

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 30 January 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Lucinda Wing (Chairman)

Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Shaida Hussain
Councillor Tony Mepham
Councillor Perran Moon
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Bryn Williams

Also Present: Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council

Apologies for absence: Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Ian Middleton

Officers: Louise Tustian, Acting Assistant Director Performance and Transformation
Celia Prado-Teeling, Acting Team Leader Insight Team
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

44 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

45 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Further to discussions and Member requested, visits to the Casepak Materials Recovery Facility and Castle Quay had been arranged. Members should contact the Democratic and Elections Team if they wanted to attend.
2. The Chairman updated the Committee on the responses she had received to her scrutiny survey which had been sent to all Cherwell District Council Members. Whilst the number of responses to date had been relatively low, a number of possible scrutiny review topics had been suggested:

- Council Tax
- Co2 emissions
- Sports provision
- Governance of council owned buildings
- Decriminalisation of parking

The survey would be re-sent to encourage more responses.

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Business Plan 2020/21

The Acting Assistant Director Performance and Transformation gave a presentation on the Business Plan 2020/21 explaining that each year the Council reviewed and updated its annual business plan, which set out the priorities and high-level objectives for the year ahead.

The Committee was advised that there had been a thorough review of the business plan, resulting in four new priorities: Housing that meets your needs; Leading on environmental sustainability; An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres; and, Healthy, resilient and engaged communities. The four priorities were supported by four new themes that would shape and influence the work of every service across the council: Customers; Healthy Places; Partnerships; and, Continuous Improvement.

The Acting Assistant Director Performance and Transformation explained that the priorities built on the council's track record in the areas and reflected the view of residents through the Annual Satisfaction Survey.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Acting Assistant Director Performance and Transformation explained that as this was the draft business plan, she would feed back comments from the committee to senior manager and lead officers for consideration and review when developing service plans. The service plans were currently in development and would shape the performance management framework for 2020-21 and inform a review of the Council's Leadership Risk Register. Individual objectives for employees were set to ensure service plans were met and every member of staff could see how their work contributes to the delivery of that plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Business Plan for 2020-21 be noted.

- (2) That, having given due consideration to the draft business plan, no areas for further consideration by Executive be identified.

48 **Work Programme 2019/2020**

The Democratic and Elections Officers gave an update on the status of topics suggested for Scrutiny, and the indicative Committee work programme.

Telephony Blackspots had previously been raised as a potential topic to pursue for scrutiny. The particular aspects a review could cover were discussed and the Committee agreed to set up a working group to research mobile phone coverage and what was being done to improve coverage in the Cherwell district. The working group would also examine the rollout of 5G and coverage across the Cherwell district. The Working Group would report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Democratic and Elections Officers confirmed that there would be a visit to Casepak Materials on 24 February and, as advised the Chairman under the announcements, any Committee Member wishing to attend should contact the Democratic and Elections team to book a place.

The Chairman reminded Members, as advised under her announcements, that a visit to Castle Quay was also being organised. Information would be emailed to Members in due course.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the possible inclusion of a Cherwell Industrial Strategy update at the March 2020 meeting, the work programme be noted.
- (2) That a working group consisting of Councillors Phil Chapman and Bryn Williams be set up to investigate and research mobile phone blackspots and the rollout of 5G network in the Cherwell district and report back to the March meeting.

49 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.44 pm

Chairman:

Date: