

## **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 1 September 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor David Hughes (Chairman)

Councillor Claire Bell  
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE  
Councillor Matt Johnstone  
Councillor Alastair Milne Home  
Councillor Neil Prestidge  
Councillor Lawrie Stratford  
Councillor Bryn Williams

Substitute Members: Councillor Rose Stratford (In place of Councillor Lynn Pratt)

Also Present: Councillor D M Pickford - Lead Member for Clean and Green  
Councillor G A Reynolds – Deputy Leader of the Council

Apologies for absence: Councillor Lynn Pratt  
Councillor Chris Heath  
Councillor James Porter  
Councillor Sandra Rhodes

Officers: Balvinder Heran, Joint Head of ICT Business Services for agenda item 6  
Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services, for agenda item 8  
Shirley Vaughan, Performance and Planning Officer, for agenda item 7  
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections  
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

#### 16 **Declarations of Interest**

##### 8. Strategic Review of Recycling.

Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Non Statutory Interest, as an Oxfordshire County Councillor (OCC) and would not participate in any discussion relating to OCC should it arise.

##### 9. Work Programme 2015/16.

Councillor David Hughes, Declaration, as a Director of Graven Hill Village Holdings Limited.

##### 9. Work Programme 2015/16.

Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE, Declaration, as a Director of Graven Hill Village Holdings Limited.

17 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

18 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that agenda item 8, Strategic Review of Recycling, would be moved up the order and taken as item 6.

20 **Strategic Review of Recycling**

The Chairman welcomed the Head of Environmental Services and the Lead Member for Clean and Green to the meeting to give an overview of the Strategic Review of Recycling which was due to be considered by the Executive at its October meeting.

The Head of Environmental Services explained that changes in the recycling strategy were required due to the value of recycled materials dropping. In addition to the drop in value, some recycling facilities were increasing the gate costs charged per rate of material. Gate fees were currently picked up by contractors, but during the next tender process it was possible that the council would need to pick up such charges instead. In addition to this, changes to the rules around materials which could be recycled meant that the overall recycling rate had remained at the same level for a number of years. Therefore, any improvement in the overall rate would need to be accompanied by additional spend.

The Head of Environmental Services added that Oxfordshire County Council was currently consulting on proposed changes to their own waste arrangements, including the potential closure of the Ardley waste recycling centre, and confirmed that the council would be responding to the consultation.

**Resolved**

(1) That the verbal update on the Strategic Review of Recycling be noted

21 **Scrutiny Review Updates: Website and Member IT**

The Chairman welcomed the Joint Head of ICT Business Services to the meeting to give an overview on the future provision of Member IT.

The Joint Head of ICT Business Services explained that Windows tablets would be issued to all Members after the all-out elections in May 2016. The tablets had been chosen due to the functionality they provided, and the model provided would be expected to last four years. A small group of Members were currently trialling the devices, and the Joint Head of ICT Business Services invited Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take part.

The Joint Head of ICT Business Services added that the move to tablet devices would result in a reduction in the number of paper agendas produced. A capital bid would be submitted to cover the initial cost of the devices, which would be reviewed by the Budget Planning Committee as part of the budget setting process prior to consideration by Full Council.

The Joint Head of ICT Business Services responded to detailed technical questions from the Committee.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the presentation on the provision of Member IT be noted

## 22 **Quarter 1 Performance Report, including Introduction to Performance Management Briefing**

The Performance and Planning Officer presented the report of the Head of Transformation which detailed the Council's performance during quarter 1, 1 April to 30 June 2015.

In connection with indicator CBP3 5.1b, number of visits to Woodgreen Leisure Centre, North Oxfordshire Academy and Cooper School, the committee requested that the Quarter 2 report include reference to the same figures for previous years, to provide an annual comparison.

With regard to indicator CBP3 7.6, percentage of planning appeals allowed against refusal, the committee asked if it would be possible for the figure to be broken down to show those applications refused by officers, and those refused by the Planning Committee.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That no performance related matters be referred to the Executive

## 23 **Work Programme 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance which detailed the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the coming year.

Councillor Neil Prestidge updated the Committee on progress of the Youth Engagement Scrutiny review. Following a meeting with the Senior Recreation Development Officer, a number of members had been appointed as 'School Champions' at schools across the district, and would speak to students to find out their concerns. The scheme would be launched during Democracy week in October, and local MP's Victoria Prentis and Nicola Blackwood would also be visiting schools that week.

The champions appointed were as follows:

Wariner School – Councillor Bryn Williams  
Banbury School – Councillor Surinder Dhesi  
Blessed George Napier – Councillor Claire Bell  
North Oxford Academy – Councillor John Donaldson  
Bicester Community College – Councillor Melanie Magee  
Cooper School – Councillor Dan Sames  
Gosford Hill School – Councillor Sandra Rhodes

An article would also be included in the next edition of 'In Brief' to raise awareness of the champions.

Following the presentation from the Head of Environmental Services earlier in the meeting, the Committee felt that a further update on the strategic review of recycling would be required following consideration of the report by the Executive, and requested that the item be scheduled for the October meeting.

With regard to the Website Review, the Committee requested that the Joint Head of ICT Business Services submit a written report to the November meeting of the Committee, outlining progress made so far and intended action for the website redevelopment.

Following previous requests of the Committee in relation to the Graven Hill development, officers advised that an update report had been published as part of the Executive agenda for the meeting on 7 September. One of the recommendations of the report was for a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be appointed to the Graven Hill Partnering board. In the event that Executive approved the recommendation, a representative would need to be appointed at the October Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

The Committee also requested that the Safeguarding report be scheduled for the November meeting, following its consideration by Executive.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That, subject to the following amendments, the work programme be noted:
  - Recycling be scheduled for the October meeting, to update on discussions regarding the strategic review following consideration of the report by Executive
  - The Joint Head of ICT Business Services be requested to submit a written update on the website redevelopment to the November meeting

- Safeguarding be scheduled for the November meeting, following its consideration by Executive

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman:

Date: