

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2010/11 Draft Work Programme

22 June 2010

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with the draft overview and scrutiny work programme for 2010/11, to update Members on work programme items from the 2009/10 overview and scrutiny work programme and to consider items for inclusion on the 2010/11 work programme.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended:

- (1) To agree the Overview and Scrutiny Committee element of the draft work programme for 2010/11 as set out at Appendix 1 of the attached report.
- (2) To note the update on items carried forward from the 2009/10 overview and scrutiny work programme.
- (3) To consider the items suggested for inclusion on the 2010/11 Work Programme.

Details

Overview and Scrutiny Draft Work Programme 2010/11

- 1.1 The overview and scrutiny work programme as at the year end 2009/10 is attached at Appendix 1.

Update to the Work Programme Items 2009/10

Scrutiny – agreed topics for consideration at committee meetings

Kidlington Pedestrianisation Capital Bid

2.1 In March 2010 the Committee agreed to consider this referral from Council at their June meeting.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and Planning Policy

2.2 In March 2010 the Committee agreed that a group of members should meet informally with planning officers to consider the potential to use the new planning legislation to develop criteria to control the number and concentration of HMOs in the district. The results of those discussions will be presented at the June meeting.

Built Environment Conservation Area Policy

2.3 In March 2010 the Committee agreed that this should be included as a review topic on the work programme for 2010 -2011. The Committee will wish to determine the exact remit and preferred timing of that review (see Appendix 2 ~ draft review plan).

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

Democratic Engagement with Young People

2.4 In 2009/10 the Board scrutinised the Council's arrangements for democratic engagement with young people. The Committee's report will be submitted to the Executive in the summer of 2010.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

2.5 In the spring of 2010 the Committee considered a Task & Finish Group report into crime and anti-social behaviour and agreed to refer it to the Executive in parallel with the report on democratic engagement as they raised complementary issues. The Task & Finish Group will be submitted in the summer of 2010.

Private Sector Housing Strategy

2.6 The Committee will review the progress against the Strategy Action Plan in the spring of 2011.

Preparations for the 2012 Olympics

2.7 The Committee agreed to review progress on preparations for the 2012 Olympics and the work of the Member/Officer working group in the summer of 2010. The Portfolio Holder for Customer and ICT (with special responsibility for tourism) has suggested that it would be better to defer the item until the autumn when there would be more to discuss.

RAF Bicester

2.8 The Committee agreed to maintain a "watching brief" on this item and

the Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director will circulate briefing notes as appropriate.

Residents' Parking Schemes

2.9 The Committee agreed to maintain a “watching brief” on this item and the Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director will circulate briefing notes as appropriate.

Work Programme Items 2010/11

Scheduling – to identify and agree potential topics for scrutiny

Proposed Scrutiny Topics

3.1 In addition to the confirmed items carried forward from the 2009/10 work programme, members of the Committee have suggested the following items for consideration for inclusion on the Work Programme 2010/11. The Committee will wish to consider these items and decide if they feel they are appropriate for inclusion on the Work Programme.

- Youth Services (suggestion carried forward from 2009/10)
- Preparations for an Ageing Population (suggestion carried forward from 2009/10)
- Review of Secondary Education Attainment Levels In Cherwell (see Appendix 3 ~ draft review plan)

3.2 During the year the Committee will wish also to review the Forward Plan 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 Forward Plan items at an early stage of the decision making process. The Forward Plan 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.

3.3 In considering these suggestions for the work programme and prioritising the topics the Committee will wish to consider the resources available to support the work and the timescales. The Committee should also reflect on the demands that scrutiny reviews place on the resources in the individual service areas.

3.4 The Committee will also wish to consider the priority checklist. The current, informal criteria applied to all suggestions for a scrutiny review are that it must:

- be of concern to a group of people living within the Cherwell District;
- relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;

- not be an issue which scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months;
- not relate to an individual service complaint;
- not relate to an individual planning or licensing application.

Future Meetings Schedule

4.1 The future meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board are listed below. All meetings will be preceded by an informal briefing session for all Committee members starting at 6.00pm.

4.2 The Chairman would like the Committee to consider moving the date of the September meeting to 21 September 2010.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 June 2010, 6.30pm 27 July 2010, 6.30pm 14 September 2010, 6.30pm* 26 October 2010, 6.30pm 14 December 2010, 6.30pm 25 January 2010, 6.30pm 8 March 2010, 6.30pm
Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	20 July 2010, 7.00pm 7 September 2010, 7.00pm 12 October 2010, 7.00pm 7 December 2010, 7.00pm 11 January 2011, 7.00pm 1 March 2011, 7.00pm

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 CS&R, 01295 221982

Legal: 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 Paul Manning, Solicitor, 01295 221691

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 Watt, Risk Management and Insurance Officer, 01295 221566

Wards Affected

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected

Corporate Plan Themes

Each scrutiny review will identify the relevant corporate plan themes

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2010/11
Appendix 2	Review plan ~ Built Environment Conservation Area Policy
Appendix 3	Review plan ~ Secondary Education Attainment Levels In Cherwell
Background Papers	
None	
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