

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 3 November 2008 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Also present: Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor John Donaldson

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy
Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement
Phil O'Dell, Interim head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Liz Howlett, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services
David Marriott, Head of Economic Developments & Estates
Tony Brummell, Head of Building Control & Engineering Services
Paul Marston-Weston, Head of Recreation & Health
David Peckford, Senior Planning Officer
James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager

Resolutions

106 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in Minute 111 as a Director of North Oxfordshire Academy

107 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th and 13th October were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

108 Forward Plan - December 2008 to March 2009

The Chief Executive submitted the Forward Plan of key decisions to be taken over the next four months. The Leader of the Council requested that two items be added to the Forward Plan, namely Bullingdon Immigration Removal Centre and implications of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

Resolved, that for the period set out above be noted and that the items as set out above be added to the Forward Plan.

Reasons – to create a Forward Plan for the Council as required by the local Government Act 2000.

109 **Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the South East**

The Head of Planning and Affordable Housing submitted a report to consider the Council's response to a consultation from the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) on 'Somewhere to Live - Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the South East'

Resolved

- (1) That the report attached as Annex 1 to the minutes (as set out in the minute book) be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the South East England Regional Assembly's consultation;
- (2) That first, option B, and second, option A, as set out in paragraph 2.17 of the report attached as Annex 1 to the minutes (as set out in the minute book), be endorsed as the Council's preferred options for the distribution of new pitches for Gypsies and Travellers;
- (3) That option A, as set out in paragraph 2.18 of the report attached as Annex 1 to the minutes (as set out in the minute book), be endorsed as the Council's preferred option for the distribution of new plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Reasons - Options B and A represent the most appropriate distribution approaches for new pitches and plots for Gypsies and Travellers in Cherwell and should be endorsed. Option B would widen the locational choice at a local level and increase the opportunity for people to benefit from services and facilities in Oxford. Option A would ensure that new pitches and plots are provided to meet local needs.

110 **DEFRA Guidance on Household Waste**

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report to update the Executive on Defra guidance on household waste and the potential implications to the Waste Collection Service.

Resolved

- (1) That the implications and possible impacts following Defra guidance on household waste be noted.
- (2) That the council lobby the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to develop and expand the current recycling services to schools in the Cherwell District area
- (3) That the Council work with other authorities in Oxfordshire through the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to ensure a consistent approach to the different waste categories to minimise any additional cost to the taxpayer.

Reasons - Defra guidance on household waste does present some risk to Cherwell District Council and other Oxfordshire authorities. A consistent approach to any change is needed to minimise overall waste management costs.

111 **Relocation and Future Governance arrangements for The Animation Station**

At the request of the portfolio Holder for Community, Health and Environment this item was deferred till January to allow for further consultation.

Resolved, that the relocation and future governance arrangements for the Animation Station be deferred to allow for further consultation.

112 **The Pitt Report into the July 2007 Floods and the Council's Future Policy on Land Drainage and Flood Defence**

The Head of Building Control and Engineering Services submitted a report to bring together and update the Executive on the various initiatives that were going on locally and nationally in the land drainage and flood defence fields following the publication of the Pitt Report into the 2007 Summer floods.

Resolved

- (1) That the £131,063 grant funding received from DEFRA to the Council's balance sheet accounts be allocated so that over the next three years or so it can be drawn down as and when required to fund land drainage improvements that will reduce the risk at those properties currently on the Council's flooding database.
- (2) That officers be requested to develop a programme of minor schemes funded from the grant which when implemented will incrementally remove or reduce risk to those properties on the Council's flooding database according to a priority based on benefit-cost.
- (3) That officers be authorised, in liaison with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s), to respond proactively and constructively to the various DEFRA consultations that are likely to result from the recommendations of the Pitt Review.

Reasons - Since early July 2008 the Pitt Review which examined the difficulties caused by the 2007 floods has been published. Within the Pitt Report there are many recommendations to which Local Authorities will be expected to respond.

113 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED, that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

EXEMPT

114 **Castle Quay Refurbishment Scheme**

(Exempt by virtue of paragraph 3)

The Head of Economic Development and Estates submitted an exempt report that sought an increase in the existing capital approval for the above scheme.

Resolved

- (1) That the previous decision to participate financially in the Castle Quay refurbishment scheme, be confirmed.
- (2) That the capital approval contained in the 2006/07 capital estimates of £600,000 with a supplementary estimate of £115,000 be approved.

Reasons – This decision is advantageous to the Council in protecting and enhancing the Council's interest in Castle Quay.

115 **Woodgreen Leisure Centre**

(Exempt by virtue of paragraph 3)

The Strategic Director Environment and Community submitted a report to consider the procurement process for improving and operating the Open Air Pool at Woodgreen and to decide the next steps.

The resolutions relating to this item are set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Chairman:

Date: