

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 2 September 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor George Reynolds (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Leisure and Sport

Councillor Colin Clarke, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Ian Corkin, Lead Member for Customers and Transformation
Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Housing
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Financial Management and Governance
Councillor Andrew McHugh, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Richard Mould, Lead Member for Performance
Councillor Lynn Pratt, Lead Member for Economy, Regeneration and Property
Councillor Dan Sames, Lead Member for Clean and Green

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

Officers: Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Nick Graham, Director of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Adele Taylor, Executive Director: Finance (Interim) & Section 151 Officer
Ed Potter, Assistant Director: Environmental Services
Hedd Vaughan Evans, Assistant Director Performance and Transformation
Belinda Green, Operations Director - CSN Resources
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

30 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

32 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

34 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts 2020-2021**

The Executive Director Finance (Interim) submitted a report to provide members with a review of Council Tax discounts and to seek approval to recommend the proposed level of Council Tax discounts for the 2020-2021 financial year to Council.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and any financial implications for the Council be noted.
- (2) That, having given due consideration, the options for a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020-2021 be noted and Option 1 – A new banded income CTR scheme for those of working age - be recommended for a full consultation process to be undertaken.
- (3) That, having given due consideration, the following proposed level of Council Tax discounts and premiums for 2019-2020 be recommended to Full Council:
 - Retain the discount for second homes at zero.
 - Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter at zero.
 - Retain the discount for empty homes undergoing major repair at 25% for 12 months and thereafter at zero.
 - Retain the empty homes premium of an additional 100% for properties that have remained empty for more than 2 years.

Reasons

From April 2013 Council Tax Benefit was abolished and replaced with a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Council is required to agree a scheme based on the reduced level of funding from Government

Members are now required to consider the options contained in this report and to approve a consultation process to begin in September 2019.

Alternative options

Option 1: To not recommend any of the options for a scheme for 2019-2020. This would have financial implications for the Council and those residents affected by Welfare Reform.

Option 2: To decrease the level of support to Working Age claimants. This would have an impact on some of the most vulnerable residents in the district and may significantly impact on collection rates.

35

Car Parking Review

The Assistant Director: Environmental Services submitted a report to present to Executive the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in developing a car parking strategy with an action plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in developing a Car Parking Strategy be noted.
- (2) That the development of a Car Parking Strategy be supported and the draft strategy and action plan be approved for public consultation.
- (3) That it be agreed to consider the proposed Car Parking Strategy & Car Parking Action Plan again later in the municipal year following consideration of comments from the public consultation.

Reasons

The Scrutiny Task and Finish group have considered the new car parking arrangement with Apcoa and have developed a proposed Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan.

The proposed strategy has now been brought forward to Executive. Following Executive member comments, a public consultation will take place and finally an equalities impact assessment will also be carried out. The final Strategy and Action Plan will be submitted to Executive for final approval and adoption later in 2019/20.

Alternative options

Option 1: To recommend the continued development of the new Car Parking Strategy & Action Plan.

Option 2: To reject the Car Parking Strategy & Action Plan and ask officers to reconsider the strategy.

36

Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report - July 2019

The Executive Director: Finance (Interim) and Assistant Director: Performance and Transformation submitted a report which summarises the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring position as at the end of each month.

Resolved

- (1) That the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report be noted.

Reasons

The Council is committed to performance, risk and budget management and reviews progress against its corporate priorities on a monthly basis.

This report provides an update on progress made so far in 2019-20 to deliver the Council's priorities through reporting on Performance, the Leadership Risk Register and providing an update on the financial position.

Alternative options

Option 1: This report illustrates the Council's performance against the 2019-20 business plan. As this is a monitoring report, no further options have been considered. However, members may wish to request that officers provide additional information.

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Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: