

## Cherwell District Council

### Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 1 March 2010 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)  
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor James Macnamara  
Councillor Nigel Morris  
Councillor D M Pickford  
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Apologies for absence: Councillor Kieron Mallon

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service  
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community  
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy  
Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement  
Phil O'Dell, Chief Finance Officer  
AnneMarie Scott, Head of People and Improvement  
Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services  
Tim Mills, Private Sector Housing Manager  
Jo Smith, Communications Manager  
Richard Hawtin, Team Leader Property & Contracts  
Gabi Kaiser, Cleaner Greener Development Manager  
Alexa Coates, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

#### 114 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 115 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

#### 116 **Urgent Business**

The Chairman advised the Executive that he had agreed to admit an urgent item to the agenda relating to the progress of the pay and grading structure.

The item was considered urgent as any implications arising from the report needed to be dealt with before the next payroll deadline of 10 March 2010 and council not be delayed to the next meeting.

117 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

118 **Private Sector Housing Strategy 2010 - 2014**

The Head of Housing Services submitted a report which sought the adoption of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and endorsement of the associated Action Plan.

**Resolved**

- 1) That the Private Sector Housing Strategy is adopted.
- 2) That the Private Sector Housing Strategy action plan is endorsed.

**Reasons** - This strategy is an essential part of the District's response to the needs of our residents for suitable accommodation. It will play an important role in delivering the council's corporate objectives.

**Options**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Option One</b>   | To adopt the Private Sector Housing Strategy and endorse the action plan  |
| <b>Option Two</b>   | To adopt the strategy and endorse the action plan with amendments.  |
| <b>Option Three</b> | Not to adopt the strategy or endorse the delivery plan, in which case an alternative strategy will need to be considered. |

119 **The Council's Response to Climate Change**

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report which considered the progress of the Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate and the overall progress of the Council in responding to climate change issues.

**Resolved**

- 1) That the current progress relating to the Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate and the performance relating to the four climate change national indicators is noted.

- 2) That the revised Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate Change delivery plan and the continuing priority attached to it is approved.
- 3) That the reducing carbon emissions by improving the energy efficiency of corporate buildings and also reducing other sources of Council emissions by gaining support from the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management programme is supported.

**Reasons** - The key issue is one of considering the revised delivery plan which takes into account local priorities as measured by national indicators. Account should be taken of the good work and improved performance already achieved but despite this, there will be continued pressure to maintain a positive direction of travel specifically with ongoing CO2 emission reductions.

### **Options**

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>Option One</b>   | To approve the proposed revised delivery plan.       |
| <b>Option Two</b>   | To reject the proposed delivery plan                 |
| <b>Option Three</b> | To ask officers to modify the proposed delivery plan |

120

### **Progress on Developing and Delivering the Equalities Work Programme**

The Chief Executive and Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager submitted a report which provided an overview of the achievements relating to the Council's equalities work in 2009/10 and outlined the work programme for 2010/11.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the Corporate Equality Action Plan for 2009-2012 is agreed
- 2) That the proposals to seek equality accreditation from the Improvement and Department Agency (IDeA) in November 2010 are agreed
- 3) That the refreshed equalities scheme and the three year equality impact assessment programme is agreed
- 4) That the equality achievements made during 2009/2010 are noted.

**Reason** - This report provides an overview of our equalities performance and our work programme for the future. It considers the impact of the new Equality Framework for Local Government and, as requested by Executive in April 2009, it proposes a timeframe for the inspection. This report also provides an overview of new equalities duties that are coming into effect and how Cherwell District Council is responding to these duties and reflecting them in our long term objectives.

- Option One** Agree recommendations as outlined above
- Option Two** Executive to identify additional actions or changes to proposed timeframe and accreditation.

121 **2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan**

The Chief Executive and Head of Improvement submitted a report which presented the proposed Corporate Improvement Plan for 2010/11.

**Resolved**

That the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2010/11 and associated Value for Money Review Programme for 2010/11 is agreed.

**Reasons** - The purpose of the report is to agree the 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan and the associated Value for Money Programme.

**Options**

- Option One** To agree the organisational priorities for improvement and the content of the 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan as set out in this report.

At the conclusion of the item the Leader thanked Mike Carroll, Jo Smith, Phil O'Dell and Alexa Coates who would all be leaving the Council, for their hard work and efforts.

All Officers other than members of Corporate Management Team left the meeting.

122 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved**

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

123 **Pay and Grading Structure Update**

The Chief Executive updated the Executive on the timetable and progress to date in implementing the new pay and grading structure by 1 April 2010. In light of the fast-approaching deadline the Executive considered the range of options available to the Council in case national sign off had not been achieved by 1 April 2010 and provided their views on these options.

**Resolved**

That the range of options as set out in the exempt report be noted and that the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service be authorised to take action as required from the range of options in light of the view of the Executive and that any future action be formally delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Chairman:

Date: