

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

**27 March 2018**

<b>Work Programme 2017-18</b>
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**Report of Assistant Director – Law and Governance**

This report is public

**Purpose of report**

To give an update on the status of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2017-2018; to report results of the Mobile Phone Signal Survey; and to report the suggested topics received from parish councils.

**1.0 Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the results of the Mobile Phone Signal Survey (appendix 1), and to determine next stages for the review
- 1.2 To note the suggested topics received from Parish Councils (appendix 2), and to decide what course of action to take for each subject
- 1.3 To identify any items from the Executive Work Programme to form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicative Work Programme for 2018-19

**2.0 Introduction**

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 At the time of writing, no further announcements have been made regarding the award of Safer Roads funding. Should this change before the meeting, a verbal update will be given.

#### **Mobile phone signal review**

3.4 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 McHugh.

3.5 At the November 2017 meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that a Survey Monkey based questionnaire put together by Councillor McHugh should be sent to all parishes in the district in January 2018, for a period of 6 weeks.

3.6 The survey was sent out on 12 January and was available for completion until Friday 23 February.

3.7 224 individual responses were received. The Strategic Intelligence and Insight team within the Council, who administer the consultation processes, have analysed the results. These are included at appendix 2.

3.8 The Committee are asked to note the results of the survey, and to determine what to do next with regard to the review.

#### **Engagement with parishes**

3.9 Following the training held in September 2017, the Committee agreed to engage with parish councils to find out if there are any subjects that they would like to refer to the Committee for discussion and/or review.

3.10 Correspondence combining notification of the Mobile Phone survey and the request for possible topics for consideration was sent to all parishes on 12 January. A copy was also sent to all District Councillors, in the event of any questions or queries as and when they attend parish council meetings.

3.11 Responses were received from three parish councils, the details of which are included at appendix 2.

3.12 The Committee are asked to note the suggested topics received, and to decide what course of action to take for each subject.

#### **Executive Work Programme**

3.13 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.

- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is April to July 2018 and can be found on the following page of the website: [Forward Plan](#)

#### **Future meetings Schedule**

- 3.17 This meeting is the last scheduled for the current Municipal Year. Dates for the new year from May, are listed below:

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>2018/19</b> 29 May 10 July 28 August 9 October 20 November 22 January '19 19 February 26 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:

Option 1: To amend the recommendations.

Option 2: 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 financial issues.

Comments checked by: Cecilie Booth, Deputy Section 151 Officer. 01295 227946, [cecilie.booth@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:cecilie.booth@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 legal issues.

Comments checked by: Chris Mace, Solicitor. 01327 322125, [Christopher.mace@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.mace@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	Mobile Phone Signal Survey Results and analysis
2	Suggested topics received from Parish Councils
2a	Community First Oxfordshire Community Profile for Launton
Background Papers	
None	
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