

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 12 January 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor David Hughes (Chairman)
Councillor Lynn Pratt (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Bryn Williams

Substitute Members: Councillor Richard Mould (In place of Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE)
Councillor Sean Woodcock (In place of Councillor Matt Johnstone)

Also Present: Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Public Protection, for agenda item 9

Apologies for absence: Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Matt Johnstone
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor James Porter
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Sandra Rhodes

Officers: Jo Pitman, Head of Transformation, agenda item 9
Nicola Riley, Shared Interim Community Partnerships and Recreation Manager, agenda item 9
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

37 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

38 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

39 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 November 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

1. He had agreed to a request from Councillor Tony Ilott to change the order of the agenda and item 9, Safeguarding, would be taken as the first substantive item of business.

41 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

42 **Safeguarding - Internal Review and Action Plan**

The Committee considered an exempt report from the Director of Operational Delivery, relating to the Safeguarding Internal Review and Action Plan.

The Committee commented that it was an excellent report.

With regard to the action plan, the Committee urged officers to hold training sessions at a variety of times, in order to ensure as many Members as possible were able to attend.

It was proposed by Councillor David Hughes and seconded by Councillor Sean Woodcock that officers be requested to write to the Local Government Association requesting that they update their out-of-date National Guidance.

Resolved

- (1) That the internal review report be noted
- (2) That the Section 11 audit for 2015/16 submitted in December 2015 be noted
- (3) That the action plan arising from the review and the implementation progress made to date be noted
- (4) That an annual safeguarding report be received in November each year on safeguarding activities and progress to coincide with a draft Section 11 audit prior to submission;

- (5) That the requirements for Member training and improved awareness as per the internal review report recommendations 7 and 9 be noted.
- (6) That officers be requested to write to the Local Government Association requesting that they update their out-of-date National Guidance

43 **Re-admittance of public**

Resolved

That the press and public be re-admitted.

44 **Development of Corporate Business Plan, Priorities and Pledges 2016/17**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Transformation relating to the Corporate Business Plan, Priorities and pledges for 2016/17.

The Head of Transformation explained that this was an opportunity for the Committee to consider and comment on the draft business plan for referral to Executive, who would consider the draft business plan at their meeting of 1 February and recommend its adoption to full Council.

The Committee discussed each section of the draft business plan and made comments and suggestions as detailed in the table below.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft corporate priorities, outcomes and pledges for 2016/17 be noted
- (2) That the comments detailed in the table below be referred to Executive for consideration at their meeting on 1 February 2016

Strategic Priority	Key Objective/Pledge	Comments from Overview and Scrutiny
A Thriving Community	Deliver 190 units of affordable housing	Change sentence to read 'at least 190 units'
	Delivery of the Brighter Futures in Banbury programme	Widen the pledge to ensure that lessons learnt are extended across the whole district
		Add a bullet point regarding provision of extra care housing
District of Opportunity	Engage with community and stakeholders to assist in the definition and delivery of the Garden Town - Bicester	Change sentence to include specific mention of Bicester Town Council
	Support The Mill	What sort of support will be given, e.g. financial?
	Work proactively with developers...to enable the	Change sentence to include references to others involved in the

	speedy delivery of new commercial and residential projects	process, such as County Council, parish councils etc
Sound Budgets and a Customer Focussed Council	Reduce the cost of providing our services through partnerships, joint working and other service delivery models	Include references to other statutory bodies
	CDC Council tax element frozen for 2016-17	Whilst the Committee appreciate the aspiration, question viability in light of decreasing support grant amounts and budgetary issues elsewhere
Safe, Green and Clean	Work with the local police...in the evenings	Why has 'in the evenings' been specified?
	Undertake 6 neighbourhood blitzes with community involvement	Suggest there should be more preventative action and promotion about the rubbish people leave behind so the blitzes aren't actually needed

45 **Work Programme 2015/16**

The Committee considered the work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The Committee felt that consideration of the draft annual report of the Committee should be moved to the February meeting, in order to give sufficient time for any amendments to be made and ensure that it was signed off by the 2015/16 committee membership prior to the end of the municipal year.

With regard to progress on the website upgrade, officers advised the Committee that following the departure of Balvinder Heran, Nicholas Thrustle had been appointed interim Head of ICT. A project brief for the website upgrade had been drafted and was awaiting sign-off, which would then form the basis of a project plan.

The Committee felt that Member involvement in the project was very important, and requested that both the Interim Head of IT and the website upgrade project manager Paul Nicol be invited to the February meeting of the Committee.

Youth Engagement Review

Councillor Williams advised the Committee that the working group were awaiting responses from secondary schools, and a further update would be given at the next meeting

Recycling Review

The Committee agreed that the remit of the Recycling Review had been met by the Strategic Review of Recycling, and therefore the group could be disbanded.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the Project Manager – New Business & Systems Implementation and Interim Head of Shared ICT Service being invited to give a website update at the February meeting, the work programme be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

Chairman:

Date: