

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Joint Scrutiny Committee

held on Tuesday, 29 January 2019 at 6.30 pm

at the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members:

South Oxfordshire District Councillors: David Turner (co-chairman in the chair), and John Walsh.

Vale of White Horse District Councillors: Mike Badcock, Robert Hall, Debby Hallett, Chris Palmer, and Yvonne Constance (in place of Anthony Hayward).

Officers:

Andrew Down, Adrian Duffield, Holly Jones and Ron Schrieber

Also present:

South Councillor Felix Bloomfield and Vale Councillor Roger Cox

Sc.33 Apologies for absence

South Councillors Sue Lawson and Ian White, and Vale Councillor Anthony Hayward (substituted by Yvonne Constance) submitted apologies.

Sc.34 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

Sc.35 Declarations of interest

None.

Sc.36 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

Sc.37 Public participation

None.

Sc.38 Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The committee considered the report of the head of planning which sought comments on the draft consultation document, timetable and changes to the Statement of Community Involvement for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which was formerly known as the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP).

Councillors Felix Bloomfield and Roger Cox, South and Vale Cabinet members for planning, respectively, introduced the report. Also present to answer questions were Andrew Down, head of partnership and insight, Adrian Duffield, head of planning, and Holly Jones, planning policy manager.

The committee was informed that there was an error in paragraph 27 of the report as it referred to work directly commissioned by South Oxfordshire District Council rather than work directly commissioned by both this council and Vale of White Horse.

Councillor Emily Smith addressed the committee and made the following points:

- the draft consultation document did not adequately reflect the stakeholder workshop's commitment to combating climate change, the need for innovative forms of transport and the importance of involving young people.
- the timescale for production of the Plan was too tight and did not allow sufficient time for responses to the Regulation 18 consultations to be reflected in the draft Plan.
- It was unclear as to which Councillors/officers/ bodies were accountable for the production of the Plan.

The committee was advised that the consultation process, subject to agreement from all of the district councils, would commence in mid February and last for 6 weeks, closing prior to the pre-election "purdah" period. There was a full programme of consultation events and methods of engagement planned which had been discussed with the Member sub group for the JSSP.

During further discussion, committee members made the following comments:

- the draft consultation document does not adequately reflect the stakeholder workshop's commitment to combating climate change.
- the timetable for the production of the Plan is very tight.
- accountabilities for the production of the Plan need to be clarified.
- consideration should be given to delaying the Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation in South Oxfordshire so that it does not overlap with the council's Local Plan consultation.
- consultation should be as wide-ranging as possible with a particular emphasis on engagement with young people.
- uncertainty about the route of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway could have a detrimental impact upon the production of the Plan.
- a strategic review of Oxfordshire's Green Belt should be carried out to support the Plan.

- the A420 should be included in the roads mentioned in paragraph 26 of the draft consultation document.
- the risk register requires strengthening and should include risks such as the impact of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and the reservoir.

RESOLVED: to

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) request the South and Vale Cabinet members to consider the committee's comments, detailed above.

Sc.39 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings

The committee noted its work programme.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm