meeting to brief the Committee on the Council's discretionary services in support of young people.
- 3.2 Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council have identified this as a topic for possible joint scrutiny with the district councils. Once again the topic area is enormous and scoping work would need to ensure a focus on tangible issues. Initial suggestions are that the review could address the following issues:

- Types of provision / where it is/ and it's appropriateness (looking at youth provision in a multi-agency context within a target age group 8-19 years);
- To look at outreach work to encourage engagement/participation in activities;
- To focus on particular groups of young people e.g. provision in areas of high urban / rural deprivation; and
- One possible suggestion is that they could form a panel of young people from existing consultative forums (e.g. youth parliament representatives) to scope and conduct the review.

Both Councils are still considering when and how to proceed with such a review.

- 3.3 The Cherwell District Council Value for Money review schedule for 2009/10 includes a thematic review of our work for young people in the first quarter of 2010. This will consider all aspects of service delivery, across directorates and across partnerships, for young people and the outcomes achieved. This reflects the importance of this issue for the future of the district. As far as possible it would be sensible to dovetail any scrutiny work in this area with the value for money review.
- 3.4 The Council's provision of and support for youth services and promotion of youth democracy are emerging themes from the Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Task & Finish Group. The activities of this review are now complete and the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group will present the final report and recommendations directly to the Executive in the autumn. The Committee may wish to invite members of the Task & Finish Group to brief them on the conclusions of the review at a future meeting of the Committee.
- 3.5 All of this suggests that a single, or indeed a series of, time limited and topic specific Task & Finish Group review(s) into some aspect of this Council's work with young people would be an appropriate addition to the work programme for 2009/10. Appendix 2 sets out some initial proposals on what, how and when the Committee might wish to engage in such work.

#### **4 Olympics 2012: what is Cherwell doing to prepare for the games and to access the tourism potential for the district**

- 4.1 This was a staff suggestion submitted as part of the annual work programme canvas. The Portfolio Holder, Customer Service and ICT (with special responsibility for tourism) has commissioned a report into this issue. The report will be available in the autumn.
- 4.2 This is a topic which could be addressed by the Committee as a whole at a future meeting, using the Portfolio Holder report as a basis for the discussion and inviting witnesses as appropriate.

## Implications

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<b>Financial:</b>	<p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.</p> <p>Comments checked by Denise Westlake, Service Accountant, 01295 221559</p>
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific legal issues.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>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 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 report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific risk issues.</p> <p>Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management &amp; Insurance Officer 01295 221566</p>

## Document Information

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Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	"The Demographic Challenge in Oxfordshire" Summary.
Appendix 2	Ageing Successfully ~ Cherwell District Council services for older people
<b>Background Papers</b>	
"The Demographic Challenge in Oxfordshire" ~ report by Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Oxfordshire County Council's Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee. Available from Democratic Services.	
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