

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 19 July 2021 at 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor Ian Corkin (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Customers and Transformation
Councillor Phil Chapman, Lead Member for Leisure and Sport
Councillor Colin Clarke, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Finance and Governance
Councillor Andrew McHugh, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Richard Mould, Lead Member for Performance
Councillor Lynn Pratt, Lead Member for Economy, Regeneration and Property
Councillor Lucinda Wing, Lead Member for Housing

Also Present:

Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Tom Wallis, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Dan Sames, Lead Member for Clean and Green

Officers:

Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Steve Jordan, Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets & Investment
Bill Cotton, Corporate Director Environment and Place
Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Anita Bradley, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
David Peckford, Assistant Director: Planning and Development
Sharon Whiting, Principal Planning Policy Officer
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

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

There were no petitions.

The Chairman advised that there was one request from a member of the public to address the meeting on agenda item 7, The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document. The address would be made prior to Executive considering the item.

The Chairman advised that Councillor Wallis, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, would address Executive on agenda item 7, The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document, to report the feedback of the Committee which had considered the report at their 14 July 2021 meeting.

34 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

36 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

37 **The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document**

The Assistant Director – Planning and Development submitted a report for Executive to consider the approval of the Oxfordshire Plan consultation document which sets out a range of planning policy options and a series of spatial strategy options for Oxfordshire.

When complete the Oxfordshire Plan will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to 2050 and will be a statutory Local Plan. The Plan aims to be transformational and occupies new policy areas, such as on climate change, environmental betterment, health impacts and zero carbon transport. It has now reached the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage.

Sir David Gilmour, on behalf of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Oxford, addressed Executive.

Councillor Wallis, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, addressed Executive to present the feedback of the Committee which had considered the report at its 14 July 2021 meeting. Detailed feedback (annex

to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) had been sent to the Leader and Lead Member for Planning, who had also been in attendance at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Councillor Wallis summarised the key feedback from the Committee advising Executive that the Committee had raised concerns about the volume of information relating to the consultation and time Members had to review (whilst acknowledging it was available within the legal agenda publication timescales) and felt it was not possible to sufficiently scrutinise the documentation in the available time. The Committee had requested that there be a clear communications strategy to include progress updates to the Committee and briefings for all Members.

The Chairman thanked the Councillor Wallis and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their feedback.

Councillor Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group and a Cherwell District Council representative on the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel, advised Executive that the Panel had raised concerns about the consultation process. Whilst Town/Parish Councils were listed as a consultee, it was recommended that they could be asked to help widen engagement amongst people within their areas.

In response to Councillor Woodcock's comments, the Lead Member for Planning explained that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Sub-Group had noted the comments and, where necessary, additional information, including small supplement would be provided to Town/Parish Councils about how they can get involved in the consultation.

Resolved

- (1) That the Regulation 18 (Part 2) consultation document (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved for public consultation.
- (2) That an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book), which will become the formal basis for the forthcoming Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation be adopted.
- (3) That the Assistant Director be authorised to make any necessary editorial corrections and minor amendments to the documents, and to agree the final publication style, in liaison with the Lead Member for Planning and subject to agreement with their counterparts in the other four partner Local Planning Authorities.

Reasons

The Oxfordshire Plan is a joint Local Plan being prepared by the five Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities in partnership with the County Council. It will provide a high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire up to

2050. The Plan aims to be transformational and occupies new policy areas, such as on climate change, environmental betterment, health impacts and zero carbon transport. It has now reached the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage and it is recommended that a public consultation takes place to inform the next stage of plan-making.

Alternative Options

Option 1: Not to approve the documents at this time and seek changes. This would put in jeopardy the timetable agreed by the Growth Board with MHCLG.

Option 2: To seek specific changes prior to consultation commencing with delegation to the Assistant Director. This is dependent on Members' consideration

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm

Chairman:

Date: