

Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 1 November 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

- 1. Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2021-22**
(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

Cabinet received the annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Oxfordshire. The report showed the need to improve practice with respect to the themes of: Neglect, Child exploitation and Keeping children safe in education.

Cabinet considered the key messages, thanked the Independent Chair and his staff for their excellent work and noted the report.

Cabinet Members: Highway Management and Travel & Development Strategy

- 2. Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) Funding Agreements**
(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

The Council was required to agree payment terms and key milestones with bus operators to ensure the project's timely delivery and the release of funds at appropriate points and ensure the funding conditions set out by the DfT are met. These provisions will be covered through legally binding funding agreements with the operators.

Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Environment and Place, in consultation with the Director for Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Highway Management to negotiate, to finalise and enter into funding agreements with Oxford Bus Company (Go-Ahead) and Stagecoach to provide electric buses and charging infrastructure.

Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care

- 3. Adult Social Care Reforms: Fair Cost of Care Exercise and Draft Market Sustainability Planning**
(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

Cabinet was asked to note the process undertaken so far, so that the project group can continue to work towards presenting the final analysis, findings, and report with the provisional market sustainability plan, using the cost of care exercise as a key input in identifying risks in the local market and spend report, ready for submission to DHSC on 12 October 2022. The final market

sustainability plan will be submitted in February 2023. Cabinet agreed to the officers' recommendations.

4. Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-22
(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

Cabinet considered the contents of the annual report which indicated that the local safeguarding partnership had continued to maintain a high standard of safeguarding work during a second year of COVID that had affected all partner organisations.

Cabinet considered the key findings and noted the report. The Leader thanked the Independent Chair for her excellent work and asked that the thanks be passed on to all staff involved.

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services

5. Workforce Report and Staffing Data - Quarter 1 - April to June 2022
(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

Cabinet received a report providing an update for Quarter 1 on key HR activities along with a refreshed workforce profile. It reported that agile and hybrid working continues, and during Q1 staff and teams continued their utilisation of offices both for business as usual activities and for team collaboration events. Cabinet noted the report.

Cabinet Member: Finance

6. Business Management & Monitoring Report - June/July 2022
(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

Cabinet considered the report which presented the July 2022 performance, risk and finance position for the Council. It showed that there were significant and persistent challenges around demand for children's social care and the availability of care placements and front-line social work staff. Issues and volatility in the wider economy, including inflation and workforce shortages, also continued to increase the risk to the financial position for the Council and the overall landscape looks much more challenging than when the budget was set in February 2022.

Cabinet noted the report and the virements listed and agreed the use of a further £0.4m funding from the COVID-19 reserve to extend the funding for the managed teams in the Family Solutions Plus service within Children's Services.

7. Treasury Management Quarterly Report
(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

Cabinet received a report providing an update on the anticipated position and prudential indicators set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 agreed as part of the Council's

budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2022. Cabinet noted the report and recommended Council to note the report.

8. Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis

(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

This report set out work already underway by the Council and recommended additional actions to mitigate the impact of cost of living rises for those in greatest need.

Cabinet agreed to the proposals for additional support for residents and Council staff; to bring forward the use of £200,000 from the COVID reserve originally agreed to be used for emergency welfare spending in 2025/26 to 2022/23; and to contribute up to a maximum of £380,000 in matched funds to support Council Tax Hardship schemes in 2022/23, equitably dispersed between the City and District Councils.

9. Capital Programme Monitoring Report - August 2022

(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

Cabinet received the second capital programme update and monitoring report for 2022/23, setting out the monitoring position for 2022/23 based on activity to the end of August 2022 and providing an update to the Capital Programme approved by Cabinet in July 2022 taking into account additional funding and new and/or changes to schemes.

An amendment was agreed to ensure that the principles included a reference to aligning with LTCP targets. Cabinet agreed a series of recommendations on the revised programme and prioritisation, re-profiling and funding.

10. Budget & Business Planning Report - 2023/24

(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

This report provided context and background information as well as updates about the wider economic environment since the 2022/23 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed in February 2022. The financial position for the council and the overall economic landscape looked much more challenging and uncertain than when the budget was set.

Cabinet endorsed the report and noted the assumptions that will form the starting point for the 2023/24 budget as well as updates since the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed in February 2022 that need to be considered; approved the budget and business planning process for 2023/24; and a three-year period for the medium-term financial strategy to 2025/26 and ten-year period for the capital programme to 2032/33.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management

11. Highways Asset Management Strategy & Policy

(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

Cabinet considered the report setting out the start of a new approach and focus for how the County Council undertakes Highway Maintenance and Asset Management, intended to be more aligned to the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance's priorities and the policies set out in the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Cabinet amended one of the policies in the statement to include support for the Council's commitment to Vision Zero and then approved adoption of the Highway Asset Management Policy Statement, Strategy document and Plan document.

12. Street Lighting & Illuminated Assets Policy

(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

This report was taken to Cabinet because the existing policy was considered to be out of date and no longer reflected the aspirations of the administration in terms of carbon saving and a more sustainable approach. There will also be development of a new procedure to support implementation of the new policy.

Cabinet supported the new direction and approach and approved adoption of the updated policy statement.

13. Future highway maintenance delivery model - proposed approach

(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

The existing highways maintenance contract which is set to expire on 31st March 2025 with no options to extend remaining. Oxfordshire County Council therefore needs to decide on a model for highway maintenance delivery from that date.

Three main decision points for Cabinet were proposed: i) this report seeking support for the proposed approach; ii) when the project team have a preferred option/s for development and progression; and iii) to seek approval to commence procurement of the preferred option. Cabinet agreed this approach and commencement of this work.

Cabinet Member: Public Health & Equality

14. Terms of Reference for new Integrated Care Partnership for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West

(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

The Health and Care Act 2022 established Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and created new NHS bodies called Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). Within this legislation all ICSs are required to establish new partnership forums called Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). These bring together ICBs and Local Authorities (LAs) with responsibility for Social Care and Public Health in order to integrate the services they plan, purchase, and provide for local residents. The members of the ICP worked together to agree the terms of reference for this new partnership board before its first meeting.

Cabinet approved the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership covering the Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West area and, in principle, the working draft terms of reference, the final version to be agreed by the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council in collaboration with the other partners. Cabinet also approved the appointment of two Cabinet Members to this partnership

Cabinet Member: Travel & Development Strategy

15. Parking Standards for New Developments

(Cabinet, 20 September & 18 October 2022)

This item was deferred from the September meeting in order to allow for discussion by the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee which took place on 7 October 2022. The October meeting of Cabinet received the scrutiny report, a response to its recommendations and an updated standards document.

Cabinet approved the amended document and agreed that the Cabinet Members for Highway Management, Travel & Development Strategy and Climate Delivery & Environment should conduct a review with the relevant officers on issues raised by the scrutiny committee and bring back an update to a future Cabinet meeting before the end of this year.

16. Implementing ‘Decide & Provide’: Requirements for Transport Assessments

(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

This report proposed a change from the ‘predict and provide’ approach to transport planning, which uses current or historical traffic patterns to determine the future need for infrastructure, to a ‘decide and provide’ approach, which decides on a preferred vision of the future and then provides the means to work towards that.

Cabinet adopted the ‘Implementing ‘Decide & Provide’: Requirements for Transport Assessments’ as a formal supplementary document to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Scrutiny Reports

17. Cabinet responses to reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 20 September 2022)

The Cabinet papers included for information the formal responses to the following reports:

- Report of the Carbon Reduction Targets Working Group, commissioned by the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Report of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

- Report of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Voluntary Sector Strategy.
- Report of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- Recommendations of the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee re the 2022/23 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

18. Reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 18 October 2022)

Cabinet received reports on, and will respond formally to, the following:

Report of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Parking Standards for New Developments

Reports of the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- Citizens' Jury: Street Voice
- Property Strategy
- LGA Peer Review on Communications

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

October 2022