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Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **Tuesday 10 October 2017**

Time: **6.45 pm**

Venue **Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA**

Membership

Councillor Neil Prestidge (Chairman)
Councillor David Anderson
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Jolanta Lis (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Jason Slaymaker

AGENDA

Overview and Scrutiny Members should not normally be subject to the party whip.

Where a member is subject to a party whip they must declare this at the beginning of the meeting and it should be recorded in the minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Urgent Business

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

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2017.

5. Chairman's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chairman.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour - Attendance of Inspector John Batty

Inspector John Batty from Thames Valley Police and Mike Grant, Safer Communities Manager for Cherwell District and South Northamptonshire Councils, will attend the meeting to answer questions from the Committee regarding Anti-Social Behaviour

7. Lead Member Attendance - Councillor Richard Mould

Lead Member for Performance Management, Councillor Richard Mould, will attend the meeting to give an overview of his areas of responsibility.

8. Work Programme 2017-18 (Pages 7 - 14)

Report of Assistant Director – Transformational Governance

Purpose of report

To give an update on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2017-2018

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

1.1 To review the draft work programme (Appendix 1).

1.2 To identify any items from the Executive Work Programme to form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18

1.3 To identify any other possible future topics for scrutiny and consider whether these topics should have scoping documents produced, based on the considerations of risk and what value scrutiny can add through considering the issue.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or 01327 322043 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.

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.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections
emma.faulkner@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01327 322043

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

Published on Monday 2 October 2017

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Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 29 August 2017 at 6.45 pm

Present:	Councillor Sean Gaul (Chairman for the meeting) Councillor Claire Bell Councillor Mike Bishop Councillor Mark Cherry Councillor Chris Heath Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE Councillor David Hughes Councillor Andrew McHugh Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Also Present:	Councillor G A Reynolds, Deputy Leader Councillor Barry Wood, Leader
Apologies for absence:	Councillor Neil Prestidge Councillor Jolanta Lis Councillor David Anderson
Officers:	Louise Tustian, Team Leader Strategic Intelligence and Insight Team Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

16 **Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman having submitted apologies for the meeting, the Democratic and Elections Officer opened the meeting and called for nominations for Chairman for the meeting.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Sean Gaul be appointed Chairman for the meeting

17 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

18 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

19 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

21 **Lead Member Attendance - Councillor George Reynolds**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor George Reynolds, Deputy Leader, to the meeting, to give an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the portfolio.

Councillor Reynolds explained that as Deputy Leader he deputised for the Leader, Councillor Wood, as and when required, keeping Councillor Wood informed of happenings across the Council. His portfolio covered parking, customer services and recreational facilities.

With regard to parking, Councillor Reynolds explained that it was only car parks owned by the Council that were maintained and had prices set by CDC. On-street parking was dealt with by the Police, not CDC.

Councillor Reynolds added that following the outsourcing of parking earlier in 2017, new equipment would soon be installed in the car parks, as agreed as part of the outsourcing plan.

In relation to customer services, Councillor Reynolds explained that the team was shared with South Northamptonshire Council so supported both authorities. The department was facing a rapidly increasing workload as they were taking on more responsibilities from other departments. In addition, events such as elections resulted in an increased rate of calls being received by the team. The overall call abandonment rate was at a similar level to previous years.

With regard to recreational facilities, Councillor Reynolds explained that this aspect of his portfolio covered Council owned facilities at Bicester and Kidlington, and Woodgreen and Spiceball leisure centres in Banbury. Management of the facilities was handled by Legacy Leisure on behalf of Parkwood, as part of an outsourcing agreement.

Councillor Reynolds advised the Committee that a sports study of the whole district would be undertaken in the coming months, to review facilities currently available and to find out what new facilities were required. This would then help to identify areas of possible expansion of facilities in the future.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Reynolds agreed that there was an increased need for charging points for electric vehicles,

particularly in light of recent government announcements relating to petrol vehicles.

The Committee thanked Councillor Reynolds for the overview.

Resolved

(1) That the overview be noted

22 **Lead Member Attendance - Councillor Colin Clarke**

The Committee welcomed Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council, to the meeting, to give an overview of the Planning portfolio, on behalf of Councillor Colin Clarke.

Councillor Wood explained that the portfolio covered planning policy and development control.

The planning policy aspect of the role included the Local Plan. Part 1 of the plan had taken 10 years to be adopted, due to various issues and changes to regulations. Consultation on the Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs) was currently underway. Part 2 of the plan which would contain non-strategic sit allocations and development management policies would be started shortly, and it was anticipated that there would be a lot of public interest in the process.

With regards to development control, Councillor Wood explained that the work of the planning department followed on from the planning policy framework, with the Planning Committee responsible for making some decisions.

Councillor Wood added that the planning team were currently going through a reorganisation as Members had agreed to establish a shared development management service with South Northamptonshire Council.

The Committee thanked Councillor Wood for the overview.

Resolved

(1) That the overview be noted

23 **Quarter One Performance Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Director – Strategy and Commissioning which detailed the Council's performance during quarter 1 of the 2017-18 year.

With regard to future performance reports to the Committee, it was proposed by Councillor David Hughes and seconded by Councillor Sean Gaul that printed copies of the reports be provided in colour.

Resolved

(1) That the exceptions highlighted and the proposed actions be noted

(2) That no performance related matters be referred to Executive

(3) That future performance reports be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in colour

24 **Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Phase 1 Consultation and Decisions Regarding the Horton General Hospital**

The Director of Operational Delivery presented a report which updated the Committee on the current position with regards to the Horton General Hospital.

The Director of Operation Delivery explained that after the decision had been made to downgrade maternity services and critical care services at the hospital, Cherwell District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council and Banbury Town Council had decided to request a Judicial Review of the decision.

The original request had been refused, and the four councils had decided to resubmit the request. A decision was expected imminently.

The Committee supported the actions taken by the four Councils so far, and it was proposed by Councillor Andrew McHugh and seconded by Councillor Mark Cherry that Executive be recommended to proceed with action with all vigour.

Resolved

(1) That the update be noted

(2) That Executive be recommended to proceed with action with all vigour

25 **Work Programme 2017-18**

The Committee considered the work programme for the 2017-18 Municipal Year.

With regard to antisocial behaviour, the Committee asked if relevant officers could ask the Police if they felt Cherwell District Council were doing all they could to deal with and/or prevent anti-social behaviour.

In connection with the Youth Engagement review, the Committee agreed to put the review on hold until the next Municipal Year, as progress had been difficult so far.

The Committee agreed to continue with the Mobile Signal review, and requested that officers arrange a meeting of the working group in due course.

Resolved

(1) That the work programme be approved

(2) That the Youth Engagement Review be put on hold until the next Municipal Year

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:

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Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 October 2017

Work Programme 2017-18

Report of Assistant Director - Transformational Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To give an update on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2017-2018

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

1.1 To review the draft work programme (Appendix 1).

1.2 To identify any items from the Executive Work Programme to form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18

1.3 To identify any other possible future topics for scrutiny and consider whether these topics should have scoping documents produced, based on the considerations of risk and what value scrutiny can add through considering the issue.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Committee are required to review the Work Plan at each meeting and make any amendments required as a result of developments since the last meeting.

3.0 Report Details

Update on current Scrutiny reviews

A361 Traffic review

3.1 At the meeting of the Committee in May 2016, it was agreed that a working group be established to look at a potential review regarding the A361 through the district.

3.2 As part of the research carried out so far, the group found out about funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the Safer Roads Fund that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had the opportunity to bid for.

3.3 OCC have published details of the bid made on their website. It was anticipated that central Government would make decisions on funding awards in July 2017, with work being completed by July 2018 in the event the OCC bid was successful.

3.4 Officers at OCC were contacted regarding the outcome of the bid. They advised that the Department for Transport had delayed the funding announcements until early September.

3.5 At the time of writing announcements regarding successful bids had yet to be made. A verbal update will be given at the meeting if this situation changes.

3.6 The working group agreed that they would like to hold a joint meeting with the parishes along the route of the A361, to discuss issues and concerns in more detail.

3.7 Arrangements for such a meeting will be made by officers in due course.

3.8 The working group were also made aware of a consultation from OCC regarding a proposed 7.5 tonne weight limit on the A361 at Burford High Street.

3.9 If the weight limit is introduced, it is expected to be a positive benefit to some Cherwell parishes further along the A361, as vehicles affected by the weight limit would need to find alternative routes.

3.10 The results of the consultation are due to be considered by the Cabinet of OCC in October. The working group will monitor what happens next.

Mobile phone signal review

3.11 Following concerns regarding the quality of mobile phone signal across the district, the Committee agreed to set up a working group comprising of Councillors Anderson, Brown, Lis, Prestidge and Williams.

3.12 Councillor Andrew McHugh has been appointed to the working group, replacing Councillor Williams who left the Committee at the end of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

3.13 At the meeting of the Committee in February 2017, officers advised the Committee of work being undertaken by the British Infrastructure Group (BIG) into the same subject. At that time, it was agreed that the working group would continue research gathering with a view to submitting it to the BIG review.

3.14 Arrangements are being made for a meeting of the working group to be held in due course.

3.15 A verbal update regarding work of the group will be given at the meeting.

Training

3.16 On 14 September 2017, a joint training session was held for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny Committee of South Northamptonshire Council.

3.17 The training was used as an opportunity to reflect on how and why the respective Committees carry out scrutiny, and to think of ways to improve the scrutiny that is carried out.

3.18 10 members attended the session in total, and feedback received by officers has been very positive.

3.19 Members of the Committee who attended the training will be asked to give brief feedback at the meeting.

Executive Work Programme

3.20 As part of the monthly work programme report, the Committee reviews the Executive Work Programme to consider whether there are any issues which they would wish to look at in more detail in advance of the Executive discussion and decision. To facilitate a thorough consideration of the topic the Committee will need to identify the Executive Work Programme items at an early stage of the decision making process.

3.21 The Executive Work Programme is updated and published monthly; an electronic copy is available on the council's website and all councillors are sent a prompt containing the website link. Members of the Committee are encouraged to review the Executive Work Programme outside the committee meetings and to contact the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Democratic Services Officer if there is a topic that they wish to review.

3.22 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Executive Work Programme and consider whether to include them on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18.

3.23 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is November 2017 to February 2018 and can be found on the following page of the website: Forward Plan

Future meetings Schedule

3.24 The meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year are listed below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2017/18 21 November 23 January 2018 20 February 27 March

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 The recommendations as set out in the report are believed to be in the best interests of the Council.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 None required as this is a standing report.

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: To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Option 2: To amend the recommendations.

Option 3: Not to agree the recommendations.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific legal issue.

Comments checked by: Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer. 0300 003 0106 paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.

Comments checked by: Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-Contentious. 01295 221695 Richard.hawtin@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected.

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Each Scrutiny Review will identify the relevant Corporate Plan and Policy framework links.

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Work Programme 2017/18

Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Contact Information	Tel: 01327 322043 emma.faulkner@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme - 2017/2018

Item	Description	Reason for Consideration	Contact Officer
21 November 2017			
Executive Lead Member Attendance –Lead Member for Estates and the Economy Councillor Lynn Pratt	Executive Lead Members giving an overview of day-to-day role and responsibilities	Request of the Committee	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Performance Report 2017-18 Quarter 2 (1 July to 30 September)	Performance data and if necessary officer attendance for each quarter	To flag any issues before consideration by Executive	Louise Tustian, Team Leader, Strategic Intelligence and Insight Team
Annual Safeguarding Report	Update on Safeguarding activities and progress ahead of Section 11 Audit return	Committee resolution January 2016	Nicola Riley, Community Services Manager
Committee Work Plan	To review the work plan for the Municipal Year	Standing item	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
23 January 2018			
Committee Work Plan	To review the work plan for the Municipal Year	Standing item	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
20 February 2018			
Performance Report 2017-18 Quarter 3 (1 October to 31 December)	Performance data and if necessary officer attendance for each quarter	To flag any issues before consideration by Executive	Louise Tustian, Team Leader, Strategic Intelligence and Insight Team
Committee Work Plan	To review the work plan for the Municipal Year	Standing item	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections

Appendix 1

Item	Description	Reason for Consideration	Contact Officer
			Officer
27 March 2018			
Annual Report of the Committee 2017-18	To consider the draft Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report prior to submission to Council	Constitutional requirement to submit an annual report to Council	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Committee Work Plan	To review the work plan for the Municipal Year	Standing item	Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Items to be allocated			
Draft Business Plan 2018/19	Consideration of key objectives for 2017-18	To consider draft plan ahead of consideration by Council	Louise Tustian, Team Leader, Strategic Intelligence and Insight Team