

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](http://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](mailto:sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

### **CABINET - MONDAY, 4 JUNE 2018**

<i>List published 5 June 2018 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 12 June 2018</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	Councillors Heathcoat and Hibbert-Biles.	DLG (A. Newman)
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>  - guidance note opposite	None.	DLG (A. Newman)
<b>3. Questions from County Councillors</b>	See attached annex.	
<b>4. Petitions and Public Address</b>	6. Michelle Codrington-Rogers, Oxfordshire Federation NASUWT Diane Wilson, Oxfordshire District Secretary National Education Union (ATL section) Stuart Robinson, Assistant Secretary Oxfordshire National Education Union (NUT Section) Tristan Powell, Acting Headteacher at Northfield School Councillor Emily Smith Councillor Emma Turnbull Councillor Liz Brighouse  7. Councillor Liz Brighouse	
<b>5. Consultation on the Closure of Northfield School</b>  <i>Cabinet Member: Public Health &amp;</i>		

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<p>Education  <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2018/077</i>  <i>Contact: Barbara Chillman, Service Manager – Pupil Place Planning, Tel: (01865) 323804/Sandra Higgs, Schools Service Manager Tel: 07917 087603</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to support a public consultation on the following two options:</p> <p>(a) Close the Northfield School, placing current students in alternate and more suitable provision, pending the outcome of the SEND Review</p> <p>(b) Continue to operate Northfield School as is, pending the outcome of the SEND Review.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed (by 6 votes for with 1 abstention).</p>	<p>DCEF (B. Chillman/ S. Higgs)</p>
<p><b>6. Joint Working Arrangements between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council</i>  <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2018/078</i>  <i>Contact: Robin Rogers, Strategy Manager</i>  <i>Tel: 07789 923206</i></p> <p><b>The CABINET is RECOMMENDED to AGREE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the principle of implementing joint working arrangements with Cherwell District Council;</li> <li>• That the guiding principles set out in paragraph 13 should apply in the development of joint working arrangements;</li> <li>• To establish a joint Chief Executive post with Cherwell District Council;</li> <li>• To the establishment of a member-led Partnership Working Group.</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>C. Exec (R. Rogers)</p>

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<p><b>The CABINET is RECOMMENDED to NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft s113 agreement attached as Annex 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>The CABINET is RECOMMENDED to DELEGATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conclusion of a s113 Agreement with Cherwell District Council to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader;</li> <li>• The agreement with Cherwell District Council to Terms of Reference of the Partnership Working Group to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader.</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>          <p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>C. Exec (R. Rogers)</p>          <p>C. Exec (R. Rogers)</p>

## **ANNEX**

### **ITEM 3 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Question received from the following Member:

#### **Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles**

1."How willing and able are other schools and colleges about taking some of the Northfield students?"

#### **Answer**

"We have had some early discussions and positive indicators from local academies and external providers. Once the decision is made we will pursue those offers and go out to tender for the number of places needed to suit the location and needs of the students."

#### **Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Lindsay-Gale**

2. "Had the rebuilding the school on the Northfield site with a more suitable layout already been discounted in the SEND Review as an option?"

#### **Answer**

"The SEN Review will define the needs for SEN provision across Oxfordshire in the medium term. Once this need has been defined we will then consider all property options to determine how best we can meet the needs of pupils with SEN."

#### **3. Question from Cllr Emily Smith to Councillor Lindsay-Gale**

"Despite teaching and support staff at Northfield School doing an excellent job, parents tell me the building has been falling apart around them for sometime. I also understand the layout of the building does not meet the needs of these students. Why haven't the cabinet tackled the maintenance and layout problems sooner?"

#### **Answer**

"Northfield School was not purpose built as an SEN/SEMH school. This is not unusual but it is one the reasons why we are doing an SEN Review to ensure we have a sound long term plan for provision across the county.

Maintenance budgets for school buildings are delegated to schools and it was the school's responsibility to maintain the condition of the building. However, we had also put Northfield School in the School Structural Maintenance Plan, where we help schools with bigger maintenance issues such as Northfield's roof. The asbestos incident meant we moved to fixing the immediate issue and working with CEF to determine the best future for the school, not just in terms of property, but in terms of education provision.

It is also worth saying that, as you know, the County Council outsourced to Carillion the end-to-end management of property. We terminated this relationship because we were unhappy with

the poor service they provided. We are sorry that the children of Northfield were affected but now the service is in house, we will do everything we can to ensure we meet the educational needs of all our children.”

#### **4. Question from Cllr Judy Roberts to Councillor Hibbert-Biles**

“With such a huge demand for special school places already, what will happen to the Northfields students for whom you will not be able to find suitable placements for (as was confirmed as a possibility by the Director of Children’s services during Performance Scrutiny)?”

#### **Answer**

“We believe that commissioning places for larger numbers will open up the market . Also, approaching local providers differently with a new commitment from our Council commissioning team working with SEND and Education officers will obtain more positive results. Early indications are that we will be able to accommodate students successfully. There will be a ‘base camp’ at Northfield to enable transition and provide familiarity for students in the interim period as requested by parents at the recent information evening.”