

COUNTY COUNCIL – 9 DECEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Governance and Constitution Review 2014 - September *(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)*

In April 2013, the Council adopted new governance arrangements which came into effect following the May 2013 elections. The Council asked its Monitoring Officer to review the effectiveness of these decision-making arrangements a year after their coming into operation, along with the underlying Constitution. Cabinet had before them a report that summarised the emerging issues from the Monitoring Officer's review. They endorsed the direction of travel of the review subject to the proposal relating to the Appeals & Tribunals Sub-Committee being amended to take account of the comments of Audit & Governance Committee by retaining a member on Panels dealing with Home to School Transport Appeals.

The Monitoring Officer's final report and recommendations are included elsewhere on the agenda

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

2. Staffing Report *(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)*

Cabinet considered and approved the quarterly staffing report that provided details of key people numbers and analysis of main changes since the previous report.

Cabinet Member: Business and Customer Services

3. Electricity & Gas Procurement 2016-2020 *(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)*

Cabinet considered a paper that set out an approach to the procurement of electricity and gas for the period 2016-2020 for all of the Council's buildings, street lighting and other illuminated street furniture.

Cabinet approved the proposal to use the energy framework contracts established by LASER for the period 2016-20 and to delegate to the Deputy Director – Commercial the authority to decide on the preferred in-contract purchasing option.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

4. Action Plan in Relation to Recent Serious Case Review Overview Report

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

At its meeting on 13 May 2014, Cabinet endorsed the recommendations of the Cabinet Advisory Group on the Strategic Assurance Framework for safeguarding children and young people. One of those recommendations was that Cabinet (among others) should be alerted to the outcome of all Serious Case Reviews and actions flowing from them. Cabinet had before them the first of such reports and they noted the action being taken in response to the Serious Case Review.

5. Progress Report on the Delivery of the Placement Strategy - For Children In and on the Edge of Care 2013-16

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

Cabinet had before them a report updating Cabinet on the progress achieved since The Placement Strategy was approved by Cabinet in July 2013. This report provided an update on the strategy's four major work streams: residential homes build, delivery model for edge of care and residential provision, re-commissioning of young people's supported housing, and fostering and adoption reform. It particularly drew attention to the challenges around foster care recruitment and asked Cabinet to endorse an ambition for Oxfordshire to become "the most fostering friendly county in the country". It recognised that there needed to be a radical step change in recruitment of foster carers to relieve the pressure on the agency placement budget and that the local authority cannot be the sole driver but needed engagement from a number of partners including from business and the community. A number of new approaches were recommended in this area and Cabinet endorsed these initiatives.

6. Provision of Education Services to Oxfordshire Schools

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

In April 2014 Cabinet asked officers to explore the possibility of a partnership with Hampshire County Council to run services that support schools in Oxfordshire to improve their learning outcomes. Cabinet had before them a report that set out the outcome of that exploration.

Cabinet agreed that Oxfordshire County Council should formally withdraw from work to develop a partnership arrangement with Hampshire County Council in relation to school based services.

7. Final Report On The Proposed Extension Of Age Range At Icknield Community College, Watlington

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 3 November 2014)

The Cabinet Member considered a report on a Governing Body of Icknield Community College led proposal to establish a Sixth Form at the College from September 2015. In order to do so, the College's upper age limit must be altered from 16 to 19

A consultation and a statutory notice period had now run their course and the report summarised the procedure followed and outcomes of it.

The Cabinet Member approved the extension of the age range at Icknield Community College to include post-16 provision.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 21 July 2014.

Cabinet Member: Environment

8. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

Cabinet considered a report that covered four separate but connected documents that relate to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

A. Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2014

This set out the Council's updated annual assessment of the demand for, and supply of aggregate minerals in Oxfordshire.

B. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy - Proposed Submission Document

This sought agreement to the Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document, setting out the Council's proposed planning strategy and policies for minerals and waste developments in Oxfordshire to 2030, for publication for comment and submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

C. Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan - Review of Statement of Community Involvement

This sought agreement to RECOMMEND to Full Council a revised version of the Council's Mineral & Waste Statement of Community Involvement for adoption.

D. Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (Sixth Revision) 2014

This sought agreement of a revised Minerals & Waste Development Scheme 2014, setting out the Council's updated programme for the preparation of the Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

Cabinet approved the Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2014; they agreed the amended Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy in principle as the basis of a complete amended version of the Plan for **RECOMMENDATION** to Council for publication and submission to the Secretary of State under Regulations 19 and 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; they **RECOMMENDED** Council to adopt the Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement to replace the existing Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement adopted on 7 November 2006; and approved the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (Sixth Revision) 2014 subject to final detailed amendment and editing, to have effect from 23 December 2014.

Note: an extraordinary meeting of full Council has been agreed for 27 January 2015 to consider the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

9. Statutory Rights of Way Management Plan

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

It is a statutory duty for the highway authority to prepare, publish & review a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). The RoWIP provides the strategy framework for public rights of way recording, management and development. Oxfordshire's first RoWIP was adopted on 21 February 2006 and ran until the end of 2011/12. On 22 March 2012 the Cabinet Member for Transport authorised the extension of the current RoWIP validity date to March 2014 and the development of its replacement. Following public consultation on the review, Cabinet had before them a report seeking approval to adopt the Rights of Way Management Plan.

Cabinet noted the results of the consultation, approved the proposed changes to the consultation document, adopted the Rights of Way Management Plan for the period January 2015 - December 2025; and extended the lifespan of the current Rights of Way Improvement Plan to December 2014.

10. Follow up to the Call in of a Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment: Proposed Pelican Crossings - A415 Marcham Road and Ock Street, Abingdon

(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

At their meeting on 3 November 2014, the Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the decision of the Cabinet Member for Environment made on 9 October 2014 following proper notice of a call in. The Committee agreed to refer the decision back to Cabinet for it to consider in the light of the material concerns that the Committee had about some aspects of the decision.

Cabinet noted the complexity of the information they will be asked to consider and agreed to defer consideration of the Scrutiny Committee Call to the December meeting.

Cabinet Member: Finance

11. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review 2014/15
(Cabinet, 25 November 2014)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2014/15 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year. Cabinet noted the report and **RECOMMENDED** Council to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

N.B The report is included for consideration elsewhere on this agenda.

IAN HUDSPETH
Leader of the Council

November 2014