

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Outstanding Actions and questions

Action to be carried out	Responsibility	Committee Date	Deadline	Comments/officer	
Outstanding Actions					
OA 6	An update on the Benefits service to be presented to OSC in the Autumn	Committee and Scrutiny Officer and Head of Revenues and Benefits	2 February 2012	19 September 2012	The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Shared Services will be attending the meeting on 19 September and providing an update on the Benefits Service
Performance Report					
PI 21	Will the Council require funding over the additional £150,000 already allocated to cover the cost of placing people in bed and breakfast?	Partnerships and Performance Section Head	20 June 2012	19 September 2012	The Senior Accountant has advised that – "As of 28 August 2012, the Finance Service has had no forecast changes for 2012/13 regarding the B&B accommodation budget of £150,890 which would imply all is on track. However, this could change at some point during the course of the financial year. Last year's actual was £159,948."

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Voluntary Sector Task Group				
VS 1	The recommendations to be reviewed once the review of current priorities has been completed.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	23 June 2011	<p>July 2012</p> <p>The Committee and Scrutiny Officer contact the Head of Community Services and Head of Legal and Property Services, their response is shown here –</p> <p>"The issues raised by the Support for the Voluntary Sector Task Group are being covered as part of the review of the draft Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework, which is being undertaken by a Task Group. The Task Group has actively been involved in the development of the new framework and its findings and recommendations are reported elsewhere on this agenda. The Commissioning Framework will be presented to Cabinet for approval in October; it will include the Task Group's views."</p> <p>The original recommendations are attached as Appendix 1 to this update.</p>

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Affordable Housing Review					
AHR 1	<p><u>Recommendation 1 – Affordable Housing threshold</u> – The status of the Core Strategy to be reviewed in 12 months.</p> <p>The original recommendations was –</p> <p>" That the reduction of the affordable housing threshold from 15 units to 10 units proposed by the Planning Policy Advisory Group be implemented and be reviewed after 18 months to see if it has resulted in additional affordable homes or deterred some developers from investing in Watford."</p>	OSC Committee	26 July 2011	July 2012	<p>On 13 August the Planning Policy Section Head advised – "Information on the latest situation on the Core Strategy is available on the Council's website:</p> <p>http://www.watford.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/</p> <p>The Service is currently undertaking a post Hearing consultation on changes to the Core Strategy as a result of the Hearing debate. This ends on 10 September. The Inspector will consider the representations to the consultation and will make her recommendations in the Autumn. It is hoped the Council will be able to adopt the Core Strategy by the end of the year, or early next year.</p> <p>No major changes have been made to Policy HS3 on affordable housing since July 2011. The Council is still seeking 35% affordable housing on major schemes of 10 or more units. Proportions of the affordable housing remain the same at 20% social rent; 65% affordable rent; and 15% shared ownership/intermediate housing. There was only limited discussion on this issue at the Hearing.</p>

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AHR 6	<p>Recommendations 3 (Band E applicants) and 4 (Partnership working) – to be further reviewed</p> <p>The original recommendation was –</p> <p>" That, subject to the Localism Bill provisions being accepted, the status and number of band E applicants on the housing register should be reviewed to provide an accurate picture of those in most need and to reduce the administration of the register."</p>	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	20 June 2012		<p>Following an email from the Committee and Scrutiny, the Housing Section Head has advised that –</p> <p>"Officers intend producing a new Nominations Policy. The aim is to try and complete the new policy for introduction in April 2013. If the new policy is completed by this date it is suggested that Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to review the first and second quarters' data in November 2013. If there are any delays in the production of the new Nominations Policy this review may need to be revised."</p>
Work Programme and Task Groups					
WP 8	Community Safety Partnership Task Group to be asked to review the provision of drug treatment in the borough	Committee and Scrutiny Officer and Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer	24 November 2011	1 December 2011 Revised date TBC	<p>Referred to the Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer supporting the Community Safety Partnership Task Group.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be informed when the subject is due to be discussed at the Task Group.</p> <p>This topic is on the Task Group's work programme and will be reviewed once the relevant officers are available.</p>

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WP 11	OSC to examine the long-term impact on the four organisations which would be subject to the largest grant cuts.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	2 February 2012	23 January 2013	Following a discussion between the Committee and Scrutiny Officer, the Head of Community Services and the Culture and Community Section Head, an update report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2013.
	Committee and Scrutiny Officer to ask Community Services' officers to bring the information to the current Task Group reviewing the draft Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	5 September 2012	
Property Services Leases for Voluntary Sector					
PSL 1	A draft Property Policy review scope to be drawn up.	Chair and Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	26 July 2011		<p>This action arose following a review of the Support for the Voluntary Sector recommendations and the Portfolio Holder's responses in June 2011, which included "As part of the policy review officers will revisit the policy on the voluntary sector. Scrutiny's help to scope a new policy would assist with this and would be welcome provided it was done quickly." It has been decided that this work will form part of the developing Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework. The Task Group involved in reviewing the developing framework has received a presentation from the Head of Legal and Property Services and the Property Manager.</p> <p>The Property Team are not carrying out any other review of the Property policy.</p>

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Hospital Parking Charges Task Group					
HP 6	Review outcome of report	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	2 February 2012	7 September 2012	Response to follow
HP 7	Write to the Hospital to ask for an update on the Task Group's recommendations.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	7 September 2012	The Committee and Scrutiny Officer wrote to the Directors for their responses to the original recommendations on 23 August 2012.
Previous Reviews Updates					
PR 2	<u>Services for the Deceased</u> Outstanding recommendations to be further reviewed	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	February 2013	Added to the rolling work programme
PR 3	<u>Services for the Deceased</u> The Parks and Open Spaces Section Head's report on the costings and available options to be circulated to the Scrutiny Committee.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	September 2012	The report was circulated to the Scrutiny Committee on 16 August 2012.
PR 4	<u>Choice Based Lettings</u> The final report to be forwarded to Cabinet as originally requested by Call-in and Performance Scrutiny Committee.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	17 September 2012	The final report is included on the Cabinet agenda for the meeting on 17 September.

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PR 5	<u>Neighbourhood Forums</u> Contact the Communications Manager to discuss the best editions Members could include articles about Neighbourhood Forums and their projects.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	25 July 2012	September 2012	The Committee and Scrutiny Officer emailed the Communications Manager on 14 August 2012. A response is still awaited.
Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel					
OS 1	Write to all Councillors who had expressed an interest in taking part in the new Panel.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	20 June 2012	15 August 2012	The Committee and Scrutiny Officer wrote to the Councillors on 15 August.
OS 2	Set up the first meeting of the new Scrutiny Panel	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	20 June 2012	15 August 2012	The first meeting is scheduled to take place on 18 September 2012.
OS 3	Contact the Managing Director to ask whether the new Scrutiny Panel would be involved prior to contracts being awarded.	Committee and Scrutiny Officer	20 June 2012	15 August 2012	The Managing Director has confirmed that the role of the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel is not intended to cover contracts prior to them being awarded. The award of contracts is an Executive function and is dealt with under the Contract Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution. Advice to Cabinet on major projects before contracts are undertaken is provided by Major Projects Board.