

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 6 March 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor Ken Atack, Lead Member for Financial Management
Councillor Colin Clarke, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Housing
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Public Protection
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes, Lead Member for Change Management, Joint Working and ICT
Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member for Banbury Futures
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Clean and Green
Councillor Lynn Pratt, Lead Member for Estates and the Economy

Apologies for absence: Councillor G A Reynolds, Deputy Leader of the Council

Officers: Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery
Scott Barnes, Director of Strategy and Commissioning
Karen Curtin, Commercial Director
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
Natasha Clark, Interim Democratic and Elections Manager
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer

135 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

137 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

138 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 February 2017 and 20 February 2017 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

139 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

140 **Air Quality Action Plan**

The Public Protection Manager submitted a report to approve the Air Quality Action Plan for Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

The Chairman advised Executive that he had received a request from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the item to be deferred to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and make any comments to Executive prior to Executive considering the report.

Resolved

- (1) That the Air Quality Action Plan be deferred to enable the report to go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review prior to consideration by Executive.

Reasons

Deferred to allow consideration of the report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Alternative options

N/A

141 **Annual Monitoring Report 2016**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report which sought approval of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2016, and presented the District's current housing land supply position.

In considering the report, Executive commented that the report was very positive and fitted with the Governments housing requirements and requested that all Members of the Planning Committee receive a copy of the report.

Resolved

- (1) That the Annual Monitoring Report (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved and the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments before publication.

- (2) That that the District's housing delivery position be noted.

Reasons

The Annual Monitoring Report provides important information to measure the effectiveness of planning policies and to assist policy making and development management decision making. It is the statutory mechanism for monitoring housing delivery. Its most significant conclusion is that the District continues to demonstrate a five year housing land supply.

Alternative Options

To seek amendment of the 2016 AMR in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning Officers consider the AMR to be a robust report supported by data and research. Delay could lead to uncertainty within the development industry and risks for decision making.

Not to approve the AMR

Production of a monitoring report is a statutory requirement and is used to monitor implementation of the Local Plan. The AMR includes both prescribed and non-prescribed monitoring information and assists continued plan-making.

142

Tenancy Strategy 2017

The Head of Regeneration and Housing submitted a report which provided Executive with an overview of the final draft of the updated Tenancy Strategy and recommended it for adoption.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the refreshed and updated Tenancy Strategy (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved for adoption.

Reasons

The Tenancy Strategy forms an important part of the Council's vision for the provision of Affordable Housing in the District and it complements the objectives within the Housing Strategy. It provides an overview to Registered Providers the expectations on its partners in delivering affordable housing as well as the Council's willingness to work positively with new ways of delivery, while safeguarding the interests of some of the District's more vulnerable residents.

To a large extent the fundamental principles which the Council approved in its Tenancy Strategy in 2012 are still relevant and there is no proposal within this review and redraft to change any of those positions. Therefore this is more a refresh of the 2012 Strategy rather than a change in position.

Given the fast changing environment in housing and related policy, the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant and in line with the Council's requirements.

Alternative Options

Option 1: Not to agree to adopt the final draft of the Tenancy Strategy

Option 2: Members to make additional amendments to the document with a view of the Tenancy Strategy being presented for adoption at a later date

143

Business Rates Incentives Scheme

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report which sought approval of the Business Rates Incentives Scheme which detailed proposals for awarding business rates incentives to bring back into use empty properties and sustain the vitality and diversity of Banbury and Bicester town centres.

In presenting the report, the Lead Member for Financial Management explained that the Budget Planning Committee had considered the report at their meeting of 28 February 2017 and had made recommended some amendments to the scheme. The Lead Member for Financial Management confirmed that he and officers agreed with the recommended amendments and therefore final approval of the Policy would be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management and the Business Support Unit Manager.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That final approval of the Business Rates Incentives Scheme be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management and the Business Support Unit Manager.

Reasons

Cherwell District Council is committed to ensuring the town centres for both Banbury and Bicester are supported to retain their economic vitality and diversity. Business rates incentives have a role to play as part of the measures taken by Cherwell District Council to support the economy of each town. Further, business rates incentives more generally can be used to promote economic growth by helping local companies to expand thus securing high quality and high value jobs.

The Budget Planning Committee considered the report at their 28 February 2017 meeting and recommended a number of amendments which will be incorporated in the final version of the Scheme. Consideration will also be given to including Kidlington within the scheme.

Alternative Options

Option 1: Members could choose not to approve the proposed scheme, but Business Rates Incentives have a role to play as part of the measures taken by Cherwell District Council to support the economy of each town.

144

Quarter 3 2016/17 Performance Update

The Director of Strategy and Commissioning submitted a report which provided an update on the Cherwell Business Plan progress to the end of Quarter Three 2016/17.

Resolved

- (1) That the exceptions highlighted and proposed actions be noted.
- (2) That it be noted that having considered the Quarter 3 Performance Report, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have referred no performance related matters to Executive.

Reasons

This is the third report based on the new Business Plan presented in the new reporting style. Slight amendments in style and appendices have been made to try and improve how the report works. This is an evolutionary process and we will continue to develop the reports, including any changes from feedback received from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As agreed previously, this report focuses on the exceptions. The performance and insight team have also picked out some 'good news' stories to provide a balance and provide case studies supporting the generally excellent levels of delivery.

Alternative Options

None identified.

145

Quarter 3 2016-17 - Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which summarised the Council's Revenue and Capital position and Reserves position for the first nine months of the financial year 2016-17 and projections for the full year.

Resolved

- (1) That the projected revenue and capital position at the end of December 2016 be noted.
- (2) That the current position on Reserves at the end of December 2016 be noted.

Reasons

In line with good practice budget monitoring is undertaken on a monthly basis within the Council. The revenue and capital position is formulated in conjunction with the joint management team and reported formally to the Budget Planning Committee on a quarterly basis. The report is then considered by the Executive.

Alternative Options

Option 1: This report illustrates the Council's performance against the 2016-17 Financial Targets for Revenue and Capital. As this is a monitoring report, no further options have been considered. However, members may wish to request that officers provide additional information.

146 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

147 **Woodpiece Road Options Appraisal**

The Head of Regeneration and Housing submitted an exempt report to provide an overview of the options appraisal at Woodpiece Road, Arccott and to summarise a second stage appraisal of possible options.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the exempt report be noted.
- (2) That it be agreed that another report be brought to Executive following further work on this project.

Reasons

There has now been a two stage options appraisal assessment carried out. This report is not requesting that members make a decision on any item at this stage, but simply to note this report and the Stage 2 Options Appraisal.

Subject to further work which will increase the detail and understanding of what (if any) option in the Appraisal is suitable a further report should be brought to Executive in order to highlight this work as well as present a number of options and recommendations for members to consider.

Alternative options

Option 1: Not to accept the report or appended Options Appraisal

Option 2: Not to agree to a further report to be presented

148 **Franklins House Ground Floor Business Incubator**

The Commercial Director submitted an exempt report relating to the Franklins House Ground Floor Business Incubator.

Resolved

- (1) As set out in the exempt minutes.
- (2) As set out in the exempt minutes.

Reasons

As set out in the exempt minutes.

Alternative options

As set out in the exempt minutes.

149 **Pioneer Square Defects Update**

The Commercial Director submitted an exempt report relating to an update on Pioneer Square defects.

Resolved

- (1) That the report and the actions being taken by Cherwell District Council in respect of the defects and in particular the defective fins be noted.
- (2) As set out in the exempt minutes.
- (3) As set out in the exempt minutes.

Reasons

As set out in the exempt minutes

Alternative options

The options available for consideration are identified in the exempt report (exempt annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book). Officers are recommending at this stage CDC pursues Option 4 but in the event that this is not satisfactory then Options 1-3 will be reconsidered.

Executive - 6 March 2017

The meeting ended at 7.10pm

Chairman:

Date: