



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	<b>Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday 1 October 2020</b>
Report Number	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
Subject	<b>Committee Work Programme 2020/2021</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Alaa Al-Yousuf, Chairman Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Email: <a href="mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk">alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Keith Butler Head of Democratic Services Tel: 01993 861521 Email: <a href="mailto:keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk">keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide the Committee with an update on its Work Programme for 2019/2020 and suggest a programme for 2020/21.
Annexes	<a href="#">Annex 1</a> - Approved Work Programme for 2019/2020 <a href="#">Annex 2</a> – Proposed Work Programme for 2020/2021
Recommendation	That the Committee notes the work programme, provides comment where needed and adopts the new style format.
Corporate priorities	To enable the Committee to review its Work Programme and support the Council's priorities to protect the environment whilst supporting the local economy, to meet the current and future needs of residents and to provide efficient and value for money services, whilst delivering quality front line services.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	None

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. At the May meeting the Committee gave consideration to the development of its Work Programme for the year having regard to the changes to the approach to scrutiny work adopted by Council on 22 October 2008.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1. Following a number of cancelled meetings earlier in the year due to Covid-19, officers have taken the opportunity to look at the work programmes for each scrutiny committee with a view to making them more focused and relevant.
- 2.2. It had become apparent that there were a number of 'historic' items that may no longer be relevant or there was little that could be done to influence them.
- 2.3. In addition, officers hoped to enable Members to recognise the influence that scrutiny could have on decision making, particularly with a large number of projects and recovery programmes moving forwards.
- 2.4. Attached at [Annex 1](#) is the old style Work Programme for 2019/2020 for discussion and explanation as to which items can be removed and/or progressed further.
- 2.5. Attached at [Annex 2](#) is a new style Work Programme for 2020/2021 for discussion and approval.
- 2.6. In addition to the items contained in the Work Programme there will still be the opportunity to bring forward one-off reports and papers on particular issues of interest to the Committee but it will also be necessary to maintain a general overview of the ways in which external agencies are responding to community concerns. The inclusion of a standing agenda item for Members' questions also provides the opportunity to raise relevant issues.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. None

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. Not applicable

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. Whilst there may be climate change implications arising from specific items within the Work Programme, there are none arising directly from this report.

## **7. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

- 7.1. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, Committee has the power to investigate any matters it considers relevant to its work area, and to make recommendations to the Council, the Executive or any other Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council as it sees fit.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
1	Flood Prevention, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure Issues	<p>The Committee has already undertaken significant work in respect of flooding issues.</p> <p>At the last meeting it was agreed that a further 'Water Day' would be held in 2020. The Business Manager, Environmental Services will attend this meeting to discuss the format of the event.</p> <p>It was suggested that an update from Laurence King could be given at the next meeting of Committee on 16 April 2020 and it would be useful to formulate some specific questions prior to the update. TW to be invited?</p> <p>The Committee could put a formal request forward to Cabinet to agree to host an annual 'Water Day' / invite Cabinet Member to provide update / retain on Work Programme as a quarterly update / put a task and finish group together to look at issues with a view to changing policy/increasing communication etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>16 April 2020</p>	Environment O&S
2	Open Space Grass Cutting	<p>Following the County Council's reduction of funding, West Oxfordshire agreed to supplement the resultant shortfall in grass cutting.</p> <p>The Council has also been looking at options for a more coherent approach including collaborative working with town/parish councils but has found it difficult to make progress.</p> <p><u>Open Space Grass Cutting</u> – to be taken off the work programme. If items are identified which need discussion, it could be brought back to Committee.</p>	To be removed	Environment O&S
3	Implementation of Car Parking Strategy	<p>At the June 2018 meeting it was noted that the Cabinet was to give consideration to the implementation of the Car Parking Strategy and agreed that this item be added to the Work Programme.</p> <p>A report outlining the results of the consultation regarding parking in</p>	Further updates will be provided as appropriate.	Environment O&S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
		<p>Woodstock town centre will be submitted to the Committee and Cabinet in due course.</p> <p>Remove – can be revisited as and when it is raised at Cabinet.</p>		
4	Low Carbon and Environmental Plan - Biodiversity	<p>At the last meeting it was noted that this work would be incorporated within the report of the Climate Action Working Group submitted to the Council in January 2020.</p> <p>Local Carbon and Environmental Plan – Biodiversity – this had been completed.</p>	Completed	Environment O&S
5	Environmental Regulations	<p>At its meeting held on 21 July 2016 the Committee agreed to monitor the aftermath of Brexit and the dismantling of the Department for Energy and Climate Change in relation to environmental laws and regulations and, in particular, two issues with a direct bearing on West Oxfordshire; air quality and flood alleviation measures.</p> <p>Officers would continue to maintain a watching brief and any specific risks arising from revised Regulations or Government Guidance would be drawn to Members' attention.</p> <p>Remove – can be revisited as and when it is raised at Cabinet.</p>	On-going	Environment O&S
7	Single Use Plastics	<p>At the last meeting it was noted that the Working Party had concluded its task. A separate report on the agenda for this meeting includes the action plan arising, which is to be presented to Cabinet and Council, and recommends the formal dissolution of the Working Party.</p> <p>Further work would now be taken forward by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Climate Change and the Climate Action Working Group. The Climate Change Manager advised that this work would be monitored and the Committee advised of progress.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing as appropriate</p>	Environment O&S

	Work Area	Comments	Meeting / Anticipated Completion Date	Originator
		Remove - completed		
8	Waste Collection Data	<p>Waste Team to provide tonnage data for plastics and other waste streams e.g glass for comparison. The latest data is at <a href="#">Annex 2</a>.</p> <p>Quarterly report / Regular item on work programme combined with an update from relevant Cabinet Member if needed</p>	Ongoing / Rolling item to each meeting	Environment O&S
9	Air Quality	<p>Added – February 2020 Phil Measures will be invited to attend the next meeting. Members to submit any specific issues of concern, which officers would be able to update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Live issue – need an update since the impact of Covid</p>	Q&A – April 2020	

## New Style Work Programme – Environment O&amp;S

**OCTOBER 2020**

	Title	Format	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	Next report / Anticipated Completion Date	Comments
1	Waste Service	Presentation & verbal update	Scott Williams / Councillor MacRae Ubico representative to be invited (Area Manager)	Six monthly	Scott Williams to provide service update and provide data for information.  To discuss and review options for new waste contract due for renewal in 2022.
2	Update on Carbon Action Plan	Cabinet report	Ness Scott / Councillor Harvey	Due at Cabinet 21 October 2020	Invite Ness Scott to present a verbal update plus Q&A
3	Community Recycling (bring sites) in West Oxfordshire	Cabinet report	Scott Williams / Bill Oddy / Councillor MacRae	Due at Cabinet 21 October 2020	Bill Oddy to outline proposals

**DECEMBER 2020**

	Title	Format	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	Next report / Anticipated Completion Date	Comments
1	Air Quality	Verbal update & Q&A	Councillor MacRae / Phil Measures		Update needed to provide update on situation since Covid.
2	Flood Prevention, Drainage & Sewerage Infrastructure Issues	Update	Councillor Harvey / Laurence King / Matt Kirby		Update needed to provide update on situation since Covid.

New Style Work Programme – Environment O&S**FEBRUARY 2021**

	Title	Format	Lead Officer / Cabinet Member	Next report / Anticipated Completion Date	Comments
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Regular Reports	Frequency	Next Meeting Date

**Suggestions for future workstreams**

Update from representative on relevant Cabinet Advisory Group for Environment