

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 29 August 2017 at 6.45 pm

Present: Councillor Sean Gaul (Chairman for the meeting)

Councillor Claire Bell

Councillor Mike Bishop

Councillor Mark Cherry

Councillor Chris Heath

Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE

Councillor David Hughes

Councillor Andrew McHugh

Councillor Jason Slaymaker

Also Present: Councillor G A Reynolds, Deputy Leader

Present: Councillor Barry Wood, Leader

Apologies for absence: Councillor Neil Prestidge

Councillor Jolanta Lis

Councillor David Anderson

Officers: Louise Tustian, Team Leader Strategic Intelligence and Insight Team

Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery

Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

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Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman having submitted apologies for the meeting, the Democratic and Elections Officer opened the meeting and called for nominations for Chairman for the meeting.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Sean Gaul be appointed Chairman for the meeting

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Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

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Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

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Lead Member Attendance - Councillor George Reynolds

The Chairman welcomed Councillor George Reynolds, Deputy Leader, to the meeting, to give an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the portfolio.

Councillor Reynolds explained that as Deputy Leader he deputised for the Leader, Councillor Wood, as and when required, keeping Councillor Wood informed of happenings across the Council. His portfolio covered parking, customer services and recreational facilities.

With regard to parking, Councillor Reynolds explained that it was only car parks owned by the Council that were maintained and had prices set by CDC. On-street parking was dealt with by the Police, not CDC.

Councillor Reynolds added that following the outsourcing of parking earlier in 2017, new equipment would soon be installed in the car parks, as agreed as part of the outsourcing plan.

In relation to customer services, Councillor Reynolds explained that the team was shared with South Northamptonshire Council so supported both authorities. The department was facing a rapidly increasing workload as they were taking on more responsibilities from other departments. In addition, events such as elections resulted in an increased rate of calls being received by the team. The overall call abandonment rate was at a similar level to previous years.

With regard to recreational facilities, Councillor Reynolds explained that this aspect of his portfolio covered Council owned facilities at Bicester and Kidlington, and Woodgreen and Spiceball leisure centres in Banbury. Management of the facilities was handled by Legacy Leisure on behalf of Parkwood, as part of an outsourcing agreement.

Councillor Reynolds advised the Committee that a sports study of the whole district would be undertaken in the coming months, to review facilities currently available and to find out what new facilities were required. This would then help to identify areas of possible expansion of facilities in the future.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Reynolds agreed that there was an increased need for charging points for electric vehicles,

particularly in light of recent government announcements relating to petrol vehicles.

The Committee thanked Councillor Reynolds for the overview.

Resolved

- (1) That the overview be noted

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Lead Member Attendance - Councillor Colin Clarke

The Committee welcomed Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council, to the meeting, to give an overview of the Planning portfolio, on behalf of Councillor Colin Clarke.

Councillor Wood explained that the portfolio covered planning policy and development control.

The planning policy aspect of the role included the Local Plan. Part 1 of the plan had taken 10 years to be adopted, due to various issues and changes to regulations. Consultation on the Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs) was currently underway. Part 2 of the plan which would contain non-strategic sit allocations and development management policies would be started shortly, and it was anticipated that there would be a lot of public interest in the process.

With regards to development control, Councillor Wood explained that the work of the planning department followed on from the planning policy framework, with the Planning Committee responsible for making some decisions.

Councillor Wood added that the planning team were currently going through a reorganisation as Members had agreed to establish a shared development management service with South Northamptonshire Council.

The Committee thanked Councillor Wood for the overview.

Resolved

- (1) That the overview be noted

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Quarter One Performance Update

The Committee considered a report from the Director – Strategy and Commissioning which detailed the Council's performance during quarter 1 of the 2017-18 year.

With regard to future performance reports to the Committee, it was proposed by Councillor David Hughes and seconded by Councillor Sean Gaul that printed copies of the reports be provided in colour.

Resolved

- (1) That the exceptions highlighted and the proposed actions be noted
- (2) That no performance related matters be referred to Executive
- (3) That future performance reports be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in colour

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Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Phase 1 Consultation and Decisions Regarding the Horton General Hospital

The Director of Operational Delivery presented a report which updated the Committee on the current position with regards to the Horton General Hospital.

The Director of Operation Delivery explained that after the decision had been made to downgrade maternity services and critical care services at the hospital, Cherwell District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council and Banbury Town Council had decided to request a Judicial Review of the decision.

The original request had been refused, and the four councils had decided to resubmit the request. A decision was expected imminently.

The Committee supported the actions taken by the four Councils so far, and it was proposed by Councillor Andrew McHugh and seconded by Councillor Mark Cherry that Executive be recommended to proceed with action with all vigour.

Resolved

- (1) That the update be noted
- (2) That Executive be recommended to proceed with action with all vigour

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Work Programme 2017-18

The Committee considered the work programme for the 2017-18 Municipal Year.

With regard to antisocial behaviour, the Committee asked if relevant officers could ask the Police if they felt Cherwell District Council were doing all they could to deal with and/or prevent anti-social behaviour.

In connection with the Youth Engagement review, the Committee agreed to put the review on hold until the next Municipal Year, as progress had been difficult so far.

The Committee agreed to continue with the Mobile Signal review, and requested that officers arrange a meeting of the working group in due course.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be approved
- (2) That the Youth Engagement Review be put on hold until the next Municipal Year

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: