

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 5 April 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor David Hughes (Chairman)
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Matt Johnstone
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Bryn Williams

Substitute Members: Councillor James Macnamara (In place of Councillor Lynn Pratt)

Also Present: Councillor Michael Gibbard, Lead Member for Planning

Apologies for absence: Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor James Porter
Councillor Sandra Rhodes
Councillor Lawrie Stratford

Officers: Adrian Colwell, Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

54 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

55 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

56 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

58 **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16**

The Committee considered the final draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for 2015/16.

In connection with the Youth Engagement Review, Councillors Prestidge and Williams advised the Committee that they would be reviewing the way schools were contacted regarding the Champion scheme, to try and increase response and sign-up to the scheme.

Resolved

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2015/16 be approved for submission to Council.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to make any minor amendments to the annual report before submission to Council

59 **Review of Local Plan Process**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy attended the meeting to give a verbal update regarding the Local Plan process.

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy reminded the Committee of the process and time taken for Part 1 of the Local Plan, before going on to outline the stages for Part 2A which had recently been started

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the shortfall in housing in Oxford, the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy advised that anywhere in the Cherwell District could be argued for use towards meeting the Oxford requirement, but it was hoped a resolution would be reached in the coming months. Other areas of the country experiencing similar issues included Birmingham and Cambridge.

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy also advised the Committee that a short briefing paper would be circulated to them after the meeting, which summarised the key points from his update.

The Committee thanked the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy for the update.

Resolved

- (1) That the verbal update be noted

60 **Wind Turbines and their locations, and the application of the fracturing mining technique**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy gave a verbal update on Wind Turbines and their locations.

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy advised that the National Planning Policy Framework allowed the creation of acceptable 'zones' for wind turbines through the Local Plan process. This had not been undertaken during Part 1 of the Local Plan for Cherwell, but there would be a specific question on the proposal as part of the Part 2 consultation.

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy added that a briefing note on the subject would be circulated after the meeting, which detailed the key points covered, as well as a further note regarding Fracking.

The Committee thanked the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy for the verbal updates given, and for the explanation of the complexities involved.

Resolved

- (1) That the verbal update be noted

61 **Work Programme 2015/16**

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

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their time and work during the year.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: