

## COUNTY COUNCIL – 1 NOVEMBER 2016

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

#### ***Cabinet Member: Leader and Cabinet Member for Local Government, Business, ICT and Customer Services***

#### **1. Report into the Future of Local Government in Oxfordshire** *(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

Cabinet considered reports on the outcome of the two reports from Grant Thornton UK LLP and PwC into the future of local government in Oxfordshire including the outcomes of consideration of the two reports by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2016.

Cabinet considered the evidence set out in the PwC and GT reports, and the opportunity both reports presented to save £100m over five years by moving to a single unitary for Oxfordshire, and the need for local structures within that. Having regard to the recommendations of Performance Scrutiny, Cabinet asked officers to work with stakeholders, including the public, to develop proposals for a single Oxfordshire unitary council, and in particular further explore the proposal set out in the Grant Thornton report known as option 6, whereby local areas within the county could make decisions for their own area, within an overall budget and policy framework set at the strategic level.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Leader***

#### **2. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2016/17** *(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

Cabinet made member appointments to a variety of bodies which in different ways support the discharge of the Council's Executive function.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader***

#### **3. Staffing Report Quarter 1** *(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 31 March 2016 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

**4. Business Management & Monitoring Report Quarter 1 – 2-16/17**

*(Cabinet, 18 October 2016)*

Cabinet noted a report which provided details of performance for quarter one (2016/17) in order to monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas.

***Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care***

**5. Report on the Impact of the National Living Wage on Adult Social Care's Contracted Services**

*(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

The National Living Wage came into force in April 2016 and is over and above the National Minimum Wage which remains in place for those workers between the ages of 18 and 25 years of age.

In November 2015 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the outcome of the Spending Review which included provision for increased income generation through an additional council tax precept for the purpose of supporting adult social care costs including the National Living Wage. The Department for Communities and Local Government subsequently noted that this was also in recognition of demographic changes which are leading to growing demand for adult social care, which is increasing pressure on council budgets.

In February 2016 the county council approved an additional 2.0% council tax precept for 2016/17 to support the costs of adult social care in Oxfordshire, including the impact of the implementation of the National Living Wage from 1 April 2016. In addition a further £0.600m was agreed to be added to the budget to support the impact of the National Living Wage on the cost of sleep-in care.

Some of the Adult Social Care Precept has already been used to reflect the direct impact of the National Living Wage and other agreed cost pressures on providers in 2016/17. The impact of the National Living Wage is not known either nationally or locally. In view of this the council asked officers to undertake further work in this area to establish its impact.

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval to recommendations about how the remaining funding should be used within Adult Social Care and that noted the availability of the £0.600m funding to support sleep - in care.

Cabinet agreed the assumed hourly rate for home support workers funded through the council's home support model and that £1.062m of the Adult Social Care Precept should be added the council's contribution to the Older People's Pooled Budget to fund the cost of additional payments; they agreed that £0.964m of the Adult Social Care Precept should be held as a contingency; they further agreed that £3.000m of the Adult Social Care Precept should be used to increase the council's contribution to the Older

People's Pooled Budget on a permanent basis to support on-going demand and expenditure pressures evident in 2016/17. Cabinet also noted that the £0.600m budget available to support the cost of sleep-in support for service users will be ring fenced for such purposes. Cabinet noted that work on the further implementation of these recommendations would be on going and authorised the Director of Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to agree the implementation.

### ***Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families***

#### **6. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report/The Performance Assessments & Quality Assurance Annual Report and The Case Review & Governance Annual Report**

*(Cabinet, 18 October 2016)*

The OSCB's remit is to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Oxfordshire. Cabinet noted the annual report that summarised the key achievements in the last year and provided an analysis of safeguarding arrangements. These arrangements have been found to be in a good state as confirmed by the Stocktake Report on child sexual exploitation in 2015 and the Joint Targeted Area inspection in 2016. Cabinet also noted two further supporting annual reports: the Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance Annual Report and the Case Review & Governance Annual Report.

### ***Cabinet Member: Environment***

#### **7. Proposed Draft Economic Strategy Plan Refresh**

*(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

In order to reflect progress in delivering the objectives of the original SEP, published in March 2014, and the development of associated detailed plans, address changes in the purpose of the plan and align better with changing economic circumstances, OxLEP have undertaken a SEP "refresh".

Cabinet endorsed the refreshed SEP.

### ***Cabinet Member: Finance***

#### **8. Service & Resource Planning Report 2017/18**

*(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

Cabinet considered the first in the series on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2017/18 which will culminate in Council setting a budget for 2017/18 in February 2017 which included a proposed process for Service & Resource Planning for 2017/18 including a timetable of events.

Cabinet approved the Service and Resource Planning process for 2017/18; and approved a four year period for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2020/21.

**9. Transition Fund for Community Initiatives for Open Access Children's Services**

*(Cabinet, 20 September 2016)*

In February 2016 the council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a 'one off' fund to provide pump priming to support Children's Centres. It was agreed that a cross party group of county councillors would consider maximum benefit of this fund and bring proposals back to cabinet for decision. Cabinet considered a report setting out the outcomes of the working group and approved proposed guidance notes and grant application form.

**10. 2016/17 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report**

*(Cabinet, 18 October 2016)*

Cabinet had before them one in a series of financial monitoring reports for 2016/17 that focused on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2016/17 – 2019/20. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of August 2016. Capital Programme monitoring and update was included at Part 3.

Cabinet approved the virement requests; approved supplementary estimates and a request for funding from the Efficiency Reserve; they noted the Treasury Management lending; approved the updated Capital Programme and associated changes to the programme; approved an additional £2.1m in the budget provision for the Westgate Library project; approve the inclusion into the Capital Programme of the new primary school for Southam Road, Banbury; and approved new charge as set out in the report and addenda.

***Cabinet Member: Public Health***

**11. Director of Public Health Annual Report**

*(Cabinet, 18 October 2016)*

Cabinet noted and recommended Council to receive and note a report which summarised key issues associated with the Public Health of the County. It included details of progress over the past year as well as information on future work.

The report covered the following areas: The Demographic Challenge; Building Healthy Communities; Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage; Lifestyles and Preventing Disease Before it Starts; Mental Health and Fighting Killer Diseases.

**IAN HUDSPETH**  
Leader of the Council

September 2016