



Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday 1 December 2020

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Virtual meeting

Membership

Councillor Lucinda Wing (Chairman) **Councillor Tom Wallis (Vice-Chairman)**

Councillor Mike Bishop

Councillor Phil Chapman

Councillor Chris Heath

Councillor Shaida Hussain

Councillor Tony Mephram

Councillor Ian Middleton

Councillor Perran Moon

Councillor Les Sibley

Councillor Douglas Webb

Councillor Bryn Williams

AGENDA

Overview and Scrutiny Members should not normally be subject to the party whip. Where a member is subject to a party whip they must declare this at the beginning of the meeting and it should be recorded in the minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Minutes (Pages 7 - 10)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020.

4. Chairman's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chairman.

5. **Urgent Business**

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

6. **(Draft) Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire** (Pages 11 - 34)

Report of Assistant Director – Growth and Economy

Purpose of report

This report introduces a first draft of a Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire (attached as Appendix One). It explains the purpose of this unique approach, the scope and content of the Vision and the timeline for the current engagement and finalising the Vision which the Oxfordshire Growth Board is undertaking. The Scrutiny Committee is requested to provide input to the report so that it can be considered by the Executive.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Provide views on the Oxfordshire's Growth Board (Draft) Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire and these will be reported to the Executive at its meeting on 7 December

7. **Community Nature Plan 2020-2022 - A natural environment for people and wildlife** (Pages 35 - 62)

Report of Assistant Director – Wellbeing

Purpose of report

To seek endorsement for the 2020-2022 Community Nature Plan and its approach to addressing the Council's statutory biodiversity duty, ahead of its consideration by Executive on 4 January 2021. The report also highlights the resource implications of the Environment Bill in terms of nature and biodiversity and seeks recognition for the vital role of the Council's key biodiversity partners in delivering the Plan.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To endorse the 2020-2022 Community Nature Plan and its approach to addressing the Council's statutory biodiversity duty
- 1.2 To instruct officers to investigate the resource implications of the provisions of the Environment Bill in terms of nature and biodiversity and develop recommendations
- 1.3 To recognise the essential role of key partners in the delivery of the Community Nature Plan

8. Safeguarding

Verbal Update.

The Assistant Director – Wellbeing will give a verbal update relating to Safeguarding

9. Constitution Review (Pages 63 - 80)

Report of Corporate Director – Commercial Development, Assets and Investment & (Interim) Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

This report presents the recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group on the 'areas for further consideration' for this Committee to determine what recommendations for constitutional change to make to Full Council to consider on 14 December.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to consider the recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group on each of the 'areas for further consideration' (outlined more fully at Appendix 1) and make recommendations to Full Council accordingly:

Rules of debate:

- 1.1 to make no changes to the current process as regards the order of speakers in a debate but to clarify that the seconder can speak at any point if they have reserved their right and that this does not mean they must be the penultimate speaker;
- 1.2 to make no change to the existing rule that once the proposer of a motion or amendments begins summing up, no further speakers will be heard

Length of speeches (including all committees):

- 1.3 to reduce the length of speeches for proposers to and proposers of amendments to five minutes (from current 10 minute)
- 1.4 to reduce the length of speeches for seconder, and seconder of amendments and all other speakers to three minutes (from current 5 minutes);

Deadlines for submitting amendments to motions

- 1.5 to make no changes to the existing deadlines (5pm, two working days before the meeting)
- 1.6 to increase the word limit for amendment to motions to 350 (from current 250) words

Process for dealing with motions with budgetary implications

- 1.7 to encourage members to submit motions early and discuss with officers to enable a review in the light of budgetary implications, with the introduction of a threshold of "£10,000 or more" to inform what "significant" means in terms of the current budget or capital expenditure
- 1.8 to allow amendments to motions deferred for budgetary reasons to be amended when resubmitted to Council

Motions without notice/procedural motions:

- 1.9 to make no changes to the current arrangement that a procedural motion, once proposed and seconded, requires only a simple majority to succeed

Recorded vote:

- 1.10 to make no changes to the current arrangement that a request for a recorded vote needs only a proposer and seconder to succeed

Public addresses (not Planning Committee)

- 1.11 to make no changes to current arrangements for
- i) public speakers to register by noon on the working day before the meeting
 - ii) five minutes per public speaker
 - iii) no time limit on the number of public speakers or the time allowed for the public address item

Order of business/finish time for Full Council

- 1.12 to make no changes to the existing order of business for Full Council
- 1.13 not to introduce a finish time/cut off time for Full Council

Planning Committee

- 1.14 to allow remote tools (drones) in facilitating site visits but to be clear that this should complement other evidence, not replace site visits and any such usage should ensure impartiality
- 1.15 to retain current arrangements whereby
- i) there is no separate slot for councillor questions of clarification to the officer after a presentation of a planning application
 - ii) County councillors are allowed to speak as members of the public (i.e. no separate right to speak)
- 1.16 to introduce a ten-minute time limit for non-committee ward members in addressing the Committee

Terminology and glossary

- 1.15 to introduce a glossary to the Constitution to bring clarity to members of the public, officers and councillors
- 1.16 to achieve consistency within the Constitution by using the following words:
- i) Executive (not Cabinet)
 - ii) Chairman of a meeting (with the proviso that a person chairing a committee may call themselves by whichever term e.g. Chair)
 - iii) Resident (rather than citizen)
- 1.17 to continue to use the following terms but provide contextual clarity (and explanation in the glossary) for the use of each:
- i) Councillor and member
 - ii) Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
 - iii) Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer

Annual Review of the Constitution

- 1.18 to introduce an annual review of the Constitution whereby
- i) At its October/December meeting, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will consider and make recommendations to Full Council to agree in December
 - ii) Such a review to include a notice of any changes made in year under officer delegations to reflect legislation and transfers of functions

- iii) Any significant changes would be submitted to Full Council as necessary for consideration

10. Work Programme 2020/2021 (Pages 81 - 86)

Democratic and Elections Officers will give an update on progress regarding subjects raised at previous Committee meetings (appendix 1, attached).

The Committee to consider the indicative work programme (appendix 2, attached).

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221953 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221953

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

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