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Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 27 April 2009 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)

Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Also present: Councillor P A O'Sullivan

Apologies for absence: Councillor G A Reynolds

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy
Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement
Liz Howlett, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Gillian Greaves, Head of Housing Services
Grahame Helm, Head of Safer Communities & Community Development
David Marriott, Head of Economic Developments & Estates
Paul Marston-Weston, Head of Recreation & Health
Jo Smith, Communications Manager
James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager

Resolutions

225 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

227 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

228 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

229 **Cherwell's Housing Strategy for Older People**

The Head of Housing Services submitted a report to approve the draft housing strategy for older people to enable full public consultation to be undertaken.

Resolved

That the draft Cherwell Housing Strategy for Older People be approved so that full public consultation can be undertaken in line with proposals in the draft strategy.

Reasons - The demographic and strategic drivers show the importance of delivering the strategy at this time. The strategy will go through a thorough consultation process allowing further shaping of the recommendations.

Options

The following options have been identified:

Option One	To approve the draft strategy to allow the consultation programme to begin.
Option Two	To approve the draft strategy with amendments.
Option Three	Not to approve the draft strategy. This would involve a rescheduling of the consultation programme.

230 **Sports Centres Modernisation and Woodgreen Leisure Centre Pool Refurbishment**

The Strategic Director Environment and Community submitted a report to provide the Executive with an update on the Sports Centres Modernisation project and refurbishment of Woodgreen Leisure Centre Outdoor Pool.

Resolved

- 1) That the current position and progress to date be noted.
- 2) That the arrangements for the reopening events for Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre be noted.

Reasons - The sports centre modernisation programme and refurbishment of Woodgreen Leisure Centre Outdoor Pool are priorities for the Council. The schemes have made excellent progress with only minor delays to date and remain on programme and within budget.

231 **Equalities and Diversity - Update and Review**

The Head of Safer Communities and Community Development submitted a report providing a review and update of the Council's progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government. The report also summarised the changes to the process, reviewed action planning for further development of the Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy and requested that the Executive agree to formally appoint an elected member as the Council's Community Cohesion Champion.

Resolved

- 1) That the achievement of Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government consistent with the approved commitment in the Corporate Plan be noted
- 2) That the Council seek accreditation as soon as possible and that if possible funding be found from within existing budgets or if this is not possible a supplementary estimate be brought forward to the Executive.
- 3) That having expressed an interest in the role, Councillor Ahmed be appointed the Council's Community Cohesion Champion.

Reasons – To consider formal accreditation under the Equality Standard for Local Government and to appoint a Community Cohesion Champion, whose role includes equality and diversity leadership, will demonstrate the Council's commitment as an employer, in the delivery of its services and in its community leadership role, to promoting equal life chances for all.

232 **Asset Management Plan**

The Head of Economic Development and Estates submitted a report to seek approval for the Council's Asset Management Plan for 2009/2010.

Resolved

- 1) That the areas of land on the Council's former housing estates used for amenity, parking purposes, and public open space be appropriated at nil value, so that they are formally held for those purposes.
- 2) That the Asset Management Plan for 2009/10 be adopted

Reasons - The Asset Management Plan sets out information relating to the Council's property holdings, and how they relate to service priorities, governance and administrative arrangements, and plans affecting these properties. It is important that Members are satisfied that the Council is using these resources efficiently and effectively to deliver services.

233 **2009/2010 Corporate Improvement Plan**

The Chief Executive and Head of Improvement submitted a report that presented the proposed 2009/2010 Corporate Improvement Plan.

Resolved

That the 2009/2010 Corporate Improvement Plan be agreed

Reasons - The Council has transformed many aspects of its performance in recent years and this has been underpinned by the focus brought to improvement by the Corporate Improvement Plan. The actions contained in the 2009/2010 Corporate Improvement Plan build on the achievements of previous years, continue to lay the foundations for sustained improvement into the future, and take into account the need to respond to the impact of the economic recession.

Options

The following option has been identified.

Option One	To agree the organisational priorities for improvement and the content of the 2008/2009 Corporate Improvement Plan as set out in the report.
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Review of Organisational Restructure

The Chief Executive submitted a report that presented an update of the outcomes to date of the 2007/2008 restructure of the Council.

Resolved

- 1) That the audited position of the financial contribution as at 31 March 2008 and the further contribution of the phased implementation be noted
- 2) That a further report of the audited cumulative position as at 31 March 2009 be requested

Reasons - The restructure has made a significant contribution to the overall reduction in organisational costs over the last 3 years. The financial position will improve further as a result of savings secured in the financial year 2008/2009. Further financial benefits are to come in the current (2009/2010) financial year and the last tranche of additional savings expected to contribute a full year effect in 2010/11. In addition, the Council is committed to removing a further £1m in cost from the organisation in the 2010/2011 budget, some of which will come from further changes to the structure of the organisation.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

Chairman:

Date: