

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**15 March 2022**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Working Groups**

#### **Report of Director of Law and Governance**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To present the final reports of the scrutiny working groups on Members' Education and Training, and Parish Engagement.

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the report of the Education and Training Working Group (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 To note the report of the Parish Engagement Working Group (Appendix 2)
- 1.3 To recommend that the Lead Member for Finance and Governance note and endorse the recommendations of the Members' Education and Training working group
- 1.4 To agree that the work of the Parish Engagement Working Group should be continued in the 2022/2023 municipal year.

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 Two Scrutiny Working Groups were established at the end of 2021, one to look at Members' Education and Training and the other a Parish Engagement Working Group to look at the relationship between District and Parish councils.

#### **3.0 Report Details**

##### **Members' Education and Training Working Group**

- 3.1 The Members' Education and Training Working Group scoping document was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2021.

- 3.2 The group have had several virtual meetings to discuss the level of training given to Members as part of the induction programme immediately after election, and the ongoing programme of training for all Members.
- 3.3 The working group have made nine recommendations, which if approved will be implemented with effect from May 2022, starting with the induction programme following the District elections on 5 May 2022.

### **Parish Engagement Working Group**

- 3.4 The Parish Engagement Working Group scoping document was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2021 and the first meeting of the group was in January 2022.
- 3.5 The group have identified a number of areas for further review regarding the working relationship between Cherwell District Council and the parishes, and would like to continue their work in 2022/2023.
- 3.6 New members will be invited to join the group in the new municipal year alongside members of the current group who wish to continue. The Working Group would agree its scope for the review in 2022/23 and submit to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for agreement.
- 3.7 The Chairman of the group would like to thank those members who have been involved and hope for their continued support during 2022/2023.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the content of the reports are noted and that the Parish Engagement Working Group continue in 2022/2023.

## **5.0 Consultation**

None

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to note the reports, or agree the continuation of the Parish Engagement Working Group in 2022/2023. This is rejected, as the Parish Engagement Working Group have identified areas for further investigation and would like to conclude their review.

## 7.0 Implications

### Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to arising directly from this report. Officer support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Members' Education and Training Working Group, and continued support of the Parish Engagement Working Group, can be provided as part of business as usual support.

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance. 01295 221845,  
[michael.furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:michael.furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Chris Mace, Solicitor. 07702 917916, [christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### Risk Implications

- 7.3 There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Team Leader – Performance. 01295 221556,  
[celia.prado-teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:celia.prado-teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### Equalities and Inclusion Implications

- 7.4 There are no equalities and inclusion implications arising directly from this report

Comments checked by:

Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy. 07881 311707,  
[emily.schofield@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:emily.schofield@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### Sustainability Implications

- 7.5 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report. Given the council's commitments to become net zero in its estate and operations by 2030 and to enable the district's transition to net zero, it is recommended that the topic is included in the councillors' induction training package.

Comments checked by:

Sandra Fisher-Martins, Climate Action Mobilisation Manager.  
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## 8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

N/A as not an Executive report

**Financial Threshold Met:** N/A

**Community Impact Threshold Met:** N/A

**Wards Affected**

All

**Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework**

All

**Lead Councillor**

N/A

**Document Information**

**Appendix number and title**

- Appendix 1 – Members' Education and Training Scrutiny Working Group Report and annexe
- Appendix 2 – Parish Engagement Working Group Report

**Background papers**

None

**Report Author and contact details**

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