

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/11

20 July 2010

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/11.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny Committee element of the work programme for 2010/11 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (2) Note the information provided on “Preparations for an Ageing Population” and consider whether to adopt this as a scrutiny review topic in 2010/11.
- (3) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (July – October 2010) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2010/11.
- (4) Note the outcome of the Executive discussion on the Kidlington Pedestrianisation Capital Bid.
- (5) Note the feedback from the Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference and the update on RAF Bicester.
- (6) Note the agenda items for the 21 September 2010 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Details

1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/11

- 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 June 2010.

2 Preparations for an Ageing Population

- 2.1 At the last meeting the Committee agreed to consider whether to undertake a scrutiny review into "Preparations for an Ageing Population".
- 2.2 This issue was the subject of a lengthy and in-depth scrutiny review commissioned by the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with the Oxfordshire County Council Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee in December 2006. Appendix 2 contains an extract of the minutes of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee which considered the report on 20 November 2008. Appendix 3 contains an edited version of the scrutiny report. If Committee members would like a copy of the full 78 page report please contact the Scrutiny Officer.

3 Forward Plan

- 3.1 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (July – October 2010) and consider whether they wish to include them on the work programme for 2010/11.
- 3.2 The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found at:
<http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/mglListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=135&RP=115>

4 Kidlington Pedestrianisation Capital Bid

- 4.1 On 12 July 2010 the Executive will consider the Committee's recommendation that the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Communication be recommended to make available a supplementary estimate for the Kidlington Pedestrianisation capital bid (value £25,000) in order to bring the village in to line with the other urban centres of the district.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Officer will brief the Committee on the outcome of the Executive discussion at the meeting.

5 Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference and RAF Bicester

Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference

- 5.1 Councillor Donaldson will brief the Committee on his attendance at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Conference on 30 June – 1 July 2010.

RAF Bicester

- 5.2 The Council remains concerned about the condition of the buildings and structures on the Technical Site at RAF Bicester and has been lobbying at the highest level, including meeting with the, then, Minister, to negotiate a programme of repair. The Council was advised the MOD had minimal budget for this work. Defence land exemptions from planning control prevent the Council taking meaningful enforcement action against the MOD. Recent meetings with the MOD have indicated that progress towards site disposal will be slow due to legal procedures around the rights of the owners of the land before it became a military base.
- 5.3 The Domestic Site was disposed of separately and has recently been purchased by City and Country Group. We have written to the company inviting them to discuss their ideas for the future of the site. The owners are still considering their plans and have not yet responded.
- 5.4 The Council published planning guidance on the future of the whole of RAF Bicester last December, working with English Heritage and Defence Estates, and this document will be used to determine planning applications for the reuse of this redundant military site.

6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting 21 September 2010

Secondary School Education Attainment Levels

- 6.1 This will be an opportunity for the Committee to review secondary school education attainment levels within the district. The Committee will also consider the report of the Oxfordshire County Council scrutiny review into this subject. It is hoped that the County Council Cabinet Member and lead officer will be able to attend the meeting.
- 6.2 Members of the Committee will then be in a position to consider whether there are any issues which they would wish to investigate further.

Built Environment Conservation Policy

- 6.3 The Scrutiny Officer and officers from Planning will present a detailed project plan for this review which is expected to be the main item of business at the Committee's meetings in October, December and January. An initial briefing pack will also be available for that meeting.

7 Future Meetings Schedule

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 July 2010, 6.30pm 21 September 2010, 6.30pm 26 October 2010, 6.30pm 14 December 2010, 6.30pm 25 January 2010, 6.30pm 8 March 2010, 6.30pm
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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 legal 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 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 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	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/11
Appendix 2	Extract from the minutes of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 20 November 2008
Appendix 3	The Demographic Challenge in Oxfordshire, Report by the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee ~ edited version
Background Papers	
None	
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