



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Lead Member Decision

Published on 26 November 2019

Decision: Appointing a Director, from Cherwell District Council (CDC) to the new Bicester Vision Community Interest Company (CIC) and providing grant funding to the CIC

Decision taker: Leader of the Council

Decision Date: 26 November 2019

Is decision subject to Call-in? Yes

Deadline for Call-in: Noon on 29 November 2019

Is decision Exempt? No

Is decision urgent? No

Summary

To confirm the decision made by the Leader of the Council to appoint the Lead Member for Economy Regeneration and Property to serve as a Director representing Cherwell District Council (CDC) on the board of the newly incorporated Community Interest Company (CIC) Bicester Vision. In addition, the report also determines the ongoing arrangements concerning the provision of grant funding to the Bicester Vision.

Decision

Resolved

- (1) That the Lead Member for Economy Regeneration and Property as a director to the newly established CIC, Bicester Vision, representing the interests of Cherwell District Council (CDC).
- (2) That it be noted that a senior officer (Assistant Director – Growth and Economy or equivalent or superior) will attend the Bicester Vision board meetings as an observer, and to provide support to the designated CDC board representative.
- (3) That it be agreed to formalise the ongoing arrangements for the provision of grant funding to Bicester Vision of £15,000.00 (fifteen thousand pounds) per annum over the next 3 years, the first payment to be made on [DATE] for the period [DATE] to [DATE].
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director – Growth and Economy to negotiate and complete a grant agreement to govern the provision of such grant funding, in the form, or substantially the form, attached at Appendix A to this report, with Bicester Vision and to agree any minor variations to the terms of such grant agreement from time to time.

Reasons for Decision

Bicester Vision should be supported in its ambition of becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the Lead Member for Economy Regeneration and Property as a director to represent the interests of CDC. The incorporation of the CIC provides an opportune moment to formalise the funding regime based upon the terms of a grant agreement as there is now a legal body with which CDC can contract for the first time in Bicester Vision's existence.

Options Considered

Option 1: Withdraw support for Bicester Vision – this option was rejected because CDC wishes to continue supporting Bicester Vision.

Option 2: Explore other options for incorporation – Bicester Vision explored various options and vehicles and it was felt that a CIC would be the best fit with their objectives.

Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service

None

Information about this decision statement

Call-in

Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;

Call-in can be requested by any six non-executive members of the Council.

However, if at any point during a municipal year the total number of opposition councillors is six or less the total number of non-executive members required to call-in a decision shall be the total number of opposition councillors less two.

Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).

The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive