

Committee: Executive
Date: Monday 6 December 2010
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)	Councillor George Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ken Atack	Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Colin Clarke	Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor James Macnamara	Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor D M Pickford	Councillor Nicholas Turner

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest that they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

5. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2010.

Strategy and Policy

6. **Eco Bicester One Shared Vision** (Pages 15 - 64)

6.35pm

Report of Strategic Director Planning, Housing and Economy

Summary

- To report to the Executive the Revised Eco Bicester One Shared Vision as approved by the Strategic Delivery Board meeting on 8 November 2010.
- To report back on the consultation feedback and seek approval for the revised document to be approved for development control purposes for planning proposals in Eco Bicester.
- To provide summary of the consultation on the Eco Bicester One Shared Vision and the main issues arising from the consultation.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To consider the contents of the report.
- (2) To consider the proposed changes following the consultation on the Draft document.
- (3) To approve the Revised One Shared Vision document contained in Appendix 1 as informal planning guidance for development control purposes.

7. **Local Transport Plan** (Pages 65 - 84)

6.45pm

Report of Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development

Summary

To present information to the Executive with a view to the council making a formal response to the public consultation on the Draft Local Transport Plan.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) That the County Council be commended on the general format of the LTP which addresses concerns raised by this Council previously that the LTP should be organised in a way which focuses on proposals for particular settlements and creates a stronger spatial link with Local Development Frameworks,
- (2) That in general, subject to the detailed recommendations made in the report, the policies and area strategies in the LTP be supported.

- (3) That the various detailed recommendations set out in paragraphs 1.16, 1.27, 1.43, 1.52 and 1.58 are submitted as the Council's formal response to the Local Transport Plan, and in particular the Council's comments on:-
- approach taken by the LTP towards the HS2 proposals in policy PT6
 - the references to major new road links (the South East and South West Relief Roads) in Banbury
 - the ways in which the vision for eco-Bicester can best be supported through the LTP
 - the proposed Water Eaton Parkway station, and how (a) this can best be implemented in a manner that makes it accessible to local communities in Kidlington and Gosford, and (b) future congestion concerns can best be mitigated.

8. Disabled Facilities Grant Policy (Pages 85 - 124)

6.55pm

Report of Head of Housing Services

Summary

To seek approval of a new policy setting out the Council's approach to the assessment of eligibility for Disabled Facilities Grants, those adaptations which it is appropriate to fund and how it will manage a waiting list if demand exceeds the available budget.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the Disabled Facilities Grant Policy.
- (2) Endorse the proposal that Registered Providers (RPs) (formerly called RSLs or Housing Associations) should be asked to sign-up to a protocol committing themselves to the principles in the Policy and to making a specified financial contribution towards the cost of adaptations for their tenants (see 2.4 in report).

Service Delivery and Innovation

9. Final business case for a shared management team between Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council (Pages 125 - 132)

7.05pm

Report of Portfolio Holder for Resources and Communications, Leader of the Council and Chief Executive

Summary

To consider the final business case for a shared management team between Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council.

**** Please note Appendix 1, the Business Case has been distributed to all members under separate cover, please bring this with you to the meeting****

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To recommend to Council at its meeting on 8th December 2010 that it approves the business case (and the eighteen specific recommendations included in it) for putting in place a shared management team between Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council by the end of September 2011.
- (2) To recommend to Council in addition that Council endorses the view of the Executive that, once a shared senior management team is in place, the Council can aspire to continued excellent performance.
- (3) To confirm that, after consultation with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is agreed that it is in the Council's interest for this decision to be taken urgently and the right to call-in is waived to enable a binding decision to be taken by Council on 8th December.

10. Cherwell/South Northamptonshire Building Control Shared Service Proposals
(Pages 133 - 164) **7.15pm**

Report of Head of Building Control and Engineering Services

Summary

To consider whether it is appropriate and beneficial to Cherwell and South Northamptonshire Councils to merge their Building Control services into a jointly managed operation.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) Subject to the endorsement of the Cabinet of South Northamptonshire Council who are concurrently considering this report, to agree in principle to implementing joint management arrangements for the Building Control services of Cherwell and South Northamptonshire.
- (2) To instruct the Head of Building Control and Engineering Services, and Head of People and Improvement to carry out the recruitment of the joint Building Control Manager and Team Leaders for each of the Councils as set out in this report and its appendices.

11. Update report and request for approval of funding for Dashwood Road Primary School (Pages 165 - 168) **7.30pm**

Report of Head of Housing Services

Summary

This report is to update members on progress on the Dashwood Road Primary School site following a report submitted on the 24th May 2010. Significant progress

has been made to deliver this scheme and a smaller amount of funding from the capital reserves for affordable housing is now required.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the progress made with partnership working at Dashwood Road Primary School, Banbury and approve funding for the scheme from the capital reserves for affordable housing of £200,000.

Value for Money and Performance

12. **Corporate Improvement Plan Fear of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour** (Pages 169 - 184) **7.40pm**

Report of Head of Safer Communities, Urban and Rural Services

Summary

To advise the Executive of the outcomes from the Corporate Improvement Plan Project: Fear of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour and to consider the proposed future priorities and actions for the service arising from the Project.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the findings and conclusions from the Corporate Improvement Plan Project: Fear of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour.
- (2) To agree the future priorities and draft action plan which should form the basis of the 2011/12 Service Plan.

13. **Value for Money Review Corporate and Democratic Core** (Pages 185 - 194) **7.50pm**

Report of Chief Executive

Summary

To consider the findings of the Value for Money (VFM) Review report and the recommendations arising from the report

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To endorse the overall conclusions of the review
- (2) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought in Democratic Services and Elections and approve the following recommendations to achieve savings of £124,803;
 - a) Merge the Democratic Services and Elections teams to provide greater resilience and achieve further efficiencies

- b) Achieve the schedule of savings set out in Annex 1
- (3) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought in Corporate Strategy, Performance and Partnerships and approve the following recommendations to achieve savings of £68,270;
 - a) Delete the post of performance officer and restructure the team to accommodate the loss of this post, reallocating roles and responsibilities to reflect revised local priorities and changes in the national performance regime
 - b) Reduce the budget for research and consultation, focusing the remaining resources on high priority areas and supporting in house consultation
 - c) Change the operating arrangements for performance management software to scale back its costs and provide better value for money
- (4) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought in Treasury Management and approve the following recommendations to achieve minimum savings of £30,000;
 - a) Review the Council's declining investment funds and allocate over two funds, rather than three.
 - b. Ensure that this allocation is in place by 31 March 2011.

14. Value for Money review of Recreation and Sport (Pages 195 - 216) 8.00pm

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

Summary

To consider the findings of the Value for Money (VFM) Review report and the recommendations arising from the report.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To endorse the overall conclusion of the review that the service is below average cost for the operation of its leisure centres, according to national benchmarking. It has good performance in terms of its sports development assessment, and is high quality in terms of good and improving levels of customer satisfaction.
- (2) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought and approve the following recommendations;
 - a) Further grants to village halls be withdrawn from 2011/12, saving £39,000 per annum
 - b) Reductions be made in the service establishment through reduced hours and the deletion of a vacant project officer post, saving £56,817 per annum

- c) Additional savings of £33,077 be progressed through reductions to the Leisure Development and Sports Development budgets, as set out in paragraph 2.11
- (3) To note that the target savings of £80,000 from the joint use agreements at Coopers School and North Oxfordshire Academy are currently part of the Council's scrutiny activities and subject to negotiation with the management of the two education sites;
- (4) To agree to progress negotiations with the sports centres contract operator to achieve savings through changes to the contract specification and through income benchmarking.
- (5) To request a capital bid as part of 2011/12 budget setting for electricity generation at leisure centres outlining its costs and likely savings.

15. **Value for Money Review of Urban and Rural Services** (Pages 217 - 244)

8.10pm

Report of Strategic Director Environment and Community

Summary

To consider the findings of the Value for Money (VFM) Review report and the recommendations arising from the report

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To endorse the overall conclusion of the review that the service is low cost in terms of benchmark expenditure comparisons and is good quality in terms of overall positive levels of customer satisfaction.
- (2) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought and approve the following recommendations;
 - a) Implement the Medium Term Financial Strategy savings proposals set out in paragraph 2.13, saving £73,194 per annum
 - b) Secure a net saving of £60,000 per annum currently charged for the provision of specialist advice to the planning service by exploring options to achieve this, such as a reduction in the staff establishment, increasing fee income from planning advice and securing new clients to offset costs
 - c) Create a bus station safety officer post to release a vehicle parks warden post to achieve a net income of £16,000 per annum
- (3) To note the recommendations of Scrutiny with regard to increases to car park charges and recommend the inclusion of an evening tariff to generate further income of £39,640 per annum in addition to the £480,289 already recommended.
- (4) To note the scrutiny process associated with the introduction of a pay and display parking scheme in Watts Way, Kidlington and the need for further negotiations with a view to implementing the scheme within 12 months if these are successful

- (5) To consider further the proposal to extend the landscape maintenance contract for a further three years to 2015 and secure potential savings of £135,461 through negotiations with the contractor and an extended client base.
- (6) To continue the provision of a Shopmobility scheme in Bicester but in future seek to offset a proportion of its costs through service charges to tenants on completion of the town centre redevelopment
- (7) To explore the feasibility of charging residents for tree inspections to offset costs of arboricultural staff

16. Budget 2011/12 Draft 1 (Pages 245 - 276)

8.20pm

Report of Head of Finance

Summary

The Council has to adopt a budget for 2011/12 as the basis for calculating its level of Council Tax and has to base that budget on its plans for service delivery during the year, recognising any changes in service demand that may arise in future years. This is the first of three opportunities that the Executive has to shape and refine the interaction between the Corporate Plan, the service plans that underpin the corporate plan and financial matters before the final budget is presented to the Council on the 21st February 2011.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To endorse the draft Corporate Plan for 2011-12 (detailed in Appendix 2);
- (2) To endorse the proposed service priorities for 2011-12 (detailed in Appendix 3);
- (3) To consider the draft budget (detailed in Appendix 1) in the context of the Council's service objectives and strategic priorities;
- (4) To note the areas of unavoidable revenue growth as detailed in the body of this report detailed in Appendix 1 – para 1.23;
- (5) To note the areas of additional income or cost reductions that will be considered in order to get to a balanced 2011/12 budget detailed in Appendix 1 – para 1.26 / 1.27;
- (6) To note the proposal on Council Tax for 2011-12 detailed in (para 2.10)
- (7) To note the outcome of the pay negotiations on 2011/12 pay deal (para 2.20);
- (8) To ask officers to prepare a response to the New Homes Consultation and a report detailing the implications;
- (9) To ask officers to give consideration to the impact of the recent planning fees consultation and the implications on income generation

- (10) To agree the approach to the overall capital programme and 2011/12 expenditure profile (detailed in Appendix 4);
- (11) To note the recommendations of the scrutiny reviews of training, fees and charges and capital programme that were considered at the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board on 30th November 2010 and approve which should be included in the second draft of the budget: (detailed in Appendix 5 – to follow);
- (12) To advise of any other matters they would like taken into consideration in producing a balanced budget for the meeting of the Executive on 10 January 2011;
- (13) To endorse the draft revenue and capital budget and corporate plan as the basis for consultation.

17. Pre Order Consultation - Car Parking Proposals (Pages 277 - 284) 8.50pm

Report of Head of Safer Communities, Urban and Rural Services

Summary

- To advise Members on the feedback from the Pre Order consultation on car parking proposals.
- To decide on final proposals.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the feedback from the pre Order consultation.
- (2) To authorise formal Order Making on final proposals for implementation on, or as soon after, 1 March as is possible.

Urgent Business

18. Urgent Business

Any other items which the Chairman has decided is urgent.

(Meeting scheduled to close at 9.00pm)

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221587 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in Part 5 Section A of the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact James Doble, Legal and Democratic Services james.doble@cherwell-dc.gov.uk (01295) 221587

Mary Harpley
Chief Executive

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