

Date: 24 May 2006

TO: All Members of the Executive
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **Friday, 2nd June, 2006** at **2.30 pm.**

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 9)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision is attached.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the public minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 and 17 May 2006, (previously circulated).

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

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 and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

7. Referral under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

Call-In of Executive Decision – Internal Audit Plan 2005/06 Outturn

The Executive will recall that its decisions in respect of the Internal Audit Plan 2005/06 Outturn (minutes Ex.304 and 307) were called in by the Scrutiny Committee. The call-in meeting was held on 18 May 2006 and after considering the matter further, the Scrutiny Committee resolved that it had no more concerns about the Executive's decision. However, the Committee resolved:

that the Executive be recommended to request a progress report to its July 2006 meeting on the following improvements detailed in Paragraph 9 of report 287/05:

- (a) The full implementation of the Debt Strategy, which is essential to achieving and maintaining robust control over debt.*
- (b) The review of the Council's Risk Registers following the senior management restructure, and the production of Business Continuity Plans.*
- (c) Improvements in reconciliation of income and the resolution & ownership of discrepancies.*

8. Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Other Committees

(a) Notice of Motion – Referred from Council 17 May 2006

At its meeting held on 17 May 2006, the Council received the following motion and referred it to the Executive for determination:

Motion to be proposed by Councillor Peter Saunders, seconded by Councillor Robert Sharp:

“This Council requests the Executive to reconsider how rural parishes can get fairer funding from the Vale for street cleansing and grass cutting”.

With the agreement of the proposer and seconder, this item has been deferred until the next meeting of the Executive on 7 July 2006 in order to allow further information to be collated to assist the consideration of this matter.

(b) Major and Minor Planning Applications Improvement Plan - Referred from the Development Control Committee 22 May 2006

The Development Control Committee considered the report 04/06 of the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) which also set out the implications of the Council being included on the list of Planning Standards Authorities for processing Major and Minor planning applications. The Committee resolved as follows:

- (a) that the Executive be recommended to agree the proposed Improvement Plan and Trajectory, amended to include the following:
 - (1) the comments of the Scrutiny Committee, namely the inclusion of an additional bullet point in Action 4 of the Improvement Plan specifying that all consultees are to be urged to respond within the statutory deadlines;
 - (2) revised deadlines for outstanding targets.
- (b) that the Executive be asked to endorse that the Officers be requested to put in place measures to enable the monitoring of the planning process in respect of major applications to enable the reasons for delay to be readily identifiable.
- (c) that the Executive be asked to consider whether the Council's internal procedures in terms of managing vacancies and recruitment have any adverse impact on performance in determining major and minor planning applications.

9. Items Deferred from the Previous Meeting

None

10. Financial Monitoring

(Pages 10 - 12)

Members are requested to consider any significant budget variances and any requests for virement or permanent budget adjustment.

KEY DECISIONS

11. Forward Plan

(Pages 13 - 16)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from June to

September 2006.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Corporate Governance Quarterly Report

(Pages 17 - 73)

To receive and consider report 11/06 of the Directors' Group.

Introduction and Report Summary

To receive the corporate governance report for the fourth quarter of 2005/06.

The Contact Officer for this report is Tim Sadler, Strategic Director (01235) 540360.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to resolve that:

- (a) the Directors' Group Corporate Governance Report for the fourth quarter 2005/06 be noted*
- (b) the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment action plans be closed in their entirety and that officers propose updated replacements to the July meeting of the Executive.*
- (c) staff in the Housing and Benefits teams are congratulated for strong performance through out the year.*
- (d) staff in the waste management are congratulated on the successful implementation of the Brown Wheeled Bin Scheme*
- (e) contact centre staff are congratulated on a successful first year.*
- (f) The reductions in BVPI 2a (equality standard) and 2b (promotion of race equality) are noted with concern and that the Strategic Director, Tim Sadler, and Portfolio holder, Roz Smith, progress the situation as a priority and monitor progress closely*
- (g) The success of the change to the Housing Allocations Policy in respect of hostels be noted.*

13. Vale of White Horse Local Plan to 2011

(Pages 74 - 103)

Appended to this agenda is report 7/06 of the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) to the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group and the Development Control Committee. The Advisory Group and the Committee met on 24 May 2006 to consider this report in detail and make recommendations to the Executive. These will be circulated separately after the despatch of this agenda.

Introduction and Report Summary

Members will recall that following the consideration of the Inspector's Report on the Local Plan 2011 the Council's statement of decisions on the Inspector's recommendations and its proposed modifications to the Local Plan were published for comment between 23 March and 4 May.

The purpose of this report is to consider the representations received and decide whether any further modifications should be made before the Local Plan is formally adopted.

Appendix 1 to this report contains a schedule of representations received together with the

officers' responses and suggested recommendations to Executive and Council. Appendix 2 contains a list of policies subject to proposed modifications where no objections have been received. The Council at its meeting on 22 March agreed that such policies could be given full weight when considering planning applications.

The contact officer for this report are Katie Barrett, Section Head: Planning Strategy, contact Tel No: 01235 540339 and Grant Audley-Miller, Section Head (Environmental Planning & Conservation), contact Tel No. 01235 540343.

Recommendations

That the Advisory Group and the Development Control Committee recommend the Executive to recommend Council to:

- (i) note the representations received on the Council's decisions on the Inspector's recommendations and the proposed modifications to the Local Plan and agree the officers' observations and recommendations;*
- (ii) accept there is no justification for making further substantive changes to the Local Plan which would require the publication of further proposed modifications;*
- (iii) delegate authority to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) to make minor editorial changes and up-dates to the Local Plan prior to adoption;*
- (iv) adopt the Local Plan as proposed to be modified and authorise officers to give notice of this decision and take the remaining necessary steps in accordance with the regulations.*

14. Formal Consultation on the draft South East Plan Submitted to the Government

(Pages 104 - 115)

Appended to this agenda is report 8/06 of the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) to the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group and the Development Control Committee. The Advisory Group and the Committee met on 24 May 2006 to consider this report in detail and make recommendations to the Executive. These will be circulated separately after the dispatch of this agenda.

Introduction and Report Summary

The South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) submitted the draft Plan for the South East to Government in March this year. It is the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East and sets out how the region will develop to 2026. It follows extensive public consultation – this Council having commented on the emerging plan in March 2005 and the draft housing figures in October 2005. When approved, the South East Plan will replace current regional guidance (RPG9) and the Oxfordshire Structure Plan, and will become part of the development plan for the district. It will form the context within which the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) will be prepared and will be a significant material consideration when planning applications are determined. It will provide the context for other key regional strategies and incorporate the regional transport strategy. The closing date for comments is 23rd June 2006.

All Members of the Council have been sent an Executive summary of the draft South East Plan. Copies of all the documents submitted including the full draft plan, pre-submission consultation statement, sustainability appraisal, implementation plan and monitoring framework are available in the local services points in Abingdon and Wantage, the Council Office in Faringdon and the Members Lounge in Abbey House.

This report summarises the key features of the draft plan as they affect the Vale and outlines a proposed response from the Council. Section 4 of this report outlines and comments on the main features of the region-wide policies and section 5 focuses on the policies for Central Oxfordshire

and the housing figures for the Vale of White Horse. A report on the South East Plan incorporating where appropriate the views of the Advisory Group and Development Control Committee will be considered by Executive on 2 June and Council on 14 June. Relevant sections of the draft Plan have been circulated to assistant and deputy directors and a workshop of officers held to help formulate the Council response.

The Key dates for the next steps of the South East Plan are as follows:

31 August 2006 - the Panel publishes matters to be discussed at the Examination in Public and the participants to be invited
End of September - comments on matters and participants due
23 October - final list of matters and participants published
9 November - participants' statements to be submitted
28 November - Examination in Public starts
28 November -15 December - regional and general matters to be discussed
16 January – 30 March 2007 - sub-regional matters to be discussed
27 February – 9 March - Gatwick, London Fringe, Western Corridor, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale sub regions to be discussed
End of July 2007 - Panel Report due

The contact officer for this report is Katie Barrett, Section Head (Planning Strategy) telephone number 01235 540339

Recommendation

that the Executive recommends Council to make representations on the South East Plan as set out in Sections 4 and 5 of this report.

15. Local Development Framework - Statement of Community Involvement

(Pages 116 - 134)

Appended to this agenda is report 9/06 of the Strategic Director to the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group, which met on 24 May 2006 to consider this report in detail and make recommendations to the Executive. These will be circulated separately after the dispatch of this agenda.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Statement of Community Involvement was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 10th March 2006 and placed on deposit until 21st April 2006. This report summarises the representations received during the deposit period and Appendix A sets out the recommended response of the Council to the representations for consideration by the Inspector at the Examination.

The Contact Officer for this report is Grant Audley-Miller, Section Head (Environmental Planning & Conservation) 01235 540343.

Recommendations

That the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group recommend the Executive to:

- (i) Note the representations received in response to the submission of the Statement of Community Involvement,*
- (ii) Forward Appendix A to the Planning Inspectorate as the Council's response to the issues raised by the representations and possible changes to the final Statement of Community Involvement that would improve the document.*

16. Major and Minor Planning Applications Improvement Plan

(Pages 135 - 145)

To receive and consider report 12/06 of the Strategic Director.

Introduction and Report Summary

This report considers the implications of the Council being included on the list of Planning Standards Authorities for processing Major and Minor planning applications. Historical and current performance for processing all planning applications are considered, and an Improvement Plan is proposed in relation to Major and Minor applications.

The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Gilbert, Development Control Manager, telephone (01235) 547681.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed Improvement Plan and trajectory, as appended to this report, be agreed.

17. CCTV Service

(Pages 146 - 149)

To receive and consider report 13/06 of the Strategic Director.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Executive will be aware that the 2006/7 budget contained two commitments to make savings within CCTV, these are;

The merging of the current out-of-hours Duty Officer system with CCTV;
The deletion of the post of CCTV Manager.

This report recommends decisions necessary to achieve these commitments.

The contact officer for this report is Paul Staines, Assistant Director (Housing and Community Safety) tel. 01235-547621.

Recommendations

That the Executive agree to the proposals to merge the Duty Officer system with CCTV and delegate to the Assistant Director (Housing and Community Safety) the task of introducing this by September 2006.

The Executive recommend to PRAC the deletion of the post of CCTV Manager from the current staff structure and the creation of the post of CCTV Supervisor with effect from 30/06/2006.

18. Financial Services Update and Appointment of Joint Head of Finance

To receive an oral report from the Strategic Director.

19. Local Government Review - Unitary Authorities

(Pages 150 - 151)

To note that the attached press release was issued by the Leader of the Council on Thursday 18 May 2006 in conjunction with South Oxfordshire District Council.

Recommendation

that the action of the Leader of the Council, in issuing the attached press release, be endorsed.

20. Local Area Agreement

To note that the Local Area Agreement for Oxfordshire has not yet been signed by Oxfordshire County Council and the Government Office for the South East. The agreement, setting out final targets, is scheduled for conclusion by the end of June 2006.

21. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press

The Chair to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(l) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:

Item 22 Minutes
(Category 1 - Information relating to any individual.)
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Item 23 Property Matters
(Category 3)

EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 100A(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

STANDING ITEMS

22. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 May 2006, (previously circulated).

OTHER MATTERS

23. Property Matters

(Pages 152 - 157)

To consider any property matters.