

# **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010**

**9 February 2010**

### **Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the Committee with an update on the work programme for 2009/10.

This report is public

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#### **Recommendations**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) note the current overview and scrutiny work programme for 2009/10 and make amendments as necessary;
- (2) note the contents of the Forward Plan and identify any possible topics for scrutiny;
- (3) Note the progress against the scrutiny recommendations on the future of markets in the district;
- (4) Note the progress against the scrutiny recommendations on Concessionary Travel.

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#### **Details**

##### **Introduction**

- 1.1 Appendix 1 sets out the existing work programme for both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board, as agreed at the committee meetings in November 2009.

## **Proposals**

### **Forward Plan**

2.1 The Committee is asked to suggest items from the current Forward Plan (January – April 2010) on which it may wish to have an opportunity to offer advice to the Executive before any decision is taken, together with details of what it thinks could be achieved by looking at any items.

#### **Scheduling – to identify and agree potential topics for scrutiny**

##### **Tackling Deprivation**

2.2 This potential scrutiny topic will be the subject of a detailed briefing session at the Committee meeting on 9 March 2010.

##### **Built Environment Conservation Areas**

2.3 This potential scrutiny topic will be the subject of a detailed briefing session at the Committee meeting on 9 March 2010.

##### **Phone Access and Telephony**

2.4 This Committee have asked that the Portfolio Holder for Customer Service and ICT to refer this report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in advance of its submission to the Executive. The Executive have been asked to consider this report at their second meeting in March as this would allow the Committee to discuss it at the meeting on 9 March. Members of the Committee will receive a copy of the report as soon as it is available.

#### **Monitoring ~ to examine responses to scrutiny reports and to check on progress on implementation of recommendations**

##### **Markets**

2.5 An update on progress with regard to the district's markets, in particular the appointment of a market operator for Banbury market, is set out in the report at Appendix 2.

##### **Concessionary Travel**

2.6 An updated copy of the scrutiny recommendation monitoring sheet is at Appendix 3.

2.7 On 9 December 2009 the Government issued a ministerial statement on changes to Concessionary Travel (Appendix 4). From 1 April 2011 the responsibility for administering both the statutory minimum concession and the discretionary concession will transfer from district councils to county councils. The Department for Communities and Local Government will consult in 2010 on how the financial implications of the change will be taken forward as part of the next three year local government finance settlement.

2.8 As a result of the scrutiny review the Portfolio Holder commissioned

research into the feasibility of introducing alternative community transport schemes in those parts of the district where residents do not benefit from the concessionary bus pass, national travel tokens or the Dial-A-Ride service (see Appendix 3, recommendation 5). The research was conducted by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the report is attached at Appendix 5.

## **Implications**

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**Financial:** 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 Denise Westlake, CSR Service Accountant, Payroll and Pensions Manager, 01295 221982

**Legal:** 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 Liz Howlett, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, 01295 221686

**Risk Management:** 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 overstretched. 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.

Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management & Insurance Officer 01295 221566

## **Wards Affected**

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All

## **Corporate Plan Themes**

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All

## **Executive Portfolio**

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All

## **Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010
Appendix 2	Markets
Appendix 3	Concessionary Travel – update on scrutiny recommendations
Appendix 4	Ministerial statement on changes to Concessionary Travel
Appendix 5	Community Transport – report from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for Cherwell District Council
<b>Background Papers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward Plan (February – May 2010)</li> </ul>	
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