

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 1 June 2022 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Sandy Dallimore (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor John Broad
Councillor Ian Harwood
Councillor David Hingley
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Dr Chukwudi Okeke

Substitute Members:

Councillor Andrew Beere (In place of Councillor Perran Moon)
Councillor Bryn Williams (In place of Councillor John Donaldson)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Perran Moon

Officers:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Assistant Director - Customer Focus (Interim)
Shahin Ismail, Assistant Director - Law, Governance & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer (Interim)
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 15 March 2022 and 18 May 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman set out his vision for Overview and Scrutiny and the Committee. He explained that it was important to him to speak with Committee members and he would therefore contact all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members outside of the meeting to discuss the work programme and what he would like the Committee to achieve over the coming year.

6 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

7 **Introduction to Performance Monitoring**

The Interim Assistant Director of Customer Focus gave a presentation on the performance monitoring framework and reporting cycle, and the role of Overview and Scrutiny in performance monitoring.

In the course of discussion, Members of the Committee commented that they understood that a function of the committee was to scrutinise the performance aspects of the report but asked if there was a procedure where any concerns about risk and/or finance could be relayed to the committees which considered these parts of the report.

Noting the comments of the Committee, the Interim Assistant Director Law, Governance and Democratic Services Monitoring Officer agreed that clarity was needed and that if a report was considered by a Committee, it should be considered in totality. From a Governance perspective, the Interim Monitoring Officer would review which reports were considered by which Committee and at what stage of the process.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation on the Performance Monitoring Framework and reporting cycle be noted.

8 **Work Programme Planning 2022-23**

The Committee considered the indicative work programme for 2022-2023.

The Committee noted that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 was listed as an item to be scheduled on the work programme and requested that an update on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the Growth Deal be included with this item when submitted to the Committee.

In response to Members' comments regarding consideration of reports by the Committee prior to consideration by Executive, the Governance and Elections Manager advised that all councillors received email notification when the Executive Forward Plan was published. If there were items the Committee wished to scrutinise, it was important that Members requested items be added to their agenda in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for Overview and Scrutiny comments to be considered by Executive before items were finalised.

The Committee considered the list of "Topics for Scrutiny" suggested by Committee Members. Highlighting that "Planning Policy for the District including the Growth Deal" had been on the Topic list for a considerable time, it was requested that the item be scheduled for consideration.

The Committee agreed that the Member Education and Training Working Group and the Parish Engagement Working Group should be re-established and submit scoping documents to the July meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the indicative work programme 2022-2023 be agreed.
- (2) That it be agreed that the Member Education and Training Working Group be re-established and authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to liaise with the Group Leaders regarding membership of the Working Group and a Scoping Document be submitted to the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for agreement.
- (3) That it be agreed that the Parish Engagement Working Group be re-established and authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to liaise with the Group Leaders regarding membership of the Working Group and a Scoping Document be submitted to the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for agreement.
- (4) That the update on items previously submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

Chairman:

Date: