

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 4 April 2016 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 Housing
Councillor Michael Gibbard, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Public Protection
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Clean and Green
Councillor Nicholas Turner, Lead Member for Change Management, Joint Working and IT

Also Present: Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Andrew Beere

Apologies for absence: Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member for Banbury Futures

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Karen Curtin, Commercial Director (Bicester)
Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery
Scott Barnes, Director of Strategy and Commissioning
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement
Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

138 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

140 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

141 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

142 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. 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.
2. This was the last Executive of the municipal year and the last Executive meeting Councillor Gibbard would be attending as he is not standing at the forthcoming election. The Leader thanked Councillor Gibbard for his hard work and valuable contributions to Executive and the Council, in particular, the delivery of the Local Plan.

143 **Upper Heyford Masterplan**

The Chairman advised Members that consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting of Executive.

144 **Construction Apprenticeship and Skills Interim Planning Policy Guidance**

The Commercial Director (Bicester) submitted a report which sought approval of the Interim Position Statement relating to the securing of construction apprenticeships and skills through the land use planning system.

Resolved

- (1) That the Draft Cherwell District Council Interim Position Statement on Planning Obligations for Construction Apprenticeships and Skills, April 2016 be approved as guidance which will operate informally to secure construction apprenticeships and skills through the processing of planning applications by the Council, prior to informing a relevant policy within the Cherwell District Council Local Plan Part 2 and the Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document, which are currently in the early stages of preparation.
- (2) That, after the Annual Council meeting in May 2016 the Leader nominates a Cherwell District Council representative on to the Apprenticeship and Training Company Apprenticeship and Training Agency (ATA) Board.

Reasons

Increasing the number of new apprenticeships in England is a high profile Government objective. Cherwell District Council supports this aspiration. The amount of new development taking place in the District over the next 20 years or so, coupled with the evidenced shortage of construction skills provides both an incentive and opportunity to secure the provision of new construction related apprenticeships through the land use planning system.

The Cherwell District Council Local Plan Part 1 as well as CDC's Economic Strategy contains strategic aspirations relating to the need to support an increase in skills and training within the District. The Guidance provides detail on how this overarching strategic aim can be achieved through the land use planning process.

CDC is anticipating that developers will generally support the approach being promoted in this Guidance as an important and progressive initiative designed both increase the number of local skilled construction operatives available to support the building industry, as well as promoting the construction trades generally as a valuable future career path for young people. As such, the Executive is recommended to approve Appendix 1 to operate as informal guidance to secure construction apprenticeships and skills through the processing of planning applications by the Council, prior to informing a relevant policy within the Cherwell District Council Local Plan Part 2 and the Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document, which are currently in the early stages of preparation.

The setting up and operating of The Apprenticeship and Training Company to manage apprenticeships on behalf of developers and their contractors is a key element of delivering the apprenticeships. This is because it will make the whole process easier for developers by acting as the apprentices' employer - rather than the developer needing to. Given that the OXLEP grant is supporting the first year or so of the Company's operation and CDC is the accountable body for this grant, as well as its strategic commitment to support skills and training, it would seem appropriate that there is a CDC representative to sit on the Board.

Alternative options

Option 1: Not to progress the interim informal guidance but wait until a relevant policy can be included in Local Plan Part II and Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. Rejected as this will present an opportunity lost and would potentially put the Council in breach of one of the key deliverables tied to the funding, which is to demonstrate measures undertaken to roll out this approach more widely than at NW Bicester.

Option 2: Not to seek a representative on the Board of the Apprenticeship and Training Company from Cherwell District Council. Rejected as this would potentially lead to some risk for the Council in terms of being the accountable body for the OxLEP grant. A key deliverable of the funding is that each

relevant delivery partner in the project should have representation on the Board.

145 **District Wide Cleansing Service**

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report which updated the Executive on the actions and strategies being followed to ensure the district had a good level of cleanliness.

Resolved

- (1) That the good levels of customer satisfaction (69% in 2015) with the Council's Street Cleansing service be noted.
- (2) That the enforcement actions to combat fly tipping, littering and dog fouling be supported.
- (3) That the combination of education, enforcement and operational efficiency to keep the District clean be supported.

Reasons

To keep the District clean a range of activities are required. Removing litter & fly tips quickly is important but if residents can be educated to be responsible with their waste the amount of fly tipping and litter can be reduced. For those who wish to ruin the environment through selfish actions, an enforcement team investigates all fly tipping and helps to reduce littering by the issuing of fixed penalty notices.

Customer satisfaction is good with 69% achieved in 2015 a rise from 67% in 201

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Customer satisfaction is good with 69% achieved in 2015 a rise from 67% in 2014.

Alternative options

Option 1: To support the activities to keep the district clean

Option 2: To reject the activities used to keep the district clean

Option 3: To ask officers to consider alternative improvements

146

Hampton Gay and Poyle Parish Meeting Section 109 Order

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to seek approval for the making of an order pursuant to section 109 of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of Hampton Gay and Poyle Parish Meeting in order to vest in it certain powers of a parish council.

Resolved

- (1) That the making of an order in the form appended pursuant to section 109 of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of Hampton Gay and Poyle Parish Meeting be approved.

Reasons

A valid request has been made to the Council by the parish meeting and it is recommended that the request is granted.

Alternative Options

Executive could reject the request but there are no justifiable reasons for doing so.

147

Devolution - Update

The Chief Executive submitted a report to provide an update on devolution and to authorise further joint working in support of it.

Resolved

- (1) That agreement be given to work with the other District Councils and partners to further develop the initial unitary devolution proposals.
- (2) That it be agreed that independent consultants should be jointly appointed by the Districts to undertake detailed work on viability and sustainability and governance; specialist work on collaboration around Children and Adult services; public consultation and involvement; and preparation of a revised Devolution Deal and that Full Council be recommended to approve the addition of the pursuance of a devolution bid to the adopted policy framework and a contribution of up to £50k to be made to facilitate those studies, which will be funded from General Fund balances.
- (3) That in view of the need to confirm the Council's commitment to the joint appointment of consultants prior to the next scheduled council meeting the Chief Executive be requested to exercise her urgency action powers to implement the recommendations to Full Council in resolution (2) above in consultation with the Chairman of Council.

Reasons

There is clearly a lot of detail to be worked through over the coming months. The next step will be to jointly commission independent experts with our partners to produce detailed, costed plans for the preferred option and test them against other options to ensure the best and most cost-effective solutions. It is proposed that our Council contribute up to £50,000 to jointly commission this detailed work.

Detailed proposals will be considered by each of the Councils prior to full public consultation in the summer. We would need to be certain of the benefits for the residents of the district.

The approval of £50,000 to fund the collective pot for the unitary bid needs Full Council approval as there is no specific approved budget that Executive can call upon – General Fund balances being the source. In addition the CDC business plan does not identify anything specific relating to the allocation of resources to devolution in general and the unitary bid in particular so Full Council needs to approve the addition of the pursuance of devolution to the adopted policy framework so that Executive can deal with any future decisions itself.

In view of the need to confirm the Council's commitment to the joint appointment of consultants prior to the next scheduled council meeting the Chief Executive is requested to exercise her urgency action powers to implement the recommendations to Full Council in consultation with the Chairman of Council.

Alternative options

Option 1: Not to support the study – This is not supported as it is important that the councils are able to make an informed decision based on a sound evidence base

148 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, Paragraph 3 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.

149 New Woodgreen Leisure Centre Management Contract and Facility Improvements

The Director of Operational Delivery submitted an exempt report to consider the award of a long term contract for operation of Woodgreen leisure Centre and facility improvements.

Resolved

- (1) That a contract be awarded to Parkwood Leisure Ltd for the operation of Woodgreen Leisure Centre for up to 18 years and agreed facility improvements.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Operational Delivery, the Head of Finance and Procurement and the Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Deputy Leader and the Lead Member for Resources to finalise the contractual detail.

Reasons

The Council through the Executive have effectively agreed a preferred scheme which only now needs approval for contract award which this reports seeks to achieve.

Alternative options

Option 1: To reject or delay the contract award. This is not recommended due to the process already undertaken and the service benefits realised through accelerating the new contract delivery timescale

The meeting ended at 7.15pm

Chairman:

Date: