

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 2016 at 6.45 pm

Present: Councillor Neil Prestidge (Chairman)
Councillor Jolanta Lis (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor David Anderson
Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Sandra Rhodes
Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Also Present: Councillor Barry Wood – Leader of the Council
Councillor G A Reynolds - Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Barry Wood

Apologies for absence: Councillor Bryn Williams

Officers: Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery, for agenda items 9 and 11
Natasha Barnes, Shared Contact Centre Services Manager, for agenda items 9 and 11
Edward Bailey, Corporate Performance Manager, for agenda item 6
Ed Potter, Head of Environmental Services, for agenda item 7
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 May 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

- (1) A training session with Ann Reeder from the Centre for Public Scrutiny would be held on Tuesday 20 September. The Chairman encouraged as many Members of the Committee to attend as possible

14 **Quarter One Performance Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director – Strategy & Commissioning which detailed performance during Quarter One of 2016/2017.

The Corporate Performance Manager advised the Committee that the way the data was collected had changed, and officers providing the information were now asked specific questions regarding why an indicator was below target, and when it was hoped it would be resolved.

With regard to indicator CBP3.5.1a, number of visits/usage to district leisure centres, the Director of Operational Delivery advised the Committee that discussions were on-going between Bicester Community College and Oxfordshire County Council, regarding the college's use of Bicester Leisure Centre.

Resolved

- (1) That the exceptions highlighted and proposed actions be noted.
- (2) That no performance related matters be reviewed or referred to Executive.
- (3) That the new reporting style be noted.
- (4) That, where appropriate, judgement measures used in the current business plan reporting be augmented or replaced by more specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely (SMART) measures be agreed.

15 **Fly Tipping and Environmental Enforcement**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Environmental Services, which gave an update on fly-tipping and action planned to reduce future incidents.

The Head of Environmental Services explained that a report would be submitted to Executive in October 2016, requesting the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for small fly-tips of car boot size or less. This would be coupled with increased publicity on the ways residents could have waste removed by the Council, to help reduce the number of fly tipping incidents.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Head of Environmental Services advised that the Council did have equipment to undertake covert surveillance, but a change in legislation meant that a Magistrate now had to sign off its use. There were also difficulties around battery and light levels when using the equipment, so the most successful prosecutions were still as a result of physical evidence.

Resolved

- (1) That the rise in fly tipping recorded in 2015/16 following several years of small fluctuations be noted
- (2) That the successes of the Environmental Enforcement Team in bringing action against fly tippers be noted
- (3) That the proposed actions including the introduction of fixed penalty notices for small fly tips to be considered by the Executive in October be supported.

16 **Work Programme 2016/2017**

The Committee considered the work programme for the remainder of the 2016-2017 year.

Following a motion to full Council in July 2016 relating to open space, tree, grass, shrub and verge maintenance and safety matters, the Committee discussed the possibility of a future Scrutiny review on the subject.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be approved

17 **Council Car Parks**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Operational Delivery relating to Council owned car parks, in the context of their town centre role and options for service improvement, which was due to be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 5 September 2016.

The Deputy Leader of the Council explained to the Committee that the report was the culmination of several years' work. He added that the report was the start of the Committee process, and he anticipated further reports to the Committee in the future.

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Cherry and seconded by Councillor Sandra Rhodes that Executive be urged to adopt caution when considering consistency in parking charges between Banbury and Bicester due to the numerous differences between the two towns, and that consideration be given as part of the proposed procurement process for improved and more flexible

disabled parking provision in Council car parks following an assessment of demand for such parking.

Resolved

1. That Executive be urged to adopt caution when considering consistency in parking charges between Banbury and Bicester due to the numerous differences between the two towns;
2. That consideration be given as part of the proposed procurement process for improved and more flexible disabled parking provision in Council car parks following an assessment of demand for such parking.

18 **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(s) 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.

19 **Council Car Parks - Exempt Appendix**

The Committee considered the exempt appendix to the report of the Director of Operational Delivery.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and the Director of Operational Delivery answered detailed questions from the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt appendix be noted

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

Chairman:

Date: