

IMPROVEMENT AND REVIEW COMMISSION'S WORK PROGRAMME

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What is the Commission being asked to do?

The Commission is asked to

- (i) Consider and agree the topics for inclusion in its work programme;
- (ii) Commence the arrangements for the establishment of Task and Finish Groups for the chosen topics (up to but not exceeding four); and
- (iii) Identify any items from the Cabinet Forward Plan that the Commission would like to consider prior to consideration by Cabinet.

The emerging Work Programme

The Commission's emerging work programme is attached as **Appendix A**.

Task and Finish Groups

The Commission is allowed to have four task and finish groups in operation at any one time.

At the last meeting of the Commission, the following possible task and finish groups were noted for consideration at this meeting:

(a) Local Plan Task and Finish Group

Cabinet considered the current position with regard to the Local Plan at its meeting on 2 March, 2105. Based on the Local plan review timetable it is suggested that the following approach be adopted:

September 2015.

Task and Finish Group to receive and discuss:

- Emerging new evidence including housing and economic needs, housing supply, and green belt assessment
- Emerging preferred options for the Princes Risborough and Saunderton Area Action Plans.

Early Jan 2016.

Task and Finish Group to receive and discuss

- Draft plan proposals for Saunderton and Princes Risborough
- Additional options for the main Local Plan.

Views and recommendations would be submitted to Cabinet in February and March 2016) when the above proposals are submitted.

(b) Budget Task and Finish Group

At the last meeting the preference was for the Budget Task and Finish group to commence work in the summer 2015, with a view to identifying any further schemes and initiatives to assist the Council in delivering its medium-term financial strategy. The medium-term financial strategy is scheduled for submission to Cabinet on 20 July, 2015.

This would require recommendations to be made to the Cabinet meeting on 16 November, 2015, so the Budget Task and Finish Group would need to submit its recommendations to the Improvement and Review Commission's meeting on 11 November 2015.

There is also the option for the Budget Task and Finish Group to continue after this time to review the budget proposals for 2016/17, with a report to Cabinet on 11 February 2016 alongside the budget for 2015/16. This would not be proposing new schemes, but instead offer comments and proposals on the overall budget approach and composition. In view of the timing of the budget preparation work, it would be necessary for the Commission to agree that the Budget Task and Finish Group reports directly to Cabinet on 11 February 2015.

(c) Review of Saunderton Lodge

The Budget Task and Finish Group (February 2015) has made a recommendation for a full review of Saunderton Lodge, both service provision and estates infrastructure, with a view to identifying cost-neutral or cost-saving alternative options, which are more streamlined, resilient and based on latest best practice for temporary housing.

(d) Review of the Ward Members and officers role in planning process and planning enforcement.

This item was submitted by Councillor Snaith to the Commission's meeting on 11 March 2015 and is attached as **Appendix B**. If this was taken forward care would need to be exercised to ensure the remit of the review did not cross over into non-executive or staffing matters, which is outside the scope of the remit of the Commission. An alternative would be to invite the Cabinet Member and the Head of Service to attend a meeting of the Commission to discuss this further.

Proposing items for the Work Programme

Each Member of the Commission has the opportunity to suggest topics for review by the Improvement and Review Commission. This requires the completion of the work programme suggestion form.

Cabinet Forward Plan

The Cabinet Forward Plan is published one month prior to each scheduled Cabinet meeting. The Forward Plan identifies the currently known items and the dates they are scheduled to be considered by Cabinet.

The Improvement and Review Commission has the opportunity to request that specific items be considered by the Commission ahead of consideration by Cabinet. This enables the Commission's views to be considered at the same time that Cabinet take a decision on that item.

The latest Cabinet Forward Plan (published 15 May 2015) is attached as **Appendix C**.

Next Steps

To commence the arrangements for the establishment of Task and Finish Groups.

Background Papers

Cabinet Forward Plan