

## COUNTY COUNCIL – 11 NOVEMBER 2017

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

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

#### **1. Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund**

*(Cabinet, 19 September 2017)*

The County Council proposed to make bids to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), an investment programme announced in July 2017 by the Department for Communities and Local Government and administered through the Homes and Communities Agency. The County Council was required to develop candidate schemes and packages of schemes and make Expression of Interests for viable programmes by 28 September.

The Cabinet had before them a report which sought approval for a submission of an Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund, including the process for the assessment of viability of schemes and for their subsequent prioritisation. Cabinet approved a submission of an Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund and delegated to the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Environment, and taking into account the view of the Growth Board, the final viability and prioritisation assessment and the detail of the bid submission including the detail of projects to be included within each scheme.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council***

#### **2. Staffing Report – Quarter 1 - 2017**

*(Cabinet, 19 September 2017)*

Cabinet noted a report which provided an update on staffing numbers and related activity for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017. Progress would be tracked throughout the year on the movement of staffing numbers from those reported at 31 March 2017 as the Council continued to deliver required budget savings. The Cabinet also continued to track reductions since 1 April 2010 to reflect the impact on staffing numbers via delivery of the Business Strategy and Transformation programme.

#### **3. Business Management & Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 - 2017/18 - October 2017**

*(Cabinet, 17 October 2017)*

Cabinet noted a report giving details of performance for quarter one 2017-18. The report is required so that the Cabinet can monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas and be assured that progress is being made to improve areas where performance is below the expected level.

#### **4. Corporate Plan 2017-2021**

*(Cabinet, 17 October 2017)*

Cabinet had before them a report on the approach and direction being taken in developing the council's new Corporate Plan (2018-21).

Cabinet commented on the draft prospectus and approved it for finalisation and publication. Cabinet noted the approach being taken to develop the full new Corporate Plan which would be submitted for approval to full Council in due course.

#### **5. Governance Review**

*(Cabinet, 17 October 2017)*

On 11 July this year, Full Council agreed to ask Cabinet to work with Political Group Leaders to bring forward a plan for implementing revised political governance arrangements. The impetus was to ensure that the Council's governance arrangements are transparent, inclusive and reflect the political dynamics of the Council. The timescale envisaged for implementation of any new structures was 'as soon as practicable'.

Cabinet considered a report that set out: the potential range of outcomes - changes to the form or structure of decision making; the responses from a councillor survey; the setting up of a cross-party task group to work up options for Political Group Leaders and Cabinet – working within an agreed timeframe and to specific terms of reference; and the potential use of comparative costs and benchmarked examples

Cabinet agreed that the governance review should also include a review of potential improvements to the existing arrangements, in the interests of completeness; noted the headline themes arising from the councillor survey; and agreed the setting up of the Task Group

#### ***Cabinet Member: Children & Family Services***

#### **6. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) Annual Report/The Performance Audit & Quality Assurance Annual Report and The Case Review & Governance Annual Report**

*(Cabinet, 17 October 2017)*

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 welcomed the annual report summarising the key achievements in the last year and providing an analysis of safeguarding arrangements.

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. Queen Street Experimental TRO**

*(Cabinet Member for Environment, 12 October 2017)*

Cabinet had previously approved an experimental TRO to close Queen Street to buses, taxis and private hire, subject to Secretary of State approval but recent advice from the Department for Transport had indicated further monitoring would be required prior to closing the street to buses on an experimental basis. However, there was still a requirement to close the street to taxis and private hire vehicles and the Cabinet Member considered an urgent report which sought approval to defer a decision on exclusion of buses, but implement the exclusion of taxis and private hire vehicles in line with the proposals reported to Cabinet in July 2017.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended), the Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee had agreed that in her opinion the matter was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred insofar as it would cause delay in the implementation of the TRO, prior to the new Westgate centre opening on Tuesday 24 October..

As set out under Rule 19(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision, with the approval of the Chairman of the Council, was declared exempt from Call-In as it was deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests. This is now reported to Council as required by the Constitution.

Cabinet Member for Environment agreed, pending the decision of the Secretary of State, to defer a decision on the part of the experimental TRO excluding buses from Queen Street until further monitoring had been undertaken with the Westgate centre open; and approved implementation of the part of the experimental TRO to exclude taxis and private hire vehicles from Queen Street.

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

### **8. Service & Resource Planning Report – 2018/19 – September 2017**

*(Cabinet, 19 September 2017)*

Cabinet had before them the first report in a series on the Service & Resource Planning process for the forthcoming year which will culminate in Council setting a budget for 2018/19 together with the medium term plan and capital programme to 2021/22 in February 2018. The initial report set the context and the starting point for the process, and sought approval to the proposed process, including the timetable and a four year period for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2021/22.

**9. 2017/18 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report - August 2017**

*(Cabinet, 17 October 2017)*

Cabinet considered the second financial monitoring report for 2017/18 that focused on the delivery of the 2017/18 budget based on projections at the end of August 2017. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances. Capital Programme monitoring and update was included at Part 3.

Cabinet approved the virement requests, the bad debt write offs and the requests for new reserves relating to the Community Support Service and Children, Education & Families Projects set aside for funding for projects within Children, Education & Families as part of the work to manage demand.

Cabinet also noted the Treasury Management lending list and approved the updated Capital Programme.

***Cabinet Member: Local Communities***

**10. Transition Fund for Open Access Children's Centres – September 2017**

*(Cabinet, 19 September 2017)*

The Cabinet had before it a report which dealt with the undetermined decisions from the 18th July Cabinet about the Florence Park site. The report also looks at the expenditure against the 'one off' £1m fund to provide pump priming to support community-led solutions for delivering open-access services for children and families agreed by Council in February 2017. Following three rounds of grant funding and allocations to twenty six organisations, there was a remaining balance of £262,674. In relation to the future use of the Florence Park site, Cabinet Agreed to support the proposal for asset transfer and transition fund grant for Aspire. Cabinet further agreed to provide active and positive support to assist Aflah Nursery finding alternative premises; and to approve the proposed use of the transition fund underspend and to invite Aflah Nursery to reformat their proposal as appropriate to re-apply under the new scheme for transition funding should they so wish.

***Cabinet Member: Public Health & Education***

**11. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016/17**

*(Cabinet, 19 September 2017)*

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.

CC

N.B. This report is included elsewhere on the agenda for consideration by full Council.

**IAN HUDSPETH**

Leader of the Council

September 2017