

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 3 March 2025 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor David Hingley (Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership) (Chairman)
Councillor Lesley McLean (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property & Regeneration) (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Tom Beckett, Portfolio Holder for Greener Communities
Councillor Chris Brant, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services
Councillor Jean Conway, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management
Councillor Nick Cotter, Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Ian Middleton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Robert Parkinson, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities
Councillor Rob Pattenden, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities

Also Present:

Councillor Dr Isabel Creed, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Also Present Virtually:

Councillor Amanda Watkins, Leader of the Opposition, Labour Group

Officers:

Gordon Stewart, Chief Executive
Stephen Hinds, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation
Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Julia Harrington, Cherwell Area Growth Lead
Andy Bowe, Banbury Area Lead
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

Officers Attending Virtually:

Ed Potter, Assistant Director Environmental Services
Tim Hughes, Head of Regulatory Services & Community Safety
Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Watkins, Leader of the Opposition, Labour Group and Councillor Creed, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the meeting and invited them to indicate if they wished to speak on any item.

104 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reminded Members that an additional Executive meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 19 March.

106 **'A Banbury for the Future' Report**

The Corporate Director Communities submitted a report which updated the Executive on the progress of 'A Banbury for the Future' project; the community engagement with residents, businesses and delivery partners and the emerging Banbury area action plan and sought authority from the Executive to publish the draft engagement findings.

'A Banbury for the Future' project was established in 2023 when the previous Executive approved the appointment of consultants to carry out an extensive vision engagement exercise on the future of the town centre and its environs.

Engagement on the vision for Banbury has been completed, with the vision engagement findings compiled into a draft report. The Council has engaged with partners over the last year in developing a draft action plan from the engagement findings.

On 4 November 2024 the Executive agreed to adopt an area-based approach with the objective to strengthen community and stakeholder engagement into major growth sites across the district in support of delivering more holistic and sustainably planned developments, aligned to Council priorities.

As part of this area-based approach a new Area Action Plan was currently under development bringing together several existing action plans into one new document, including the engagement findings from the consultants draft report. This new, updated Action Plan would form part of the Area Framework

of documents which would be reviewed and prioritised by the new Area Oversight Group for Banbury.

Resolved

- (1) That the publication of the draft Banbury vision engagement report be authorised.
- (2) That officer be requested to engage further with the community and partners through the Banbury Area Oversight Group and subgroups, with a view to developing the new Banbury Area Action Plan.

Reasons

The vision engagement exercise and the findings it has generated provide an understanding of how people view Banbury, the challenges it faces but also a desire for change, highlighting the opportunities and demonstrating its potential.

There is a clear desire to see Banbury town centre improve. Over 99% of survey respondents want see improvements to the town centre. The engagement process indicates that to deliver this change, Banbury needs a change of mindset. The report highlights some major issues the vision needs to address.

This report seeks the Executive's approval to publish the draft Banbury vision engagement findings report. The reason for the recommendation is to progress the work on Banbury as set out in the report. It remains important to maintain the focus on continued community engagement; by publishing the draft vision engagement findings report, the Council is reaffirming its commitment to regeneration and growth in Banbury.

Alternative options

Option 1: Not publishing the vision engagement findings or delaying the publication may lead to a lack of momentum in delivering the new Banbury Area programme and may also make further community engagement more challenging as it may be perceived as a lack of commitment to the Banbury area.

Banbury Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Implementation Report

The Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety submitted a report which asked Executive to decide whether to introduce a PSPO in Banbury town centre. A consultation was recently undertaken on a proposal to introduce a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Banbury town centre. The report set out the background to the proposal, a summary of the consultation undertaken and the feedback from stakeholders and the details of the potential scope of the Order.

In considering the report, Executive members noted the support for the PSPO during the public consultation, commended and thanked the Community Wardens for the work they undertook and noted the importance of a joined-up approach.

Resolved

- (1) That it be agreed to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order for Banbury town centre taking into consideration the outcomes of the public consultation and the feedback received from stakeholders.
- (2) That it be agreed that the basis of the order will be items below, which were included in the scope of the PSPO consulted on and the order will apply to the area set within the red border on the map as set out in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book).
 - No begging within 10 metres of a cash or payment machine or begging in a manner which is aggressive or intimidating or is likely to cause someone to feel harassed, alarmed or distressed
 - No person shall consume alcohol in the restricted area (other than in residential premises or premises specified in Section 62(1) of the Act) in a manner which causes nuisance or annoyance to other persons in the locality.
 - No person shall continue to consume alcohol when directed by an officer to stop in the restricted area.
 - No person shall fail to surrender alcohol or a container for alcohol when requested to do so by an officer in the restricted area.
 - No person shall cause harassment, alarm or distress to any individual(s) by committing antisocial behaviour. Examples may include the use of offensive or abusive language or acting in an aggressive manner.
- (3) That it be agreed the order can remain in place for up to 3 years.

Reasons

The results of the consultation show overwhelming support for the introduction of a PSPO in Banbury Town Centre from the public and stakeholder organisations. The responses support including all three prohibitions that were included in the consultation.

Crime and incident data from the Police evidence supports the conclusion that prevalent and persistent problem of anti-social behaviour in and around Banbury town centre and that the legal requirements for the introduction of a PSPO are met. Therefore, the Executive is recommended to approve the introduction of the PSPO for Banbury town centre.

Alternative options

Option 1: Not introduce a PSPO.

This option is not recommended. The information gathered to support the introduction of a PSPO for Banbury town centre demonstrates that there is a persistent problem with ASB occurring in and around Banbury town centre.

The consultation outcomes show very strong support for the introduction of a PSPO to tackle this problem and stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, support the proposal.

Option 2: Introduce a PSPO with a more limited scope.

This option is not recommended. The consultation outcomes show support for all aspects of the proposed PSPO, and the information collected provides evidence that the prohibitions to be included are proportionate to the issues that the PSPO will look to address.

108 **Oxfordshire Leaders Joint Committee Terms of Reference**

The Corporate Director Communities submitted a report detailing that the concluding stages of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal required adjustments to the working arrangements of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) for 2025 and a change of name for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The report proposed corresponding amendments to the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cherwell District Council and the other five Oxfordshire councils party to the Partnership.

In response to Executive comments regarding the scrutiny arrangements under the revised TOR and MOU, the Leader advised that at Cherwell, he would ensure meeting papers were forwarded to all councillors for their information and there was a mechanism for scrutiny. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed that she was happy to work with the Leader and Executive to ensure scrutiny of items if needed.

Resolved

- (1) That the revised Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding be approved and it be noted that these will take effect following approval by each of the six Oxfordshire councils.

Reasons

The proposed changes to governance documents arise from the principles agreed by FOP members at its meeting on 26 November 2024. The changes have been discussed by the Oxfordshire Councils' Monitoring Officers.

Alternative options

Option 1: Do not endorse the revised TOR or MOU

Not endorsing the new TOR or MOU will exclude Cherwell District Council from the Leaders Joint Committee and thereby disadvantage it from the collaborative joint working that it facilitates.

109 **Finance Monitoring Report January 2025**

The Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer) submitted a report to advise the Executive of the council's forecast yearend financial position as at the end of the January 2025.

Resolved

- (1) That the council's financial management report as at the end of January 2025 be noted.
- (2) That the reprofiling of capital projects beyond 2024/25 and the subsequent update to the programme budget for this financial year 2024/25 be approved.
- (3) That the Use of Reserve and Grant Funding Requests as set out in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (4) That the New Planning & Building Control fee proposal as set out in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (5) That it be agreed to remove capital project (40315) S106 – Longford Park Sport Pitches £0.010m from the programme as it is not required as capital expenditure and it be agreed for it to be transferred to revenue grant earmarked reserves to be used for ongoing maintenance.

Reasons

The report updates Executive on the projected year-end financial position of the council for 2024/25. Regular reporting is key to good governance and demonstrates that the council is actively managing its financial resources sustainably.

Alternative options

Option 1: This report summarises the council's forecast financial position up to the end of March 2025, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.

110 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

111 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, 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.

112 **Dry Recycling Contracts**

The Assistant Director Environmental Services and Corporate Director Communities submitted an exempt report regarding dry recycling contracts.

Resolved

- (1) As set out in the exempt Minutes.
- (2) As set out in the exempt Minutes.

Reasons

As set out in the exempt Minutes.

Alternative options

As set out in the exempt Minutes.

The meeting ended at 7.24 pm

Chairman:

Date: