

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 11 May 2009 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)

Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Also present: Councillor John Donaldson
Surinder Dhesi

Apologies for absence: Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor D M Pickford

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community
Julie Evans, Strategic Director - Customer Service & Resources
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy
Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement
Gillian Greaves, Head of Housing Services
David Marriott, Head of Economic Developments & Estates
Jo Smith, Communications Manager
Pam Wilkinson, Principal Solicitor
Sue Marchand, Biodiversity & Countryside Officer
Claire Sutton, Assistant Conservation Officer
Ruth Watkinson, Assistant Conservation Officer
Alexa Coates, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

Recommendations to Council

235 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

236 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

237 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

Surinder Dhesi submitted a petition regarding the sale of cars parked on grass verges in Banbury.

Surinder Dhesi requested that the Executive look at solutions other authorities had found to this problem, such as Barnet Council.

The Leader received the petition.

238 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

239 **Forward Plan**

The Leader submitted the Forward Plan of key decisions to be taken over the next four months.

Resolved

That the Forward Plan for the next four months be noted.

Reasons - to create a Forward Plan for the Council as required by the Local Government Act 2000.

240 **Overview & Scrutiny Report: Rural Affordable Housing**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report on Rural Affordable Housing and Exception sites.

Resolved

- 1) That the work of the Task and Finish Group scrutiny review into rural affordable housing and exceptions sites be noted
- 2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations regarding rural affordable housing and exception sites as detailed below be agreed
 - a) That Cherwell District Council should encourage a more pro-active approach to rural affordable housing and exception sites and that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing be invited to fully investigate all opportunities for the provision of rural affordable housing through the Local Development Framework. This should include a review of the relevant policies for the location of general rural affordable housing (including the potential to generate opportunities for some integral affordable provision), and of the criteria against which exception sites are assessed.
 - b) That Cherwell District Council should encourage an open and transparent approach to communications associated with the delivery of rural affordable housing and exception sites.
 - c) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses and recommends the proposed Rural Affordable Housing Improvement Plan to the Executive.
 - d) That the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing should be asked to

present the conclusions of this scrutiny review and the Executive/Council response at the Parish Liaison meeting in June 2009.

- e) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should monitor progress against each of the above recommendations and review the situation, initially in September 2009.
- 3) That in addition to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following be agreed:
- a) That Officers be requested to produce a further report on the potential advantages and disadvantages of employing directly an Enabling Officer
 - b) That Officers be requested to produce a further report requesting relevant outside bodies to release land for rural exception sites
 - c) That Officers be requested to produce a further report explaining how the work of the Rural Housing Trust has been taken up by other organisations

Reasons – To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Review

Options

Option One	To accept some or all of the overview and scrutiny recommendations.
Option Two	To reject some or all of the overview and scrutiny recommendations.

241

Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan

The Head of Urban and Rural Services submitted a report updating the Executive on key changes in biodiversity legislation, policy and issues since the publication of the Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2010.

Resolved

- 1) That the key changes in biodiversity legislation, policy and issues since the publication of the current Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan be noted.
- 2) That Officers be requested to produce a further report detailing the costs and benefits of a Biodiversity Action Plan before the Council proceed to develop one.

Reasons – To explain key changes in biodiversity legislation, policy and issues since the publication of the Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2010 (BAP). To consider the production of a revised and updated Cherwell BAP.

Options

Option One	Approve the drafting of a revised and updated Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan based on principles different or additional to those identified above.
Option Two	To not have a Biodiversity Action Plan once the current one has expired at the end of March 2010

242

Kidlington Conservation Areas: Responses to Draft Appraisal and Designation of Conservation Areas at Crown Road and Langford Lane Wharf - Approval of Final Appraisal

The Head of Planning and Affordable Housing submitted a report seeking approval for the Kidlington conservation Areas. The Leader thanked the Conservation Officers for their efforts in producing such informative and interesting reports.

Resolved

- 1) That the Kidlington Conservation Area be approved under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- 2) That the extended boundaries of Church Street, High Street and the Rookery Conservations be approved under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- 3) That Crown Road and Langford Lance Wharf Conservation Areas be approved with immediate effect under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Reasons - To fulfil the Council's duty under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to review Conservation Areas from time to time.

Options

Option One	To approve and to publish the Conservation Area Appraisal including the proposed extension to the boundaries and designation of the new Conservation Areas at Crown Road and Langford Lane Wharf
Option Two	To not extend the Conservation Areas nor to designate the two new Conservation Areas
Option Three	To make further changes to the Kidlington Conservation Areas Appraisal as members see fit

243

Cottisford Conservation Area Appraisal: Consideration of Responses to Consultation Draft and Approval of Final Appraisal

The Head of Planning and Affordable Housing submitted a report seeking approval a Cottisford Conservation Area. The Leader thanked the Conservation Officers for their efforts in producing such informative and interesting reports.

Resolved

- 1) That the Cottisford Conservation Area be approved and the boundaries be extended under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 with immediate effect

Reasons - To fulfil the Council's duty under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to review Conservation Areas from time to time.

Options

Option One	To approve and to publish the Conservation Area Appraisal including the proposed extension to the boundary
Option Two	To not extend the Conservation Area
Option Three	To make further changes to the Cottisford Conservation Area Appraisal as members see fit

244

Parsons Street Pedestrianisation

The Head of Economic Development and Estates submitted a report which sought to confirm the revised draft Parsons Street/Market Place, Banbury traffic regulation order and to progress amendments to the traffic regulation orders for High Street, Broad Steer and Butcher Row Banbury and Sheep Street Bicester.

Resolved

- 1) That the Bridge Street, Market Place, Cornhill and Parsons Street Traffic regulation Order, as modified on 2 March 2009, be made.
- 2) That the Council entering into a revised agency agreement with Oxfordshire County Council, authorising the Council to make the Traffic Regulation Order as modified be agreed.
- 3) That amendments to the existing High Street, Broad Street and Butchers Row Banbury Traffic Regulation Order and the Sheep Street Bicester Traffic Regulation Order be promoted, in order to ensure that the arrangements for the issue of exemption certificates be made consistent.
- 4) That the Council enter into an Agreement with Oxfordshire County Council under s278 of the Highways Act 1980, authorising the Council to undertake the works for Parsons Street/Market Place, Bridge Street and Church Walk/Church Lane
- 5) That amendments to the existing High Street, Broad Street and Butchers Row Banbury traffic regulation orders, and the Sheep Street Bicester traffic regulation order be promoted, in order to ensure that the arrangements for the issue of exemption certificates are consistent

Reasons - To confirm the Traffic Regulation Order following the consultation process

Options

Option One	Make the Traffic Regulation Order with modifications as presented to the Executive on 2 March 2009. Agree the agency agreement with the County and revisions to the existing traffic regulation orders in Banbury and Bicester and to enter into the s278 agreement with Oxfordshire County Council.
Option Two	In light of the one objection, reject the earlier Inspector's recommendations, and ask the Secretary of State to make the Parsons Street order as originally drafted.

245

Corporate Procurement Progress Report

The Strategic Director Customer Service and Resources submitted a report updating the Executive on progress made in respect of the Corporate Procurement Programme of Activities approved by the Executive on 3 March 2009.

Resolved

- 1) That the progress made in respect of the Corporate Procurement Programme of Activities be noted.
- 2) That the progress in respect of the establishment of the centralised procurement function be noted.

Reasons - To make an overall judgement about progress made in achieving corporate procurement objectives and to identify aspects where action is required to improve performance.

Options

Option One	To review current progress made to date and consider any actions arising.
Option Two	To approve or reject the draft Corporate Procurement Programme of Activities for the first 6 months of 2009/10.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: