



Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the public decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on Monday 2 October 2023**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 3 October 2023
2. Decisions (if any) taken as a matter of urgency under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution (and not therefore subject to the call-in procedure): None
3. Date by which notice of call-in of any of the following decisions must be received in writing by the Chief Executive (see notes below):- Noon on Friday 6 October 2023
4. Notes:-
 - (a) For background documentation to the following decisions, please refer to the agenda and supporting papers (copies of which are available on the Council's website (www.cherwell.gov.uk) or from Democratic Services);
 - (b) Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;
 - (c) Call-in can be requested by any six non-executive members of the Council.
However, if at any point during a municipal year the total number of opposition councillors is six or less the total number of non-executive members required to call-in a decision shall be the total number of opposition councillors less two.
 - (d) Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).
 - (e) The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

**Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive**

Agenda Item and Recommendation	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options	Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service
<p>Agenda Item 6 Response to Petition Received on Food Choices</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director Communities and Climate Action Manager</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To acknowledge that the council has already taken considerable steps to support the need for changes in the way food is produced in order to reduce its impact on the climate and biodiversity.</p> <p>1.2 To acknowledge that the council is continuing to support the district in</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That it be acknowledged that the council has already taken considerable steps to support the need for changes in the way food is produced in order to reduce its impact on the climate and biodiversity.</p> <p>(2) That it be acknowledge that the council is continuing to support the district in reducing its carbon emissions and seek opportunities to enhance local biodiversity and is working with a range of partners on several</p>	<p>This report has set out how the council already recognises the impact of food choices on the climate and the natural environment, and has already taken steps to initiate positive change.</p> <p>Several policy areas contribute to this theme, including the Climate Change Framework 2020, the adoption of <i>One Planet Living</i>, council support of the Climate Action Oxfordshire website and the developing Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Changes to methods of food production and in public behaviour around food choices need action across both the public and private sectors. This includes Cherwell District Council,</p>	<p>Option 1 – Take the steps to encourage all residents to reduce their consumption of meat and dairy, as sought in the petition. This option is rejected as the council is already taking several steps to encourage residents to understand the implications of their food choices and therefore meeting our responsibilities to raise awareness of these issues as part of a programme of climate change activity.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>reducing its carbon emissions and seek opportunities to enhance local biodiversity and is working with a range of partners on several initiatives to make this possible.</p> <p>1.3 To acknowledge the work of the Food Insecurity Working Group and the development of a food strategy locally through Good Food Oxfordshire.</p> <p>1.4 To ask the Corporate Director Communities to respond to the petitioner setting out the Council's position.</p>	<p>initiatives to make this possible.</p> <p>(3) That the work of the Food Insecurity Working Group and the development of a food strategy locally through Good Food Oxfordshire be acknowledged.</p> <p>(4) That the Corporate Director Communities be asked to respond to the petitioner setting out the council's position.</p>	<p>which will continue to work on reducing emissions, protecting the natural environment and improving the sustainability of the district of Cherwell.</p>		

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<p>Agenda Item 7 An Action Plan Regarding the Cost of Living Crisis</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve £100,000 investment in the additional activities programmed for winter 2023 and set out within this report as an action plan.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the development of an evaluation framework that captures the impact of these actions and require officers to update the Overview</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That £100,000 investment in the additional activities programmed for winter 2023 be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the development of an evaluation framework that captures the impact of these actions be approved and officers be requested to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2023 and January 2024 on progress made.</p>	<p>Working in partnership across the district with statutory and voluntary sector organisations, both strategically and on a hyperlocal basis, officers will continue to ensure that Cherwell residents can access support and secure help when needed.</p> <p>The council recognises that the response to the cost of living crisis is iterative and will need to be flexible to best meet changing needs of residents.</p> <p>The broad range of everyday activity currently running is intended to support residents' wellbeing across the five key themes identified, recognising the interplay between them and their respective impact on the lived</p>	<p>Option 1: To review all programmes and reduce expenditure to statutory levels only. Rejected: The Council takes its community leadership role seriously and works in partnership with voluntary organisations, charities, and other administrations to provide help and support to residents at their most vulnerable and challenging times. Cutting services and support at this time would not be in that interest.</p> <p>Option 2: To expand the provision of support. Rejected: The Council would have to use reserves to commit to a wider support package which is not prudent in the</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>and Scrutiny Committee in November 2023 and January 2024 on progress made.</p>		<p>experience of residents.</p>	<p>current financial climate</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8 Sandy Lane, Yarnton to Kidlington</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Planning and Development</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note a development brief and planning application for site PR8 (Land East of A44) will be presented to the Planning Committee for consideration in due course.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That it be noted that a development brief and planning application for site PR8 (Land East of A44) will be presented to the Planning Committee for consideration in due course.</p> <p>(2) That it be noted that the wording of a formal response to an application expected to be submitted by Network Rail to the Secretary of State for Transport for a</p>	<p>The Council has a clear and tested Local Plan position for development in the vicinity of Sandy Lane. It is not the decision-maker for the closure of the level crossing. However, there is an opportunity for the Planning Committee to give careful consideration to the planning of development to the east of A44. A development brief and major planning application will be presented to the Committee in due course. Consideration of the application by this Council and the County Council will involve close examination of transport, travel and</p>	<p>Option 1: The Council could, if it so desired, choose to revise or replace Policy PR8 of the Local Plan through the on-going Cherwell Local Plan Review process. This would give the Executive the opportunity to consider planning policy affecting Sandy Lane.</p> <p>This approach is not recommended as officers consider the policy to be ‘fit for purpose’ and do not recommend its revision. To do so would create significant uncertainty for the local community and</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>1.2 To note the wording of a formal response to an application expected to be submitted by Network Rail to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Transport and Works Act Order will involve consultation with the Planning Committee Chairman and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development in due course.</p>	<p>Transport and Works Act Order will involve consultation with the Planning Committee Chairman and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development in due course.</p>	<p>accessibility issues and the mitigation required. This provides the most appropriate opportunity to consider the acceptability of proposals for new residents and the potential impacts on existing residents and businesses.</p> <p>The TWAO process provides an opportunity for the Council to present concerns and objections, albeit potentially in contradiction to Local Plan policy. The precise wording of a response, in the context of development proposals, can be discussed with the Planning Committee Chairman and Portfolio Holder in due course.</p> <p>The applicant for site PR8 has recognised that future Network Rail proposals may</p>	<p>the developer at a time when a development brief is being finalised and a planning</p>	

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		emerge and has made some accommodation. Any future proposals would need to be considered on their own merits in due course.		
<p>Agenda Item 9 Building Control Enforcement</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director - Planning and Development</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 to endorse the proposed building control enforcement policy (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Building Control Enforcement Policy be endorsed.</p>	<p>The need to formalise our enforcement process and practices has been brought sharply into focus by the emergence of the Building Safety Act 2022. To have a Policy will not only help the public but also our officers who come across breaches or have to respond to requests that enforcement is taken. Additionally, having a formal policy is very likely to become a requirement of the Building Safety Regulator.</p>	<p>Option 1: To continue without a formal policy. This would undoubtedly attract criticism from the Building Safety Regulator. It is also not equitable that the public continues to have no reference to the circumstances under which enforcement will be triggered.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10</p>	<p>Resolved</p>	<p>The SEP will contribute to the</p>	<p>Option 1: To adopt the</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>OxLEP's Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan 2023 - 2033</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director - Growth and Economy</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To endorse OxLEP's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2023 – 2033.</p> <p>1.2 To delegate to the Corporate Director – Communities, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to engage in the development of the detail of the SEP, including any future</p>	<p>(1) That the Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership's (OxLEP's) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2023 – 2033 be endorsed.</p> <p>(2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director – Communities, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to engage in the development of the detail of the SEP, including any future action plans which might emerge.</p>	<p>delivery of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Strategic Vision. It provides a ten-year framework to maintain the conditions for growth, regeneration, attracting new inward investment and enabling opportunities for jobs to be created for local residents.</p> <p>In proposing a collective vision for the future of the County's economy, the SEP is currently in draft form. The Council's officers have been engaged as a consultee during its development.</p>	<p>emerging Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan. This was rejected, because it would be premature at this stage and it is possible, despite officers' best efforts, that the final version of the Plan might not sufficiently address issues and opportunities relating specifically to Cherwell district.</p> <p>Option 2: Not to endorse the emerging Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan. This was rejected because it would contradict the Council's interests to support the broad partnership framework proposed by the Plan.</p>	

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<p>action plans which might emerge.</p>				
<p>Agenda Item 11 OxLEP's Oxfordshire Visitor Economy Vision and Destination Management Plan 2023 - 2028</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Growth and Economy</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note OxLEP's Oxfordshire Visitor Economy Vision and Destination Management Plan 2023 – 2028.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership's (OxLEP's) Visitor Economy Vision and Destination Management Plan 2023 – 2028 be noted.</p>	<p>The Council has been engaged as a consultee in the development of OxLEP's Visitor Economy Vision and DMP and, together with the FOP; the LVEPs; and the other Oxfordshire local authorities, the Council has been identified as a lead partner within it.</p> <p>It is recommended that Executive notes OxLEP's Visitor Economy Vision and DMP, with the understanding that at this stage the document sets out a strategic direction and defines priority areas for action, without identifying clear operational delivery responsibilities and funding resources.</p>	<p>Option 1: Not to note OxLEP's Visitor Economy Vision and DMP. This is rejected because it would contradict the Council's objective to "work with partners to promote the district as a visitor destination and attract investment in our town centres". (Cherwell District Council Business Plan 2023 – 2024).</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 12 Procurement Strategy (incorporating Social Value)</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Procurement Strategy.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Procurement Strategy be approved.</p>	<p>The Procurement Strategy – incorporating social value - will complement deployment of the portal and drive individual procurements and contract management requirements for effective outcomes of price, quality, quantity, place and time. This strategy – and the included action plan - will form the basis of a continuous improvement approach to drive efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Option 1: No Procurement Strategy. This is rejected as an absence of a new strategy may result in a lack of clarity and direction for the development of procurement and contract management within the Council.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13 Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report August 2023</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Council's Performance, Risk and Financial report for the month of</p>	<p>This report provides an update on progress made during August, to deliver the council's priorities, manage potential risks and remain within the agreed budget.</p>	<p>This report summarises the council's performance, risk, and financial positions for August, therefore there are no alternative options</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Finance and Assistant Director Customer Focus</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To consider and note the contents of the Council's Performance, Risk and Financial report for the month of August 2023.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the Risk Strategy 2023 – 24 (Appendix 8).</p> <p>1.3 To note the change in the reporting cycle for the five monitoring only measures from monthly to quarterly.</p> <p>1.4 To approve the use of reserves in Appendix 5.</p>	<p>August 2023 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Risk Strategy 2023 – 24 be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the change in the reporting cycle for the five monitoring only measures from monthly to quarterly be noted.</p> <p>(4) That the use of reserves (Appendix 5 to the report) be approved.</p> <p>(5) That £0.108m additional grant funding for the Disabled Facility Grant Capital Project be approved.</p>		<p>to consider. However, members may wish to request further information from officers for inclusion.</p>	

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1.5 To approve the £0.108m additional grant funding for the Disabled Facility Grant Capital Project.				
Agenda Item 16 Town Centre House Exempt report of Corporate Director Resources	Resolved (1) As set out in the exempt decisions. (2) As set out in the exempt decisions.	As set out in the exempt decisions	As set out in the exempt decisions	None