

COUNTY COUNCIL – 3 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Oxfordshire Devolution

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet gave consideration to the expression of interest for devolution to Oxfordshire that was submitted to government on 4 September and referred the matter to full Council for a full debate.

N.B A report is included for discussion elsewhere on this agenda.

2. Aureus School (Great Western Park Secondary), Didcot

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet agreed a delegation to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader to approve the Stage 2 Full Business Case and the award of the construction contract for an 11-16 co-educational school providing 1,200 places..

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

3. Staffing Report Quarter 1 2015/16

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 30 June 2015 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

4. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report for Quarter 4

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet noted a report which provided details of performance for quarter one (2015/16) in order to monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

5. Consultation on the Future Provision of Intermediate Care in North Oxfordshire

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal for public consultation on the future of the way Intermediate Care is provided in North Oxfordshire. Intermediate Care is services which support people to avoid going into hospital or help people get back home as quickly as possible. The consultation was to ask for people's views on Intermediate Care continuing to be provided through a bed-based service in Chipping Norton and on the development of home-based Intermediate Care.

Cabinet agreed that there is a public consultation on the way Intermediate Care is provided in North Oxfordshire in the future.

6. A New Model for Health and Care in the Henley-on-Thames Area

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report outlining the future model of health and care being established in the Henley-on-Thames area, including the plans for the new Townlands Hospital, which was agreed at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body on 24 September 2015. Cabinet noted the intentions of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the potential implications for the County Council.

7. Learning Disability Health Provision

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report seeking a decision in respect of the current contract for learning disability health services.

Cabinet approved the Learning Disability Strategy for Oxfordshire; noted the extension of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's contract for health services with Oxfordshire County Council and approved the transfer of the contract for Learning Disability health services to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group as soon as an acceptable contract has been agreed.

8. Adult Social Care Workforce Development Strategy

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet endorsed the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015 to 2018, committed to implementing the strategy delivery plan and requested regular progress reports.

N.B A report is included for discussion elsewhere on this agenda.

9. Information and Advice – Strategy and Procurement Plan

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the information and advice strategy developed in response to the requirements in the Care Act 2014 for local authorities to provide information and advice relating to care and support issues for adults and carers.

Cabinet approved the Information and Advice Strategy and approved the plan for the procurement of a specialist advice service for Oxfordshire.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

10. Future Arrangements for Children's Social Care

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

In common with councils across England, Oxfordshire County Council have to make savings across all service areas as a result of reductions in government funding, pressures on all services and restrictions on ability to raise Council Tax. The Children, Education and Families Directorate need to find savings of £8 million.

The Council has developed a preferred model for a new 0-19 service based on integrating the services provided by Children's Centres, Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Social Care. This approach was recommended by the cross-party Cabinet Advisory Group set up to look at new ways of working.

The new service will focus on supporting children on child protection plans, children in need and those identified as vulnerable through Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme.

Cabinet had before them a report setting out options which they approved for public consultation.

11. New Arrangements for the Delivery of Education Support and Engagement with Schools in Oxfordshire in Response to Future National and Local Challenges

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

The growth of school autonomy has triggered a debate about the role of local authorities and the conditions necessary to encourage and sustain a self-improving system. Cabinet considered a report that argued that there is still significant strategic value in retaining in-house school improvement services.

Cabinet approved, in principle, the creation of a ring-fenced trading service for Schools and Learning, trading with third parties and to allow for further developmental work and consultation with key stakeholders.

Cabinet also endorsed the proposal to reconfigure the remaining services into a streamlined and integrated Central School Support Portfolio comprising the remaining non-delegable functions.

12. Academies Programme 2015-20: Strategic Groupings of Schools

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet had before them a report setting out the current position in the County and strategic implications for the academies programme following the publication of a new programme of legislative change by the new Government.

Cabinet adopted the principles of the 'Strategic Implications for Academies Programme' and agreed: to adopt a more assertive policy in identifying appropriate sponsors for schools required to convert to academy status; to promote appropriate groupings to form new Multi Academy Trusts and encourage the growth of existing Multi Academy Trusts based in the county; to further develop and promote the collaborative company model, both to incorporate more schools in these and to extend the scope of their pooling of resources and responsibility and to use collaborative companies as a 'stepping stone' to the formation of Multi Academy Trusts.

Cabinet Member: Environment

13. Direct Delivery by Developers of Major Off-Site Highway Works

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

In June 2013 Cabinet resolved, with respect to major infrastructure requirements associated with new developments, to approve the principle that direct delivery of such major infrastructure by the developers was acceptable; subject to adherence to specific key principles. Following the introduction of the approved processes Cabinet considered a report seeking changes to the key principles with regards to Highways infrastructure in order to provide added flexibility and speed up the process of completing S106 agreements.

Cabinet agreed to approve the changes to the key principles of direct delivery obligations to be integrated within S106 agreements (for Transport).

Cabinet Member: Finance

14. Service & Resource Planning 2016/17

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet had before them the first in the series of reports on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2016/17 which will culminate in Council setting a budget for 2016/17 in February 2016. The report set the context and the starting point for the process, including:

- the assumptions on which the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is based,
- known and potential financial issues for 2016/17 and beyond which impact on the existing MTFP, and
- a proposed process for Service & Resource Planning for 2016/17 including a timetable of events.

Cabinet approved the Service and Resource Planning process for 2016/17; and approved a four year period for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2019/20.

15. 2015/16 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Plan

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet had before them a report focussing on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2015/16 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of August 2015. Capital Programme monitoring and update is included at Part 3 and Part 4 set out a change to Fees and Charges.

Cabinet noted the report; approved the virement requests; recommended Council to approve a virement in respect of the unringfenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund and the transfer of £2m from Public Health reserves to the Children's Homes Capital Project; approved the bad debt write off; noted the Treasury Management lending list; approved the fees and charges and the updated capital programme.

N.B The matters referred to in the report for approval by Council are included for consideration elsewhere on this agenda.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

October 2015