

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

26 September 2017

Task Group Update

1. Digital Strategy and Implementation Task Group

Membership

Cllr Howard Greenman
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Jones OBE
Cllr Stuart Wheeler
Cllr Gordon King

Recent Activity

The task group has not met since the Committee's last meeting. A briefing meeting to discuss the scope of the Digital Strategy project, which will help inform the Group's Terms of Reference, has been arranged with Officers and Members of the Executive on 31 October 2017.

2. Financial Planning Task Group

Membership

Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Ian Thorn (Chairman)
Cllr Stuart Wheeler
Cllr Roy While

Recent activity

The task group met on 7 September 2017 and elected Cllr Ian Thorn as its chairman. Members considered the following reports, prior to their consideration by Cabinet on 12 September:

- Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Period 4 2017/2018
- Performance Management and Risk Outturn Report: Q1 2017/18
- Business Rates Discretionary Relief Scheme

The task group noted that the revenue budget was projected to overspend by £4.484M and that remedial actions were being identified. Some of these would be management actions while others would be subject to future Cabinet decision.

The task group supported the introduction of a revised performance report format, in which risks are graded but not RAG-rated (to encourage risk identification), with actions taken remaining RAG-rated. Members looked forward to receiving and contributing to the next report, which will reflect a new performance framework.

Having considered the proposed Business Rates Discretionary Relief Scheme, the task group resolved to receive an update on implementation of the scheme and its affect in six months' time. This will include reviewing the time and resource used to administer the scheme i.e. management of appeals.

Members agreed that the task group's work priorities would include:

- How the budgeted savings will be delivered
- Increasing income generation i.e. commercialisation
- Income through community asset transfer
- The impact of Non Domestic Rates reform.

In order to develop its work programme further, the task group chairman will attend the OSMC Chairman and Vice-chairman's meeting with the Cabinet Member for Finance to discuss where scrutiny can add most value in this portfolio area.

3. Military and Civilian Integration Partnership Task Group

Membership

Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Mollie Groom
Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Graham Wright
Cllr Tony Jackson

Recent activity

The task group will meet shortly to review its work to date and rescope its terms of reference.

4. Planning Committee System Task Group

Membership

Cllr Ernie Clark
Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Jose Green

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson
Cllr Ian McLennan (Chairman)
Cllr Paul Oatway QPM

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To explore the extent to which the council's current development control processes meet the needs and objectives of Wiltshire's residents and communities, to potentially include consideration of:
 - a. The public's and applicant's experience, including digital access
 - b. Communications and liaison with local councillors and their role
 - c. The planning committee structure, agendas, meetings and decision making;
2. To suggest any recommendations for improvement of the planning committee system as appropriate.

Recent activity

The task group first met on 14 September where it agreed its terms of reference and received a presentation from Mike Wilmott and Sally Canter on the end to end process of a planning application. The terms of reference are included here for the committee's approval.

The next steps for the task group will be to begin its evidence gathering, which will include feedback from the planning application process and to receive data on the area planning committees.

5. Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Task Group

Membership

Wiltshire Councillors:

Cllr Trevor Carbin
Cllr Christine Crisp
Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Nick Murry

Swindon Borough Councillors:

Cllr Cathy Martyn
Cllr Des Moffatt
Cllr Chris Watts
Cllr Steve Weisinger

Recent activity

The task group last met in April 2017 and reported its legacy report to this committee following the meeting.

The task group is next scheduled to meet in mid-October where it will consider its future work programme and receive updates on the Chippenham Station Hub, the recent SWLEP board meetings, and also receive the SWLEP Annual Report.

Proposal

- 1. To note the memberships of OS Management Committee's task groups, as appointed by the Chairman and Vice-chairman following Committee's request in June.**
- 2. To note the updates on Task Group activity provided.**
- 3. To endorse the following terms of reference for the Planning Committee System Task Group:**
 - 1. To explore the extent to which the council's current development control processes meet the needs and objectives of Wiltshire's residents and communities, to potentially including consideration of:**
 - The public's and applicant's experience, including digital access**
 - Communications and liaison with local councillors and their role**
 - The planning committee structure, agendas, meetings and decision making**
 - 2. To suggest any recommendations for improvement of the planning committee system as appropriate.**

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