

Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010

16 February 2010

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Board with an update on the overview and scrutiny work programme for 2009/10.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the current Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board element of the work programme for 2009/10 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (2) Note the update on the Bicester Vision Partnership.

Details

1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010

- 1.1 Appendix 1 sets out the existing work programme for both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board.

2 Update to the Work Programme

Scrutiny – agreed topics for consideration at committee meetings

Partnerships: Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership

- 2.1 At the June 2009 meeting of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board, Members agreed that the Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership would be an appropriate subject for partnership scrutiny for the last quarter 2009/10. This would link in with a value for money review of the Partnership in autumn 2009.

- 2.2 The Head of Improvement has advised that the value for money assessment has been delayed. The Improvement Team is currently finalising the draft documentation which will be considered by Strategic Directors. No timescales for this review have yet been agreed.
- 2.3 Members will wish to consider whether to roll this item forward to the 2010/11 work programme.

Contracts Review

- 2.4 The Head of Finance and Strategic Procurement Manager will brief Members on the Council's procurement policy at the Board's June meeting. Members will wish to consider the role the Board could play in monitoring the performance of the Council's key contracts.

Monitoring – to examine responses to scrutiny reports and to check on implementation of recommendations

Partnerships: Bicester Vision Partnership

- 2.5 In February 2009 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Bicester Vision Partnership and made a number of recommendations. This Committee resolved to pass this to the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board for monitoring. The Board considered this in July 2009 and January 2010.
- 2.6 The Board agreed that they should review the Council's involvement in the Bicester Vision Partnership in the spring of 2010. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Scrutiny Officer will brief Members on recent developments and suggest how to proceed.

Past Year Budget Scrutiny Recommendations Monitoring

- 2.7 As part of the 2009/10 budget process the Board undertook a review of fees and charges. As part of the 2010/11 budget process the Board undertook a scrutiny review of the Council's prioritisation matrix, revenue expenditure by service and reviewed the capital bids received as part of the 2010/11 budget process. The Board agreed 14 recommendations which were agreed by Executive in January 2010.
- 2.8 One of the Board's recommendations requested that Officers write to Banbury and Bicester Town Councils and Kidlington Parish Council to confirm and clarify the position with regard to potential funding changes for Christmas lights. That Strategic Director Environment and Community has reported that this has been carried out through the regular clerks meetings Cherwell District Council has with the three urban parishes.
- 2.9 At the Board's June meeting the Head of Finance will update Members on progress against the recommendations of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 budget scrutiny reviews.

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

All

Executive Portfolio

All

Implications

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, Service Accountant, 01295 221559

Legal: There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.

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 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.

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

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Overview and scrutiny work programme
Background Papers	
None	
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