

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 2 March 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Ken Atack, Lead Member for Financial Management
Councillor Norman Bolster, Lead Member for Estates and the Economy

Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Banbury Brighter Futures

Councillor Michael Gibbard, Lead Member for Planning

Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Clean and Green

Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Housing

Councillor Nicholas Turner, Lead Member for Joint Working and ICT

Also Present: Councillor Barry Richards, on behalf of Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group

Apologies for absence: Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member for Banbury Developments, Performance and Communications

Officers: Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement
Jo Pitman, Head of Transformation (for agenda item 9)
Andy Preston, Head of Development Management (for agenda item 8)
Jon Westerman, Development Services Manager (for agenda item 8)
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

119 **Declarations of Interest**

The Head of Law and Governance advised that all Members of Executive had a notional interest in agenda item 8, Graven Hill: MOD Bicester, Site D & E Ambrosden Road, Proposals for a Local Development Order, due to the Council's residual interest in the Graven Hill site. Dispensation to all Members had been granted by the Director of Resources on behalf of the Head of Paid Service.

120 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

121 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

122 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

1. Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public were permitted to film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.

124 **Mobile Homes Act 2013 Fees Policy**

The Interim Public Protection and Environmental Health Manager submitted a report to seek approval of a joint draft Cherwell and South Northamptonshire Council Mobile Homes Fee Policy prior to public and stakeholder consultation.

Resolved

- (1) That the joint draft Cherwell and South Northamptonshire Council Mobile Homes Fee Policy be approved for consultation.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Interim Public Protection and Environmental Health Manager to consider responses and, if necessary amend the policy in consultation with the Deputy Leader.

Reasons

By approving the adoption of this legislation, officers will be able to carry out their statutory duties and collect fees on a cost recovery basis.

Alternative Options

The Executive could reject the recommendations and not set a fee structure. Officers would still have to licence, inspect and enforce the provisions of the Act but would not be able to recover costs.

Graven Hill: MOD Bicester, Site D & E Ambrosden Road, Proposals for a Local Development Order

The Head of Development Management submitted a report to seek the agreement of Executive to prepare a Local Development Order for phase 0 and part of phase 1a of Graven Hill.

Resolved

- (1) That, in principle, the proposals for a Local Development Order (LDO) for Graven Hill be agreed.
- (2) That a pilot LDO for phase 0 and part of phase 1a of Graven Hill be implemented.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Development Management (in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning to agree an appropriate number of houses (between 100 and 200) to be included in the LDO, from within phase 1a.

Reasons

Local Development Orders give a grant of planning permission to specific types of development within a defined area. They can enable the planning process to be streamlined by removing the need for developers to make a planning application.

At Graven Hill, an LDO would allow prospective purchasers of the self-build plots to know that if they meet the requirements of a set design framework. (e.g., maximum height and built area within the plot), they can proceed with development without further cost or delay.

Alternative Options

On the basis that this will be the first LDO to deliver new build residential development in the UK, together with the risks and uncertainty associated with both delivery and the quality of the build environment, Members could consider running a pilot project in respect of only phase 0 of the Graven Hill development. Phase 1 could then be delivered through the traditional planning system with a PPA in place, ensuring certainty and transparency in both the process and the quality of built development. This would enable the success of both delivery methods to be measured.

This option is rejected because it would not allow full delivery of enough houses via the LDO approach and could result in a detrimental impact on prospective self build purchasers.

Members could consider delivering the entire the entire self-build development at Graven Hill through the traditional planning system with a PPA in place, ensuring certainty and transparency in both the process and the quality of built development.

This option is rejected because it would not allow delivery of any houses via the LDO approach and could result in a detrimental impact on prospective self build purchasers.

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Performance Report 2014-15 - Third Quarter

The Head of Transformation submitted a report is to present the Council's performance for the period 01 October 2014 – 31 December 2014 as measured through the Performance Management Framework.

Resolved

(1) That the following achievements be noted:

Cherwell: A District of Opportunity

- Continue to support skills development, apprenticeships and job clubs/contribute to the creation and safeguarding of jobs measures are both reporting green. 346 jobs have been created/safeguarded this year to date (against target of 150), 135 of these in quarter 3.
- Develop the role of the Cherwell Investment Partnership (CHIP) is also reporting green with 20 formal business enquiries being answered and assistance given to many businesses seeking to move, expand or contract. The Banbury Town Team co-ordination project has contributed to a reduction of vacant shop units from 53 to 40 during quarter three.
- Good progress continues against "Develop a whole Council 'Better Business' approach to support new and existing businesses". All regulatory staff have been trained on the Regulator's code and the Enforcement Policy consultation is complete. In addition, £5000 funding was sought and agreed by the BIS Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) to improve regulatory support in a pilot in Banbury.

Safe, Green and Clean

- Waste sent to Landfill figures have improved in quarter three, and it is anticipated that at year end we will be 250 tonnes down on last year's residual waste to landfill. An excellent result following a rise in landfill over the past two years.
- Number of All Domestic Burglary incidents reported is again reporting as Green* with 59 incidents being reported against 74 in same period last year, continuing the downward trend this year.

Thriving Communities

- The total number of visits to the Council's Leisure facilities (including District Leisure Centres, Woodgreen Leisure Centre, North Oxfordshire Academy and Cooper School Bicester) has significantly exceeded the year to date target 961,609 by 138,501 visits. This is despite a fall in numbers of visits, year to date at Woodgreen
- Processing of major applications within 13 weeks is again reporting as Green* at 89.29% (91.25% year to date). This figure represents sustained and significant progress, compared with historic performance.

- Processing of minor applications within 8 weeks has improved from Amber in quarter two to green in quarter three – reporting right on target at 65%.

Sound Budgets and Customer Focussed Council

- Increase our use of social media to communicate with residents and local businesses is again reporting as Green with Facebook likes now standing at 6363 and Twitter at 5042. By using advertisements we have extended our reach into our non-follower audience which has proved successful.
- Deliver a new approach to communications for the Bicester Master Plan is reporting as Green with a new sub-site being developed at www.all-about-bicester.co.uk which pulls all the information about Bicester together.

- (2) That the following performance related matters be identified for review or consideration in future reports:

Cherwell: A District of Opportunity

- Delivery in North West Bicester of the Eco Business Centre is again reporting Amber as a result of project delays due to external factors relating to the delivery of the local centre on phase 1. The delay has not however had an impact on timescales or budget.

Safe, Clean and Green

- 151 Violence against the Person (without injury) incidents were reported in quarter three (Red) compared with 102 in same period 2013/14. It is important to note that recent changes (classifications) in the way Police crime statistics are compiled make it difficult to compare directly against those recorded in the same period last year.

Thriving Communities

- Number of visits to Woodgreen Leisure Centre, North Oxfordshire Academy and Cooper School (Bicester) is now reporting Amber. Although there is improvement in performance this quarter, seasonal variations should be taken into account when comparing quarterly performance. At WGLC we have moved from the pool season to the indoor bowls season (more consistent usage) and at NOA and Cooper are into the peak astro turf winter season. The year to date figure is down overall (15,743) and this is due to several contributing factors including lower outdoor pool figures due to a wetter summer, loss of Boxing Club booking (relocation), less functions at WGLC and athletics track refurbishment closure at NOA. The Council have been working in partnership with Parkwood Leisure at WGLC to address the drop in their figures and now have Lead Member approval to expand the gym provision at the centre. This will see an increase in footfall but not until mid-March and so will not impact on this year's shortfall.
- Processing of Other planning applications is reporting Amber - a slight improvement over quarter two. Performance 78.57% against target 80.00% with year to date performance 75.32%.

Sound Budgets and Customer Focussed Council

- Several objectives relating to 3-way working/further shared services are reporting Amber. These are awaiting consideration/approval by Cherwell and South Northants Councils at the end of February.
- A service level measure relating to Car Park Income has been escalated for inclusion in this report due to an overspend, predominantly as a result of reduced car parking income of £312,000. The projection takes into account the impact of the Sainsbury's car park in Bicester and falling demand generally which is also compounded by falling Excess Charge Notices and £73,000 refunds due to Meteor Parking Ltd from overcharging. These are mitigated in part by salary savings of (£121,000), and additional income from grants, contributions and fees and charges of (£140,000).

- (3) That it be noted there was no feedback from the February meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during which it considered the quarter three performance report.

Reasons

This report presents the Council's performance against its corporate scorecard for the third quarter of 2014/15. It includes an overview of successes, areas for improvement and emerging issues to be considered.

Alternative Options

Option 1: To note the report

Option 2: To request additional information on items and/or add to the work programme for review and/or refer to Overview and Scrutiny.

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Quarter 3 2014-15 - Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

The Director of Resources submitted a report which summarised the Council's Revenue and Capital position and treasury management performance for the first nine months of the financial year 2014-15 and projections for the full 2014-15 period.

The report also present information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy during 2014-15 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the projected revenue and capital position at December 2014 be noted.
- (2) That the quarter 3 (Q3) performance against the 2014-15 investment strategy and the financial returns from the funds be noted.

Reasons

In line with good practice budget monitoring is undertaken on a monthly basis within the Council. The revenue and capital position is reported monthly to the Joint Management Team and formally to the Budget Planning Committee on a quarterly basis.

The revenue and capital expenditure in Q3 has been subject to a detailed review by Officers and reported monthly to management as part of the corporate dashboard.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management which this Council has adopted requires a regular budget monitoring report. This full report was reviewed by the Accounts Audit and Risk Committee on the 21 January 2015.

Alternative Options

Option 1: This report illustrates the Council's performance against the 2014-15 Financial Targets for Revenue and Capital. As this is a monitoring report, no further options have been considered. However, members may wish to request that officers provide additional information.

128 Bicester Sports Village Update

The Director of Community and Environment submitted a to update the Executive with the latest project position in delivering the pavilion, car park, access requirements, floodlighting and 3G synthetic sports pitch.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress in delivering phase 2 of the Bicester Sports Village project be noted.

Reasons

The Bicester Sports Village project continues to progress with a slightly adjusted programme which moves the anticipated project completion date to early 2016.

Alternative Options

The project has been approved and is progressing in accordance with these approvals. There are no other options being considered at this time other than proposals to remain within the approved funding envelope.

129 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that

exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 3 and 5 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

130

Recycling Contract

The Head of Environmental Services submitted an exempt report relating to the recycling contract.

Resolved

- (1) As set out in the exempt minutes.
- (2) As set out in the exempt minutes.
- (3) As set out in the exempt minutes.
- (4) As set out in the exempt minutes.

Reasons

As set out in the exempt minutes

Alternative Options

As set out in the exempt minutes

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm

Chairman:

Date: