

Developing the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Purpose

- 1 To report on the outcome of initial discussions between select committee chairs and vice-chairs with the relevant Executive members and directors.
2. To propose next steps for developing the O&S work programme further.

Background

- 2 As part of developing a new work programme for overview and scrutiny the Management Committee agreed for arrangements to be made to hold these meetings. As many of the attendees were new to their roles, the meetings naturally provided an opportunity to establish positive working relationships, as well to discuss all parties' views on the Council's priorities and those of overview and scrutiny. A mixture of Executive members, corporate directors and service directors attended depending on diaries and the needs of each select committee.
- 3 The table on the following page shows the detail of the meetings held with potential priorities and topics highlighted where covered. These need to be viewed in the context of the Business Plan agreed by Council on 3 September, legacy items recommended by the previous Committee (and endorsed by this Committee on 23 May) and the current Cabinet forward work plan [[link to the Forward Plan](#)].

Date	Select Committee	Cabinet Member/Portfolio Holder	Comments/Priorities
15/08/13	Children's Select Committee	Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member for Children's Services)	<p>A report will be taken to Committee on 1 Oct proposing the following priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguarding 2. Family Placements 3. Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) 4. Further education in Wiltshire 5. Educational provision for gifted and talented young people 6. Engaging young people in local decision-making and developing the leaders of the future 7. Early intervention
		Cllr Alan MacRae (Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding)	
		Cllr Richard Gamble (Portfolio Holder for Schools, Skills and Youth)	
06/08/13	Environment Select - Economy & Regeneration	Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport)	Suggested: Scrutiny of the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Enterprise Partnership
	Environment Select - Waste	Cllr Toby Sturgis (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property, Waste)	Waste Task Group already in existence
	Environment Select - Development Services	Cllr Toby Sturgis (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property, Waste)	Awaiting development of service plans
Cllr Fred Westmoreland (Portfolio Holder for Planning)			
10/10/13	Environment Select - Strategic Services & Neighbourhood Services	Cllr John Thomson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband)	<i>Meeting to be held*</i>
		Cllr Philip Whitehead (Portfolio Holder for Highways Contract)	
17/09/13	Health Select Committee	Cllr Keith Humphries (Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing - exc strategic housing)	<p>Suggested: Development of 'Help to Live at Home'; Review of mental health strategy; Community Transformation;</p> <p><i>Additional meetings were held with key health partners</i></p>

02/09/13	O & S Management Committee - Transformation(CAOD), Business Services HR/Governance	Cllr Jonathon Seed (Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding)	Review of Area Boards Future Governance of Campuses (RSA)
		Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage & Arts, Governance (including information management), Support Services (HR, Legal, ICT, Business Services, Democratic Services))	
09/09/13	O & S Management - Communications/Executive Office	Cllr Jane Scott (Leader of the Council)	Developing OS Roll out of Broadband *for ESC - Investing in Highways Parking Review 2014 Delegation to CATGs 20mph Policy Local Railway Stations Personal Travel Planning
		Cllr John Thomson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband)	
09/09/13	O & S Management - Finance and Procurement	Cllr Dick Tonge (Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform)	Managing costs, demands and risks Procurement Restructuring Local impact of Welfare Reform

- 4 The experience was regarded as a positive one by all those involved and the value of follow-up discussions were supported. Obviously further meetings will include relevant directors (following senior management restructuring) and will begin to cover the information coming through from the service plans as these are developed.

Next Steps

- 5 The individual select committees will be considering the outcome of relevant discussions and making recommendations to the O&S Management Committee over potential topics and priority areas. Consideration is intended as follows:

Children's Select Committee – 1 October [\[link to the report\]](#)

Environment Select Committee – 29 October

Health Select Committee – 19 November

- 6 The Chairman has indicated that he now wishes to meet, along with his vice-chair, the chairs and vice-chairs of the individual select committees to discuss priorities, approaches, options, capacity, resources etc. with a view to reporting back to the O&S Management Committee on 5 November with an initial draft single overview and scrutiny work programme. He is particularly

mindful of making strong linkages to the Business Plan and identifying topics where real value can be added through the overview and scrutiny process, but also leaving space for additional committee/individual member requests as new issues arise and priorities potentially change.

7 However the Chairman is happy for the Management Committee to consider any priority recommendations from the select committee chairs that cannot wait for this timetable. Within the O&S Management Committee responsibilities for the scrutiny of corporate matters, then this includes advance proposals for task groups on financial planning (see separate item on the agenda) and a review of area boards. In consultation with the Cabinet Member, the following terms of reference and topics to be covered are proposed for the review of area boards:

- The current role and remit of the Area Boards
- Area Board budgets and grants
- Local service devolution and management
- JSA and community planning/community priorities.
- Contract and commissioning decisions affecting the community area.
- The consultative role of the Boards in local development
- The role of the Area Boards in future campus governance.
- Community area partnership arrangements.
- Area Board meeting management.
- Area Board support, promotion and publicity.
- Area Board staffing and management
- Future service delivery through Area Boards

Recommendations

- 8 To note the positive outcome of the meetings held between the chairs and vice-chairs of each O&S committee with the relevant Executive members and directors.
- 9 To endorse further such meetings being held as appropriate.
- 10 To agree that the chair and vice-chair of the Management Committee meets with the chairs and vice-chairs of the individual select committees to discuss priorities, approaches, options, capacity and resources with a view to reporting back to the O&S Management Committee on 5 November with an initial draft single overview and scrutiny work programme.
- 11 To note that the establishment of a task group on the Council's financial planning and budget setting arrangements is the subject of a separate paper.

- 12 To establish a task group to review area board arrangements with the terms of reference of topics to be covered as set out in paragraph 7 above.
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