

## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Executive**

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 5 November 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader  
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Sport and Leisure

Councillor Colin Clarke, Lead Member for Planning  
Councillor Ian Corkin, Lead Member for Customers and Transformation  
Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Housing  
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Financial Management and Governance  
Councillor Andrew McHugh, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Richard Mould, Lead Member for Performance  
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Housing  
Councillor Lynn Pratt, Lead Member for Economy, Regeneration and Property

Also Present: Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group

Officers: Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive  
Adele Taylor, Interim Executive Director: Finance and Governance  
Jane Carr, Executive Director: Wellbeing  
Paul Feehily, Interim Director  
Gillian Douglas, Assistant Director: Housing  
Robert Jolley, Assistant Director: Economy and Regeneration  
Hedd Vaughan Evans, Assistant Director Performance and Transformation  
James Doble, Assistant Director: Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer  
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

#### **51 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **52 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

53 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

55 **2018 District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy**

The Executive Director Wellbeing submitted a report to note the findings of the District Sports Study 'Playing Pitch Strategy', a part of the commissioned 2018 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment. These findings would be used to create the Sports & Leisure Strategy for Cherwell which would be brought to Executive in early 2019. The study models sport facility needs in Cherwell up to 2031.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the findings from the District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be noted.
- (2) That the production of a Council Sports and Leisure strategy and subsequent delivery plan, in response to the Sports Studies findings and recommendations be supported.

**Reasons**

Members are asked to note the information contained in The District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy as it will provide an evidence base for the full Sports & Leisure Strategy. From this, producing a delivery approach for the development of further sports facilities where needed and to ensure the effective provision of sport and leisure opportunities across the District. Our main aim is to ensure that a network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the health and wellbeing of the current and future population.

**Alternative options**

Option 1: To reject the findings of the District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy, and to seek an alternative means of assessing current and future facility provision. This is not recommended, as it will be costly and will not meet Sport England assessment criteria, which is required for planning compliance and funding bids.

## **Revised Housing Allocations Scheme**

The Executive Director Wellbeing submitted a report to agree a revised Housing Allocations Scheme for the allocation of affordable rented housing in Cherwell District.

In response to comments from the Leader of the Labour Group regarding the change in policy for people moving on from supported accommodation, the Lead Member for Housing confirmed that this would be kept under review and changes made accordingly if needed as was the case for the policy as a whole.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the revisions to the Housing Allocations Scheme as set out in the annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be agreed.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to make any future amendments to the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme that are deemed to be necessary and do not constitute a major policy change.

### **Reasons**

The changes would give greater clarity to applicants, greater coherence to the Scheme and make the processing of applications more efficient. The changes are relatively modest with the key principles of the Scheme remaining unchanged.

### **Alternative options**

Option 1: Make no changes to the Scheme. This is rejected on the basis that over the last 3 years changes have been identified that would make the Scheme work better.

Option 2: Make selective changes to the Scheme but reject those changes that some consultees objected to. Specifically the banding for people in supported accommodation. However we believe band 2 is the appropriate banding in terms of consistency of approach with other homeless households while preserving band 1 for the most urgent cases. We will avoid disadvantaging people who are ready to move on through joint working with the supported accommodation providers and proper exit planning.

## **Removal of Cherwell District Council (CDC) Geographical Overlap in Relation to Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)**

The Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration submitted a report to gain approval from the Executive, following the recent Ministerial Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Review (and co-incident with the formal separation between CDC and SNC), that Cherwell District Council (CDC) should leave the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership

(SEMLEP) and should only, from 1 April 2019, be part of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of the report and key developments relating to the recent Ministerial Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Review be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to Cherwell District Council (CDC) leaving South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) by 1 April 2019, hence removing the geographical overlap where CDC is a member of both SEMLEP and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).
- (3) That it be noted that, to assist with the transitional process, the Leader of CDC will remain on the Board of SEMLEP in his capacity as Chair of the Cross Corridor (Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge) Leaders' Group as observer after the April 2019 changes take place.
- (4) That it be noted that CDC will continue as a full and active member (with board representation) of OxLEP.

### **Reasons**

Over recent months, there has been a Ministerial Review of all 38 of the UK's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The Review called for a number of changes to LEPs, which included the: Removal of geographical overlaps; Consolidation of geographical focus, including consideration of LEP mergers; and, Improvement of diversity of board membership.

It is a good idea for CDC to withdraw from SEMLEP and focus upon their membership of OxLEP. The decision is a sad one but also aligns with the changing circumstances related to local government reorganisation.

There are a number of potential implications and risks associated with the move which appear to be manageable and it seems the benefits, especially to the local business community outweigh the risks.

### **Alternative options**

Option 1: There is one alternative option identified and this is to stay as we are (with CDC remaining a member of both OxLEP and SEMLEP). This is rejected for two reasons: Firstly, the Ministerial Review was looking to eliminate geographical overlaps and there was an incidence of this with Cherwell. Secondly, due to local government reorganisation the joint working and formal link to Northamptonshire has been removed.

### **Towards creating a Cherwell Industrial Strategy**

The Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration submitted a report to seek the Executives' endorsement for the development of a 10 year district industrial strategy for Cherwell; the Cherwell Industrial Strategy (CIS).

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the process to prepare a ten year industrial strategy for Cherwell be supported and endorsed.
- (2) That the approach for Cherwell be agreed.
- (3) That the programme and indicative timeline for delivery be noted.

## **Reasons**

This programme is ambitious and provides the opportunity to mobilise, motivate and inspire participants including internal teams, members throughout CDC and external partners. The methodology is proven. The iterative and incremental approach to gaining internal and external buy-in has been shown to deliver successful strategies elsewhere. The process will ensure that the final strategies have the support of the various groups and partners. The time is right to prepare a ten year economic strategy for CDC as the current strategy has expired. The strategy will realise real benefits including enabling an organisation-wide approach to delivering economic growth. The strategy development process will ensure the interests and input of a wide range of organisations are represented enabling effective delivery.

## **Alternative options**

Option 1: Do nothing; this was rejected because the District's current plan for the economy expired in 2016 and a replacement is overdue.

Option 2: Undertake producing a three year plan for the economy adopting traditional and prosaic methods. This was rejected because the time is right for an ambitious ten year strategy which aligns with the national Industrial Strategy and the work being undertaken by the LEPs and their LIS trailblazers. Furthermore, with the Growth Deal and the Ox-Cam corridor there is currently a mood of ambition and positivity which makes producing a much more progressive district industrial strategy the right thing to do for our times.

Option 3: Produce a joint economic strategy with South Northamptonshire. This option was rejected on two grounds. The first is the imminent split with SNC through local government reorganisation and secondly because the economies are not sufficiently similar. It was, initially, proposed to pursue a "twin-track" approach where Cherwell and South Northants would develop concurrent strategies following the same, progressive, strategy development methodology. Things have moved on since then and the creation of a three way (South Northants, Daventry and Northampton) West Northamptonshire Industrial Strategy is currently being considered. This development creates a situation that puts Cherwell at the forefront of this process because the West Northamptonshire strategy will, unavoidably, now be some months behind.

59 **Monthly Performance, Finance and Risk Monitoring Report - September 2018**

The Assistant Director: Performance and Transformation and Assistant Director: Finance and Procurement submitted a report which summarised the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring position as at the end of each month.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report be noted.

**Reasons**

The Council is committed to performance, risk and budget management and reviews progress against its corporate priorities on a monthly basis.

This report provides an update on progress made so far in 2018-19 to deliver the Council's priorities through reporting on Performance, the Leadership Risk Register and providing an update on the financial position.

**Alternative options**

Option 1: This report illustrates the Council's performance against the 2018-19 business plan. As this is a monitoring report, no further options have been considered. However, members may wish to request that officers provide additional information.

60 **Notification of Urgent action: The Hill Youth and Community Centre, Banbury**

The Interim Executive Director Finance and Governance submitted a report to advise Executive of the urgent action taken by the Executive Director: Finance and Governance in consultation with the Leader to approve the demolition of The Hill Community Centre, Banbury on 11 July 2018 and the decision to construct a new youth and community centre in its place, the award of the construction contract having been made on 25 September 2018.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the urgent action taken by the Interim Executive Director Finance and Governance to approve the demolition of The Hill Community Centre, Banbury and to construct a new youth and community centre in its place be noted.

**Reasons**

This report confirms the urgent action taken by the Interim Executive Director Finance and Governance in consultation with the Leader to approve the demolition of The Hill Youth and Community Centre, Banbury on 11 July and

the decision to construct a new youth and community centre in its place, the award of the construction contract having been made on 25 September 2018.

**Alternative options**

None as this is an information report for Executive to note.

61 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.06pm

Chairman:

Date: