

Overview and Scrutiny's Work Programme

Report of the Corporate Director

Recommended:

That OSCOM approves the outputs from the annual away day for inclusion in the Committee's rolling work programme.

SUMMARY:

- This report outlines the outputs from the discussions at the OSCOM annual "away day".

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee held its latest annual "away day" on 13th July at Longstock Village Hall. The purpose of the event was to allow Members to undertake overview and scrutiny related training and to develop their work programme for the year and beyond. This has proved a successful way of prioritising the committee's work over recent years.
- 1.2 Members were asked to prioritise the issues that they wished to review on the basis that officers can only contribute to a limited number of full reviews during any one year. At the same time they were encouraged to make use of "round table" discussions and briefing reports to find out more about issues prior to deciding whether there is a need for a "full blown" OSCOM review.
- 1.3 Cabinet had also requested that OSCOM take part in a four "reviews" which they had instigated. Additionally, some areas of work had already been proposed by the Committee prior to the election in May. Since that time the Council, at its meeting on 4th September, has also asked the Committee to co-ordinate a review into reducing the impacts of climate change. The Council resolution was as follows:
 - i. *That the Council declare a 'Climate Emergency' and commit to investigating clear and effective options to become a carbon-neutral organisation.*
 - ii. *That the Council invite the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to establish a cross-party working group comprising Council Officers and Members (including the Environmental Portfolio Holder), with a remit to draw together the existing work of the Council in reducing the impacts of climate change and develop an action plan that identifies the steps the Council can take to achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.*

- iii. *That the working group be requested to provide their draft recommendations within six months.*
- iv. *That the Council work with our communities and partners to identify opportunities for making the Borough carbon neutral.*

- 1.4 As the 'Climate Emergency' review is likely to be a wide ranging in nature the Committee may wish to consider incorporating some of the other related review ideas, that emerged from the away day, within its scope. This for example might include the proposed reviews on the waste stream, rewilding and making the Local Plan more environmentally friendly.
- 1.5 For those items that are proposed for a full review it is worth noting that a scoping template has now to be approved by the Committee. This is an initiative introduced in recent years to help ensure that the review panels are truly task and finish groups.

2 Proposed Areas for Review

- 2.1 The proposed areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme are outlined below. It is proposed that OSCOM nominate a lead member to work up a scoping template with the appropriate Head of Service.

Reference from Council

Reducing the impacts of climate change

Proposals for full reviews to be scoped by the Committee

The promotion of healthy life styles linked to Sport and Recreation (possibly by reference to Romsey) (Head of Community and Leisure)

The reduction of the amount of waste going into the waste stream through behavioural change and the potential use of "nudge" tactics**. (*It is proposed that a scoping "round table" meeting to take place instead of Project Integra discussion prior to OSCOM's November meeting.*) (Head of Environment Services)

The current verge cutting regime in the Borough and potential links to "rewilding"**. (Head of Community and Leisure/ Head of Environment Services)

*(** Potential for inclusion within the scope of the reducing the impacts of climate change review)*

Cabinet Proposed Reviews with OSCOM involvement

Review of the Council's Key Performance Indicators

Review of the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

New Neighbourhoods Review

Making the Local Plan more environmentally friendly**

*(** Potential for inclusion within the scope of the reducing the impacts of climate change review)*

Roundtable Discussions

Our approach to communications (Prior to December OSCOM)
Partnership working with the Police and the CSMG
Review of the Area Planning Committee “pilot”
Mapping of youth service type provision
Housing Strategy (including social/affordable housing)

To be included within the Member Development Programme

Planning Enforcement and its “effectiveness”

To be referred to the Planning Advisory Panel

Rules for Self Build

3.0 Other Matters

3.1 In addition, there is already a commitment to hold a rural community planning discussion before the September Committee and a review of Health provision in Romsey and Andover has already been scoped and agreed by the committee, in July.

3.2 A commitment to undertake a review of the Council’s obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant has also been made, but that review remains to be scoped.

4.0 Portfolio Holder Presentations

4.1 It is also worth noting that each year the Leader gives a presentation on the progress of the Corporate Action Plan. Members will also recall that each portfolio holder has normally given a presentation to the Committee at least once over the 4 year life cycle of each Council. Cllr Ward gave a presentation to the July Committee on the Community and Leisure Portfolio.

4.2 The Committee now has slots in its work programme for further Portfolio Holder briefings in October, December and January. Following consultation with Cabinet members is proposed that the briefings be held as follows:-
October – Cllr Drew – Economic Development and Tourism
December – Cllr Bundy - Housing and Environmental Health
January – Cllr Adams King - Planning.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 OSCOM is asked to approve the outputs from the annual away day for inclusion in the Committee’s rolling work programme.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:

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