

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 15 December 2014 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Ken Atack, Lead Member for Financial Management
Councillor Norman Bolster, Lead Member for Estates and the Economy
Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Banbury Brighter Futures
Councillor Michael Gibbard, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Clean and Green
Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member for Banbury Developments, Performance and Communications
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Housing
Councillor Nicholas Turner, Lead Member for Joint Working and IT

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Claire Taylor, Business Transformation Manager
Ross Chambers, Solicitor
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

94 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

95 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

1. Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public were permitted to film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.

Developing the approach to Joint Working and the Delivery of Local Authority Service Draft Business Case

The Chief Executive submitted a report which presented the draft business case for a shared service and/or confederated approach to joint working and the delivery of local authority services following consideration by the three way Joint Arrangements Steering Group (JASG) on 27 November 2014.

In introducing the report, the Leader advised Members that the business case had been endorsed by the South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) Cabinet and considered by the Stratford-On-Avon District Council (SDC) Cabinet who had resolved to recommend amended recommendations, which had been tabled. The Leader confirmed that there would be no amendment to the recommendations to Executive following the decision of the SDC Cabinet.

In considering the report, Members noted that at this stage they were recommending an “in principle” agreement towards scenarios 2 and 4 and that consultation on the business case commence. Executive agreed that it was important to continue being innovative and look at all options. Members noted that the Government had awarded funding to support the work which indicated that it was supportive.

Resolved

- (1) That following a review by the Transformation Joint Working Group and agreement by the Joint Arrangements Steering Group, the business case for options to deliver three-way joint working (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be endorsed for consideration by Council with the following recommendations.
- (2) That, subject to South Northamptonshire and Stratford on Avon District Councils resolving in similar terms, Full Council be recommended to:
 - I. Agree an ‘in principle’ move towards scenarios 2 and/or 4 as set out in the appended business case and its supporting papers.
 - II. Agree that the appended business case is used as the basis for public, partner and stakeholder consultation and, subject to the outcome of that consultation not leading Members to a change of view, request that a full and final business case, taking account of the responses received to this consultation, is brought to the February 2015 Council meeting.
 - III. Agree in principle and subject to consideration of consultation responses to include all services within the potential scope of joint working (as set out in the appended business case scenarios 2 and 4, section 6), subject to prior approval of individual business cases on a service by service basis
 - IV. Agree in principle and subject to consideration of any consultation responses that any moves towards a confederated approach are undertaken on an incremental basis and that the

first phase of services considered for inclusion are back office or support services.

- V. Request that additional tax and pensions advice is sought to ensure that any implementation costs associated with the confederation approach are fully quantified in any final business case.
- VI. Request that additional legal advice is sought to prepare governance arrangements for scenarios 2 and/or 4. This is to include arrangements such as a shareholders' agreement and exit strategy and also the necessary transitional requirements (e.g. steering groups, shadow boards or joint committees) to oversee the establishment of joint working and/or confederation approaches. These proposals should be included as an appendix to any final business case.
- VII. Request that a full organisational development strategy is developed for adoption to ensure that Members and employees have the requisite skills to operate within a shared service or confederation approach should the final business case be approved.

97 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

As there were no questions arising on the exempt minutes, it was not necessary to resolve to exclude the press and public.

98 **Developing the approach to Joint Working and the Delivery of Local Authority Service Draft Business Case - Exempt Appendices**

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt appendices to agenda item 4, Developing the approach to Joint Working and the Delivery of Local Authority Service Draft Business Case, be noted.

The meeting ended at 4.25 pm

Chairman:

Date: