

**Cherwell District Council**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**10 October 2017**

<b>Work Programme 2017-18</b>
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**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**

**A361 Traffic review**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Officers at OCC were contacted regarding the outcome of the bid. They advised that the Department for Transport had delayed the funding announcements until early September.
- 3.5 At the time of writing announcements regarding successful bids had yet to be made. A verbal update will be given at the meeting if this situation changes.
- 3.6 The working group agreed that they would like to hold a joint meeting with the parishes along the route of the A361, to discuss issues and concerns in more detail.
- 3.7 Arrangements for such a meeting will be made by officers in due course.
- 3.8 The working group were also made aware of a consultation from OCC regarding a proposed 7.5 tonne weight limit on the A361 at Burford High Street.
- 3.9 If the weight limit is introduced, it is expected to be a positive benefit to some Cherwell parishes further along the A361, as vehicles affected by the weight limit would need to find alternative routes.
- 3.10 The results of the consultation are due to be considered by the Cabinet of OCC in October. The working group will monitor what happens next.

#### **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 Arrangements are being made for a meeting of the working group to be held in due course.
- 3.15 A verbal update regarding work of the group will be given at the meeting.

#### **Training**

- 3.16 On 14 September 2017, a joint training session was held for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny Committee of South Northamptonshire Council.

- 3.17 The training was used as an opportunity to reflect on how and why the respective Committees carry out scrutiny, and to think of ways to improve the scrutiny that is carried out.
- 3.18 10 members attended the session in total, and feedback received by officers has been very positive.
- 3.19 Members of the Committee who attended the training will be asked to give brief feedback at the meeting.

### **Executive Work Programme**

- 3.20 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.
- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is November 2017 to February 2018 and can be found on the following page of the website: [Forward Plan](#)

### **Future meetings Schedule**

- 3.24 The meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year are listed below:

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	2017/18 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  
[paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

### 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  
[Richard.hawtin@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.hawtin@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
1	Work Programme 2017/18

Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Contact Information	Tel: 01327 322043 <a href="mailto:emma.faulkner@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk">emma.faulkner@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk</a>