

Agenda



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A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016 AT 6.30 PM

MEETING ROOM 1, 135 MILTON PARK

Members of the Committee:

Richard Pullen (Chairman)

Steve Connel
Paul Harrison
Jeannette Matelot

Pat Dawe
Imran Lokhon
David Turner

John Walsh
Ian White

Substitutes

Joan Bland
Margaret Davies
Stefan Gawrysiak

Anthony Nash
Toby Newman
David Nimmo-Smith

Bill Service

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1 Notification of substitutes and apologies for absence

2 Minutes and actions arising and referral (Pages 3 - 5)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 9 February 2016 and agree that the Chair signs them. To ensure that the committee are content that all relevant items have been followed up/ referred as appropriate.

3 Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting; and of any other relevant interests.

4 Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters, which the chair determines, should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances, which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

5 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Scrutiny Committee

Any statements and/or petitions from the public (notified to the clerk in advance) will be made or presented at the meeting.

6 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings (Page 6)

To review the attached scrutiny work schedule. Please note, although the dates are confirmed, the items under consideration are subject to being withdrawn, added to or rearranged without further notice.

REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 Draft Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020

To receive the report of the head of corporate strategy (attached).

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

HELD AT 6.00 PM ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016

MEETING ROOM 1, 135 MILTON PARK

Present:

Richard Pullen (Chair)

Steve Connel, Paul Harrison, Jeannette Matelot, Pat Dawe, David Turner, John Walsh, Ian White and Toby Newman (as substitute for Imran Lokhon)

Apologies:

Imran Lokhon tendered apologies.

Officers:

Steve Bishop, Paula Fox, Simon Hewings, Ron Schrieber and Cathie Scotting

Also present:

John Cotton, Lynn Lloyd and Jane Murphy

8 Minutes and actions arising and referral

The committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 22 September 2015 were an accurate record of the meeting and the Chair signed them. There were no outstanding matters arising or referrals.

9 Declarations of interest

None.

10 Urgent business and chair's announcements

None.

11 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Scrutiny Committee

None.



Listening Learning Leading

12 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings

The work schedule was noted.

13 Section 106 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Cathie Scotting, major applications officer, introduced this item. Also present to answer questions were Paula Fox, development manager (south) and John Cotton, Leader and cabinet member for corporate strategy and strategic policy.

The committee considered the comments received on the consultation draft Section 106 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), together with recommended changes, prior to its approval by the Cabinet member. It was noted that, subsequent to the circulation of the report, officers were proposing to amend the wording of the public realm/public art section of Table 2 to read "Improvements to the public realm and town centres. Improvements to increase accessibility for disabled".

It was reported that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was intended to provide infrastructure to support the development of an area, rather than making an individual planning application acceptable. As such, CIL would not fully replace Section 106 planning obligations, which would continue to be used on individual sites to mitigate the direct impact of a proposed development and would still be the primary mechanism for securing affordable housing. Subject to approval by the Council on 18 February, the CIL charging schedule would be implemented on 1 April 2016.

The committee then discussed the report, asking questions of the cabinet member and officers and the following points were raised:

- 23 representations had been received on the consultation and these were mainly issues of clarification. The Leader reported that a new community engagement strategy would be launched in the near future which would, amongst other things, seek to encourage greater community engagement in such exercises;
- When a planning application was made, the applicant would need to specify who would pay the CIL.
- Currently, core strategy strategic housing sites will be exempt from CIL as significant on-site infrastructure is required. The most efficient way to secure this is via Section 106 agreements. In the future it will be necessary to assess whether new sites will also have significant infrastructure and need to be exempt from CIL;
- Section 278 agreements would not be affected by CIL;
- The Regulation 123 list set out the uses which would be funded by CIL and which by Section 106 agreements; and
- CIL and S106 could only be used to fund infrastructure and maintenance.

Recommendations and Referrals

That the Cabinet member for strategic policy be recommended:

1. To adopt and publish the amended Section 106 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, 1 April 2016; and

2. To publish the associated supplementary planning documents (e.g. consultation report and statement, sustainability appraisal, equality impact assessment).

14 Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Capital Programme to 2020/21

Simon Hewings, chief accountant introduced this item. Also present to answer questions were Jane Murphy, Deputy Leader and cabinet member for finance, legal and democratic services and John Cotton, Leader and cabinet member for corporate strategy and strategic policy.

The committee considered the head of finance's report on the revenue budget 2016/17 and the capital programme to 2020/21. The report brought together the relevant information upon which Cabinet had recommended a budget and capital programme to Council on 18 February 2016. Tabled at the meeting was appendix E setting out the prudential indicators for Cabinet's recommendation to Council. All councillors had been invited to a budget briefing in the previous week.

The committee then discussed the report, asking questions of the cabinet members and officers and the following points were raised:

- The anticipated savings from the corporate services project were the best estimates given that the contracts had not yet been signed. However, given that the project had now been approved by all five councils, it was highly likely to proceed. In fact, the financial risks to the council were greater should the contracts be awarded and a contractor subsequently default than if the contracts were not awarded.
- Both the S151 officer and the cabinet were of the opinion that, on current projections, the budget was sustainable. However there was a huge amount of uncertainty about future funding.
- Some underspends were due to greater than anticipated income being received rather than reduced expenditure;
- A joint devolution funding bid for Oxfordshire had been submitted to the Government.

With regard to the revenue growth bid for the post of cabinet policy advisor, the Leader reported how this post would support the council's key aims as set out in the council's corporate plan and enhance service provision.

The committee noted the revenue budget 2016/17 and capital programme to 2020/21 which cabinet had recommended to council.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Chairman

Date

Schedule for Scrutiny Committees 2016/17

(further items to be added to schedule as required)

Meeting date and venue	Type and chair	Agenda items	Cabinet members	Strategic director
Tues 12 April Milton Park 6.00	South	-Corporate Plan	Will Hall	SB
Thurs 14 April Milton Park 7.00	Vale	-Corporate Plan -Review CTRS	Matt Barber Matt Barber	AR
Tues 24 May	Joint	-Review of Biffa & Sodexo contracts -Temporary Accommodation Strategy	Tony Harbour/Elaine Ware Elizabeth Gillespie/Roger Cox	DB
<i>Tues 24 May</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Only if needed, as Joint</i>		<i>DB</i>
<i>Thurs 26 May</i>	<i>Vale</i>	<i>Only if needed as Joint</i>		<i>SB</i>
Thurs 28 July	Vale	-Review of Wantage Independent Advice Centre & S & V CAB, prior to grant award -Leisure Provision Strategy -Review of CG & NHB grants		AR
Tues 2 August	South			SB
Thurs 15 Sept	Joint	-Review of GLL & Capita contracts		SB
Tues 27 Sept	South	-Draft Local Plan		AR
Thurs 29 Sept	Vale	-Local Plan report		AR
Thurs 24 Nov	Vale			
Tues 29 Nov	South			
Thurs 26 Jan	Vale	-Review of Final Draft Budget		
Tues 31 Jan 17	South	-Review of Final Draft Budget		
Thurs 9 Mar 17	Joint	-Community Safety Partnership		
Thurs 30 March	Vale			
Tues 4 April 17	South			

Strategic Directors

AR = Anna Robinson

DB = David Buckle

SB = Steve Bishop

Meeting Start times:

Joint: 6:30; South: 6:00; Vale: 7.00

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy
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To: Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 12 April 2016



Draft Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020

Recommendation

Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020, prior to its consideration by Council on 14 April 2016.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the council's draft Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020, and provide comments on the draft plan, which will be reported to Council on 14 April for consideration prior to its final approval.

Strategic Objectives

2. The development of the council's corporate plan is fundamental to the way that the council manages its business effectively. The purpose of the plan is to identify the strategic objectives and priorities, which will drive the council's business during a four year period and help to guide decisions on the allocation of resources. The draft corporate plan for the period 2016 - 2020 proposes a set of new objectives and priorities to replace those set out in the current corporate plan, which ends in 2016.

Background

3. In May 2015, the council began work on a fundamental review of the current corporate plan.
4. Evidence considered as part of the review includes results from recent biennial residents' surveys; demographic and other data about the district prepared by the District Data Service, recent board reports and the annual addendum report.
5. The attached represents the Cabinet's draft plan for the period 2016 – 2020.
6. The plan also includes the council's equality objectives, which we are required to publish under the Equality Act. These have been the subject of a stakeholder consultation. The objectives underpin all of the council's activities.
7. Subject to approval by Council on 14 April, the plan will be graphically designed prior to publication on the Councils website. Copies will be available on request to anyone who is unable to access it electronically.
8. The plan is a high-level statement of objectives and actions that the Cabinet wishes to achieve over the next four years. Further detail, including measures, targets and specific actions will be included in a corporate development plan, which will be reviewed by Cabinet annually.

Financial Implications

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report although the corporate plan will be used to guide decisions on the allocation of resources.
10. The financial implications of any specific actions or of progressing any of the measures contained in the plan will be considered as part of more detailed planning and consideration of future years' budgets.

Legal Implications

11. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Any legal implications connected with specific actions in the plan will be considered as part of detailed planning for implementation.

Risks

12. Risks will need to be identified specific to individual corporate priorities and included in the operational service area risk register.

Other Implications

13. A high level equality impact check has been carried out on the draft plan and no adverse implications have been identified at this stage. Any potential equality implications in relation to specific actions will be considered where relevant as part of detailed planning for implementation.

Conclusion

14. We have carried out a major review of the corporate plan and developed, a draft plan for 2016-2020 setting out new objectives and priorities for the next four years.

The plan will provide a focus for the council's work and will also guide decisions on the allocation of resources.

15. Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft corporate plan 2016 – 2020. The Committee's comments will be reported to Council to consider prior to approval of the plan by Council on 14 April 2016.

Background Papers

None

South Oxfordshire District Council Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020

Invest in the district's future

We will create the right conditions for economic growth, so that businesses, residents and workers can prosper, by:

- Directly addressing matters that fetter growth within our control, such as housing supply and provision of affordable housing. We will work with partners to seek to overcome infrastructure bottlenecks that impact adversely on business competitiveness
- Supporting enterprising small and medium sized businesses to grow, ensuring the right package of initiatives is available on demand and the interests of our SMEs are represented in Oxfordshire and nationally
- Seeking to build on the strengths of our internationally renowned hydrology base at Howbery Park and the nuclear fusion and renewable energy research and prototyping at Culham. Our aim is to accelerate the commercial application of these world leading facilities to create high value knowledge economy jobs
- Supporting the Thame Farmers Auction Mart to relocate to an alternative site within the district thereby freeing up the Thame cattle market site for redevelopment

We will seek to further improve Broadband and mobile phone coverage. We will:

- Aim for all businesses and residents to have access to superfast Broadband
- Encourage mobile phone providers to improve mobile phone reception, including use of council-owned sites to improve coverage

We will provide New Leisure facilities by:

- Building a new leisure centre at Didcot

- Planning for future leisure needs in the district
- Following adoption of the Local Plan and housing allocations, and agreement on facilities at the new Didcot leisure centre, consider the need for a new indoor leisure facility elsewhere in the district

We will secure our Financial Future

- While recognising the challenges of changing local government finance we will secure our financial future
- We will maintain our strong financial position through innovation, efficiency and careful management

Unlock the potential of Didcot

Through the garden town initiative we will:

- Develop the Orchard Centre phase two to deliver excellent retail and leisure facilities and exemplar homes
- Regenerate the gateway to Didcot around the station to provide a landmark entrance to science vale
- Attract infrastructure funding that enables traffic to flow through and around the town
- Create welcoming green neighbourhoods throughout the residential and business quarters
- Master plan the wider town centre to develop a transformational change programme that meets garden town objectives
- Involve local residents in all aspects of the garden town initiative to achieve community ownership
- Harness the capacity of the Didcot Growth Accelerator Enterprise Zone to create high value jobs for residents

Homes and jobs for everyone

Through an ambitious housing strategy we will:

- Deliver the right balance of types and tenure of new homes to meet housing need and support economic growth
- Promote starter home and low cost home ownership initiatives, that provide entry points for people to owning their own homes
- Ensure a good supply of affordable rented homes for those unable to buy
- Promote self-build and custom build initiatives, and ensure that land is made available for this purpose

We will facilitate sustainable communities by:

- Encouraging exemplar housing design through our planning policies
- Working with developers and other partners to develop a protocol that will ensure high quality, sympathetic design across our district
- Strongly supporting the development of neighbourhood plans for our towns and villages
- Undertaking comprehensive regeneration of Berinsfield
- Ensuring our environmental assets such as the green belt, the Chilterns AONB and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSIs) are protected for future generations
- Directly undertaking development where we see market failure or a gap in provision, creating delivery vehicles as required

We will reduce homelessness by:

- Assisting households to remain in their homes through mediation and enforcement of their rights to occupy
- Providing a holistic housing advice service, in partnership with other agencies, to maximise the housing options for all households

- Helping low income families to access affordable rented accommodation through deposit bonds, rent-In-advance loans and tenancy support

We will optimise employment opportunities by:

- Ensuring a good supply of appropriate employment land across the district
- Working with delivery partners to ensure a good supply of appropriate business premises for start-ups and small and medium enterprises
- Ensuring that the skills needs of our employers are identified and that training programmes are in place to provide a skilled labour force
- Working with developers to introduce local apprenticeship and local workforce schemes that benefit our young people
- Supporting the Government's objective of achieving full employment

Build thriving communities

We will make communities clean and safe by:

- Delivering new and ambitious air quality action plans to improve air quality across the district and specifically tackle poor air quality in Henley, Wallingford and Watlington
- Seeking to introduce an Air Quality capital fund to help local groups monitor and campaign about their community's air quality
- Working with partners as part of the Southern Oxfordshire CSP to deliver the CSP annual plan aimed at reducing crime, tackling antisocial behaviour and supporting vulnerable people
- Maintaining the number of people who say they feel safe during the day/at night
- Continuing the annual South Oxfordshire deep clean programme
- Increasing the recycling rate to 70 per cent and maintaining our position as one of the top 10 authorities for recycling

We will help people to be healthy and active by:

- Increasing the number of people using leisure centres
- Supporting the government drive to increase sport and activity in schools
- Working with Sustrans to improve provision of cycle routes in the district
- Piloting the introduction of a cycle hire scheme in one of our market towns

We will support communities to help themselves. We will:

- Introduce individual councillor budgets through which councillors can support small community projects in their area
- Consider the business case for introducing a local lottery scheme to fund community projects
- Provide additional support to voluntary and community groups to help them to find the volunteers they need, and provide vital services to residents, including a website to link potential volunteers with volunteering opportunities
- Increase the number of people volunteering in the district
- Promote, create and support volunteer roles and opportunities for sports volunteering within the local community
- Support rural communities with maintaining their transport links by working with bus operators to look at options to continue some of the bus services previously supported directly by Oxfordshire County Council
- Investigate opportunities for increasing the role of parish councils in hyperlocal issues

Services that reflect residents' needs

We will engage with residents and service users to ensure that services and facilities reflect their needs. We will:

- Maintain high levels of resident satisfaction with the Council and with key services such as waste and cleanliness
- Engage with residents on issues, services or projects which affect them, and consider their views in making decisions
- Maintain a close dialogue with town and parish councils in order to understand the issues they face and where possible work with them to find solutions
- Create two parish and town forums a year so that parishes can be a part of the District's work
- Hold a Parish Councils briefing before each Budget
- Work to broaden understanding of public opportunities to contribute to Council's meetings

Be tough on enforcement

We will take a proactive approach to planning enforcement by:

- Achieving an overall reduction in enforcement intervention through increased engagement with developers at all stages of the planning process
- Offering support and guidance to applicants throughout the planning process in order to mitigate breaches of planning control that might otherwise lead to enforcement action

We will maintain high standards in food safety

- Through a risk based inspection and enforcement programme we will ensure that food businesses comply with food safety legislation
- 96 per cent of businesses will be broadly compliant by 2020

We will continue to take action on flytipping, dog fouling and litter. We will:

- Achieve a year on year reduction in the number of fly tips in the district
- Clear 90 per cent of fly tips from high intensity areas within 12 hours

- Implement the issuing of FPNs for dog fouling and litter by the council's environmental wardens in Henley, Wallingford, Watlington, Thame and Didcot town centres

Additional text to be added at the end

In delivering on the commitments in this Corporate Plan we will:

- Provide value for money for residents and where relevant ensure that services pay for themselves
- Provide fair and accessible services and employment opportunities that meet the needs of everyone, and positively promote inclusion, in line with the Equality Act.

The Council's equality objectives are to:

- Continue to improve physical access to council owned or leased buildings or land
- Ensure new projects, policies or strategies, changes to services, and communication take account of the needs of all users
- Increase our understanding of the communities we serve, through consultation, engagement and using existing evidence (e.g. census data) to inform the decisions we make
- Continue to monitor the impact of our employment policies and practices to ensure all groups have access to employment opportunities
- Support communities to deliver better outcomes for disadvantaged groups and encourage community cohesion
- Seek to improve access to major new developments and town centres in South Oxfordshire and the Vale for people with disabilities, carers and older people