

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 August 2017

Work Programme 2017-18

Report of Assistant Director - Transformational Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To give an update on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2017-2018

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 To review the draft work programme (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 To identify any items from the Executive Work Programme to form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18
- 1.3 To identify any other possible future topics for scrutiny and consider whether these topics should have scoping documents produced, based on the considerations of risk and what value scrutiny can add through considering the issue.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Committee are required to review the Work Plan at each meeting and make any amendments required as a result of developments since the last meeting.

3.0 Report Details

Update on current Scrutiny reviews

Youth Engagement Review

- 3.1 The Youth Engagement Review was originally established in October 2014, and a scoping document was signed off by the Committee.
- 3.2 Due to a number of factors outside of the control of the working group, the review was not completed.

3.3 A revised working group consisting of Councillors Anderson, Lis, McHugh, Prestidge and Slaymaker submitted a [revised scoping document](#) to the February 2017 meeting of the Committee, which was approved.

3.4 The working group are due to hold a meeting shortly to discuss next stages of the review.

A361 Traffic review

3.5 At the meeting of the Committee in May 2016, it was agreed that a working group be established to look at a potential review regarding the A361 through the district.

3.6 A [scoping document](#) was approved at the November 2016 meeting of the Committee.

3.7 The working group have carried out some initial research, as well as contacting parishes along the route of the A361 to find out about any particular black spots.

3.8 As part of the research carried out so far, the group found out about funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the Safer Roads Fund that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had the opportunity to bid for.

3.9 OCC have published details of the bid made on their [website](#). It was anticipated that central Government would make decisions on funding awards in July 2017, with work being completed by July 2018 in the event the OCC bid was successful.

3.10 The working group have met to discuss the next stages of the review, a further verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Mobile phone signal review

3.11 Following concerns regarding the quality of mobile phone signal across the district, the Committee agreed to set up a working group comprising of Councillors Anderson, Brown, Lis, Prestidge and Williams.

3.12 Councillor Andrew McHugh has been appointed to the working group, replacing Councillor Williams who left the Committee at the end of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

3.13 At the meeting of the Committee in February 2017, officers advised the Committee of work being undertaken by the British Infrastructure Group (BIG) into the same subject. At that time, it was agreed that the working group would continue research gathering with a view to submitting it to the BIG review.

3.14 The working group are due to hold a meeting shortly to discuss the next stages of the review

Other subjects of interest – Anti-Social Behaviour

3.15 At the last meeting of the Committee, a question was asked about the Council's approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour.

3.16 Officers contacted the Shared Public Protection Manager and the Safer Communities Manager, who advised that a new Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) policy had been introduced earlier in the year (Appendix 2).

3.17 The Safer Communities Manager also provided the following update

“Our new shared Public Protection Service was established in 2016. The new service has provided an opportunity to reconfigure the service and deal with ASB within a dedicated Safer Communities Team with a Safer Communities Officer and our four wardens. ASB is normally reported to Cherwell via customer services and logged onto Uniform for allocation and monitoring. Uniform provides the data that informs Performance Matters, current data suggests that the Council is on track for reducing ASB. However, this is the first year in the new service plan that ASB has been separated away from other nuisance and the baseline has been set against previous years of ASB reported. Apart from the Performance matters reporting ASB has been included in previous customer satisfaction surveys and has held a good track record in public satisfaction. The new ASB policy is only a few months old and covers all current legislation. Where we have had success is working with housing partners and the police in reducing the amount of drug related ASB, by seeking court orders to stop drug dealers gaining access to vulnerable people’s homes”

3.18 The Committee are asked to decide what if any further information or action it would like to take with regards to ASB.

Executive Work Programme

3.19 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.

3.20 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.

3.21 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 2017/18.

3.22 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is September to December 2017 and can be found on the following page of the website: [Cherwell Forward Plan](#)

Future meetings Schedule

3.23 The meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the next Municipal Year are listed below:

Overview and Scrutiny	2017/18
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Committee	10 October 21 November 23 January 2018 20 February 27 March
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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

- 5.1 None required as this is a standing report.

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, Chief Finance Officer. 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: Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-Contentious. 01295 221695
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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
1	Work Programme 2017/18
2	Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, March 2017
Background Papers	
None	
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