

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 12 November 2024 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Dr Isabel Creed (Chairman)
Councillor Nigel Simpson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor John Broad
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Grace Conway-Murray
Councillor Andrew Crichton
Councillor Frank Ideh
Councillor Simon Lytton
Councillor Lynne Parsons
Councillor Barry Wood

Substitute Members:

Councillor Dorothy Walker
Councillor Les Sibley

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Gordon Blakeway
Councillor Harry Knight

Also Present:

Councillor David Hingley, Leader of the Council
Councillor Rob Parkinson
Councillor David Rogers
Councillor Amanda Watkins
Councillor Douglas Webb

Also Present Virtually:

Councillor Rebecca Biegel
Councillor Dom Vaitkus
Councillor Donna Ford

Officers:

Gordon Stewart, Chief Executive
Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities
David Peckford, Assistant Director Planning & Development
Christina Cherry, Planning Policy, Conservation & Design Manager

Holly Jones, Planning Policy Officer
Maria Dopazo, Principal Planning Policy Officer
Heidi Antrobus, Principal Planning Policy Officer
Michael Carr, Interim Principal Officer - Scrutiny and Democratic Lead
Martyn Surfleet, Democratic and Elections Officer

Officers Attending Virtually:

Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Karen Adams, Principal Planning Policy Officer

25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

26 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

27 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

28 **Proposed Cherwell Local Plan 2042**

The Assistant Director for Planning and Development submitted a report which presented the Proposed Cherwell Local Plan 2042 for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ahead of its presentation to the Executive on 2 December 2024.

The Assistant Director Planning and Development and Planning Policy, Conservation & Design Manager gave a short presentation covering timelines, key changes since 2023 as well as the key themes and policy areas, including Housing Need, Requirement and Supply and stipulations of affordable housing within proposed developments.

The Committee considered and asked questions on the proposed Cherwell Local Plan around key strategic themes: strategic options and considerations, timetable and governance, housing and economic needs assessments, climate change and sustainable development, infrastructure, and consultation and engagement. Answers to all questions were duly provided by officers from the Communities, Planning and Development department and the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management.

At the end of questions, the committee considered its conclusions, observations, and recommendations to the Executive.

In considering the report, the Committee noted that the following key supporting documents were listed in the Appendix to the draft report to the Executive but were not included in the committee papers for consideration at the meeting.

- a) Draft Sustainability Appraisal
- b) Draft WIP Habitats Regulation Assessment
- c) Health and Equalities Impact Assessment
- d) Interim Duty to Cooperate Statement
- e) Local Plan Appendix 5 - Strategic Gaps associated with Banbury, Bicester and Heyford Park: Key Characteristics and Recommendations

The Committee was advised that these documents were not yet available as they were not finalised in time for the meeting but would be available in time for the agenda publication for the Executive on 2 December 2024.

Members of the Committee commented they considered that these documents, in particular the Sustainability Appraisal, were integral to the plan making process and that it was therefore necessary for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review these documents before making a final assessment and observations on the draft proposed Local Plan to Executive.

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson and seconded by Councillor Creed that the supporting documents be submitted as exempt documents to the scheduled 26 November, which was ahead of Executive consideration of the draft proposed Local Plan on 2 December 2024. This would enable the Committee to review and make any comments to Executive on these documents.

Further to a question on Local Green Space Allocations for Bicester West by Councillor Sibley, it was proposed by Councillor Sibley and seconded by Councillor Broad that it be recommended to the Executive to agree that the land adjacent to Isis Avenue, Hambleside, Eden Way and boarding Middleton Stoney Road be designated a part of the Local Green Space Designation in Bicester West.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked officers for their in preparations of the report, presentation to the committee and answering questions and it was requested that the presentation slides from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting be circulated to all Members for information.

Resolved

- (1) That the following key supporting documents referenced in the Draft report to the Executive, but not available with the papers submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, be made available to Overview and Scrutiny Committee members at its next meeting, 26 November 2024:
 - a) Draft Sustainability Appraisal
 - b) Draft WIP Habitats Regulation Assessment

- c) Health and Equalities Impact Assessment
 - d) Interim Duty to Cooperate Statement
 - e) Local Plan Appendix 5 - Strategic Gaps associated with Banbury, Bicester and Heyford Park: Key Characteristics and Recommendations
- (2) That Executive be recommended to agree that the land adjacent to Isis Avenue, Hambleside, Eden Way and boarding Middleton Stoney Road be included as part of the Local Green Space Designation in Bicester West.
- (3) That the presentation slides from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting be circulated to all Members for information.

The meeting ended at 8.32 pm

Chairman:

Date: