

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

The decisions take effect at the time and date specified, unless before that time written notice is given in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules requiring the decision to be called in for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

If you have a query please contact Sue Whitehead (Tel: 07393 001213; E-Mail: sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

CABINET - TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2016

<i>List published 21 December 2016 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 30 December 2016</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence	Councillor Rodney Rose.	CLO (A. Newman)
2. Declarations of Interest	None.	CLO (A. Newman)
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 (CA3) and to receive information arising from them.	Agreed and signed.	SW
4. Questions from County Councillors	See attached annex.	
5. Petitions and Public Address	Item 6 – Mr Graham Jones; Sara Fuge, Development Manager, Oxford Westgate Alliance; Phil Southall, Managing Director, Oxford Bus Company Martin Sutton, Stagecoach in Oxfordshire; Debbie Dance, Oxford Preservation Trust; Councillor Steve Curran Item 7– Councillor Nick Hards Item 8 – Councillor Charles Mathew; Councillor Nick Hards Item 9 – Councillor Nick Hards Item 10 – John Hulett, spokesperson for Red Kite Children's Centre Working Group; Charlie Payne, local resident; Councillor Jean Fooks; Councillor David Williams; Councillor	

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	Anne Purse; Councillor Gill Sanders Item 11 – Councillor Liz Brighouse	
<p>6. Proposed Amendments to Traffic and Access Restrictions - Queen Street, Oxford</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Environment <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2016/035 <i>Contact:</i> Andy Warren, Project Sponsor Tel: (01865) 815835</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED:</p> <p>(a) To consider the Cabinet Member for Environment's decision and recommendation as set out in paragraph 6.</p> <p>(b) If the Cabinet is minded to approve the Cabinet Member for Environment's recommendation, TO INSTRUCT officers to work with bus operators and others towards the 'additional measures' set out in paragraph 11, seeking Cabinet or Cabinet member approval where required.</p>	<p>Following a vote by a show of hands (by 2 for and 7 against) the recommendation on page 14 of the agenda was not agreed.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded and following a vote by a show of hands (by 7 for to 0 against with 2 abstentions) it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: to instruct officers to report to a future Cabinet meeting a proposal for an experimental closure of Queen Street to buses and taxis which address the concerns about conditions in St Aldates and High Street raised during the recent consultation and which does not rely on the bus turning facility at Worcester Street.</p>	<p>DEE (S. Halliwell)</p>
<p>7. 2016/17 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Report - October 2016</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2016/073 <i>Contact:</i> Katy Jurczynszyn, Strategic Finance Manager (Finance, Strategy & Monitoring) Tel: 07584 909518</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note the report;</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>CFO (K. Jurczynszyn)</p>

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<p>(b) approve the request for the creation of OXSIT traded service Reserve as set out in paragraph 41;</p> <p>(c) approve the debt write off detailed in paragraph 52;</p> <p>(d) note the settlement of the debt detailed in paragraph 53;</p> <p>(e) note the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 3;</p> <p>(f) approve the changes to the Capital Programme at Annex 7b and Annex 7c.</p>		
<p>8. Concluding Report of the Income Generation Cabinet Advisory Group</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2016/117</i> <i>Contact: Claire Phillips, Senior Policy Officer Tel: 07785 453260</i></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance RECOMMENDS Cabinet to endorse the work of the Income Generation Cabinet Advisory Group and agree to disband the group.</p>	Recommendations agreed.	CFO (C. Phillips)
<p>9. Service & Resource Planning Report - 2016/17 - December 2016</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2016/074</i> <i>Contact: Katy Jurczyszyn, Strategic Finance Manager (Finance, Strategy & Monitoring) Tel: 07584 909518</i></p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to take the issues set out in the report into consideration in forming their proposed budget for 2017/18, Medium Term Financial Plan to 2020/21 and Capital Programme to 2020/21.</p>	Recommendation agreed.	CFO (K. Jurczyszyn)

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<p>10. Rents for Asset Transfer of Children's Centre</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Property, Cultural & Community Services <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2016/132 <i>Contact:</i> Nigel Cuning, Corporate Landlord Manager Tel: (01865) 780250/Ben Threadgold, Policy & Performance Service Manager Tel: 07867 467838</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) Maintain the terms of the existing Asset Transfer Policy in considering transfers of children's centres to community groups;</p> <p>(b) Extend additional support (as outlined in para 31) beyond 1st April to help community groups develop a viable business case fully;</p> <p>(c) Agree that a deadline is set for these cases to be brought forward to be considered at a 3rd and final round of the Transition Fund, no later than the Cabinet meeting in July;</p> <p>(d) Offer a defined, short-term rent-free period of up to a maximum of 6 months to support mobilisation, where the business case would otherwise not be viable. After this initial period the rent would increase in line with the asset transfer policy, to 50% of the commercial rent level for the property.</p>	<p>An amendment was proposed by Councillor Harrod, seconded by Councillor Lindsay-Gale and it was agreed to:</p> <p>(e) Maintain the terms of the existing Asset Transfer Policy in considering transfers of children's centres to community groups;</p> <p>(a) Extend additional support (as outlined in para 31) beyond 1st April to help community groups develop a viable business case fully;</p> <p>(b) Agree that a deadline is set for these cases to be brought forward to be considered at a 3rd and final round of the Transition Fund, no later than the Cabinet meeting in July;</p> <p>(c) Offer a defined, short-term rent-free period of up to a maximum of 6 12 months to support mobilisation, where the business case would otherwise not be viable with a review after 6 months to consider progress. After this initial period the rent would increase in line with the asset transfer policy, to 50% of the commercial rent level for the property.</p> <p>N.B. the 12 month period to start on 1 April 2017.</p>	
<p>11. Senior Management Review - Proposed Structure</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Leader <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2016/127</p>		

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<p><i>Contact: Steve Munn, Chief HR Officer Tel: (01865) 815191</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) endorse the Senior Management Review recommendations and proposed structure:</p> <p>(b) agree in principle that the post of County Director should be made permanent and re-designated Chief Executive; and</p> <p>(c) agree that pending a permanent appointment as discussed in paragraph 9 above Peter Clark is redesignated from County Director to Interim Chief Executive</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed subject to the change set out in the addenda and shown in bold and strikethrough below:</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) endorse the Senior Management Review recommendations and proposed structure:</p> <p>(b) agree in principle that the post of County Director should be made permanent and re-designated Chief Executive; and</p> <p>(c) agree that pending a permanent appointment as discussed in paragraph 9 above, and following the full Council decision Cabinet to endorse Peter Clark's is redesignation from County Director to Interim Chief Executive.</p>	<p>CHRO (G. Crean)</p>
<p>12. Forward Plan and Future Business</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: All</i> <i>Contact Officer: Sue Whitehead,</i> <i>Committee Services Manager Tel: 07393 001213</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question received from the following Members:

1. From Councillor Bartholomew to Councillor Stratford

“At the meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group on Income Generation on 11 October I put forward a proposal for a 'Speed Tube Protocol' which I believe will not only improve Highways' response to planning applications, but will generate substantial income for the Council.

In an exchange of emails subsequent to the meeting between myself, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Economy & Environment, it was agreed that an officer report on this proposal would be prepared for the meeting of the CAG on 29th November. Unfortunately this did not occur and is not referred to in the final report of the CAG.

Now that the Group is ending, could I have an assurance from both Cabinet members that a working party, in which I am to be included, will be established to investigate and develop the proposals?”

Answer

Councillor Stratford commented that there was no need for a working group but that the matter would be considered by Councillor Nimmo Smith and officers as part of fees and charges and would involve Councillor Bartholomew.

2. From Councillor Howson to Councillor Harrod

“Using the data provided by the DfE for the Stage 2 consultation on a National Funding Formula for Schools, how many primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire are shown in the DfE calculations as net gainers and net losers under the proposed future arrangements?”

Answer

“Figures provided by the F40 group give the following numbers of gainers and losers:

Primary: 108 gainers, 121 losers
Secondary: 24 winners, 10 losers”

Supplementary: In response to a further question Councillor Harrod agreed that it was likely that small village schools would be affected. With officers he was still analysing the impact to see if anything could be done.

3. From Councillor Tanner to Councillor Nimmo Smith

“Does the Cabinet member now deeply regret putting dangerous buses back into the pedestrianised Queen Street in Oxford against the advice of his own officers and to the huge disappointment of the developers of the new Westgate shopping centre?”

Answer

"I think Cllr Tanner is confused about the process and should pay more attention to the agendas.

Queen Street allows for buses at present and was only closed to these services during a specific period of construction of the Westgate Centre to allow better site access - once the developers had carried out the work, Queen Street was always programmed to re-open to buses.

The recent item on the Cabinet Member Decisions Environment meeting was regarding the longer term situation in Queen Street. If Cllr Tanner had read the papers properly then he would have understood the difference.

It will be a Cabinet decision about whether or not to pedestrianise Queen Street once the new Westgate centre opens. The item on the Cabinet Member Decisions Environment meeting has a much wider impact than the routine yellow lines, disabled parking bays and pedestrian crossings normally dealt with and it is appropriate that a wider decision is sought. Cllr Tanner is - as always - welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the debate, which may, or may not, give him the decision he seeks."

4. From Councillor Purse to Councillor Nimmo Smith

"Given the likely impact of far fewer cuts of verges will lead to changes in the vegetation on verges, what is being done to ensure that the biodiversity of Oxfordshire verges does not suffer, and are any guidelines being passed on to Parishes taking on their own grass cutting."

Answer

"Through the Oxfordshire Together initiative we are funding Parishes to do a minimum of two cuts which of course they can increase if they wish – and I understand that many of them do so.

Not all verges have the same biodiversity potential. Verges on the shallower chalk and limestone soils such as are found in the AONBs typically offer the greatest biodiversity potential. Verges on richer clay soils will naturally tend to be dominated by a more limited range of vigorous species.

Outside of villages and towns where only a 1m strip of verge is being cut, the biodiversity may increase for a year or two in the un-cut sections as more plants flower. After this however the overall biodiversity is expected to decrease as the more vigorous grasses and shrubs will dominate the un-cut sections of the verge. The reduction in biodiversity is therefore likely to be felt most greatly in areas with an annual 1m cut that support flora typical of lime/chalk or in some locations sandy soils. I have asked officers to consider whether it may be possible within the restricted budget that is available to carry out a limited programme of full-width cuts in those locations which will have the greatest biodiversity benefit.

In areas where the full width of the verge is being cut a reduction in number of cuts per year may benefit biodiversity by allowing verge plants more opportunity to flower and produce seed, though this is dependent upon the timing of cut. Prior to cutting starting in 2017 officers will provide Parishes participating in Oxfordshire Together with suitable generic advice so they can consider the ecological impact of their work.

A number of verges - Roadside Verge Nature Reserves - have historically been identified as being of particularly high biodiversity value. Through a process of survey and local knowledge gathering, we are currently reviewing the condition and management needs of the RVNRs. At the end of the 2017 survey season, we will have identified the most biodiverse verges where management effort can be concentrated to best effect. Management of these high value RVNR sites may require additional treatment above the current cutting regime. We are already working on a small scale with local initiatives such as the County Council hosted Wychwood Project's 'Suck Seed and Sow' project, in partnership with the Cotswolds AONB to find ways of achieving this."

5. From Councillor Purse to Councillor Nimmo Smith

"Lorries parking in laybys along the Eastern Bypass between Headington and Cowley continue to bring a nuisance to local residents and others using the roads and laybys as the drives stay for hours at a time and habitually use the roadsides as toilets. Can the Cabinet member urgently enter into talks with those large local businesses likely to attract deliveries about providing proper facilities for lorry drivers to park, so reducing the unpleasantness and risk to public health being caused at present."

Answer

"The laybys referred to do provide an important facility to allow HGV drivers to have their statutory breaks which are designed to ensure drivers don't drive when they are tired.

Senior officers and Councillors do have regular meetings with key representatives from the BMW Mini plant in Cowley and we continue to raise with them issues relating to the major HGV flows to and from their site. I am aware that over the last few years they have made a number of changes in their arrangements to allow them to accommodate more HGVs on site.

I have asked officers to liaise with both the City Council (who are responsible for cleansing) and Thames Valley Police to see whether there are any low-cost measures that can be taken to relieve the problems referred to."

Supplementary: Councillor Nimmo Smith undertook to raise the specific issue of BMW having a token system although he noted that it was not only BMW vehicles using the laybys.