

## Service and Resource Planning 2012/13 – 2016 Scrutiny Committee Summary Comments

The Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee met on 12 January 2012 to consider the comments made by scrutiny committees on the budget proposals at their meetings on 15 December 2011. The committee wishes to forward the comments of the individual committees along with the following additional point set out here for consideration by Cabinet in making budget decisions:

The Committee wishes to flag its concern regarding the potential impact of academies on the capital programme.

Committee	Comments on the Proposals	Other Actions Agreed
<b>Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee</b>	The Committee broadly supported the Business Strategy.	Officers and Cabinet members explore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring funding for infrastructure projects that will encourage business growth across Oxfordshire is prioritised.</li> <li>• Amalgamating the Natural History Service with the Countryside Service</li> <li>• Amalgamating the Business Skills Bureau with the Connexions Service</li> <li>• Robust monitoring arrangements for road repairs to ensure extra money can be diverted quickly if necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>	The committee agreed to support the proposals made for the services listed above in principle.	In giving their support, members stated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee wished to receive further information about the potential and experience of transferring council run Gypsy and Traveller sites to the private sector</li> <li>• The proposed review of the mobile library service should be brought to scrutiny early next year</li> <li>• The Library Service should continue to remain on the committee's forward plan as proposals are implemented, as will Adult Learning</li> <li>• They asked services to consider, and keep under review, whether there are any opportunities to generate income.</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Services Scrutiny Committee</b>	Overall the committee supported the proposals outlined in the directorate Business Strategy and the Capital Plan, accepting them by a	The committee wished to bring the following comments to Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The possible impact of acceptance of the Dilnot recommendations and the possible impacts on the Social and Healthcare budget. The need for adequate central government funding.</li> <li>• The need for increased Health funding after the planned restructure of Health to reduce pressures on Social and Health care, and the need for an adequate provision</li> </ul>

	<p>majority of 8 votes to 2.</p> <p>A minority opinion was expressed, which did not endorse moves towards increased commissioning of services. The possible fragmentation of the system and the difficulties in reliably monitoring providers were given as the main reasons for these reservations.</p>	<p>of funds for Continuing Healthcare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to understand the origin and impacts of the increased demand for Health and Social Care.</li> <li>• The reliance on reducing the costs of care through private providers, and the possible impact on the quality of care.</li> <li>• The risk of private providers experiencing financial difficulties and the potential impact on service users.</li> <li>• The capacity of management within the directorate to adequately deal with service changes and new providers whilst undergoing significant internal restructuring.</li> <li>• The current capacity of ICT infrastructure and the need for upgrades in the near future.</li> <li>• The long term funding and potential overspends on Physical Disabilities support services.</li> <li>• The provision of transport for those who wish to use day services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee</b></p>	<p>Overall the committee:</p> <p>Had no further comments regarding the Capital Plan pending a further discussion in January,</p> <p>Felt that frontline services were protected and accepted the proposals.</p>	<p>From the discussion the committee decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that the effectiveness of the HUB model for service delivery remain a priority on the work programme.</li> <li>• That the committee receive information regarding outdoor learning centres which is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in January at its meeting in February.</li> <li>• That the committee would engage in the upcoming review on children’s centres as part of the work programme.</li> </ul> <p>The committee also decided to return to the capital discussion as part of their meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of January with the updated papers.</p> <p>The committee had a further point which was  ‘We recognise that there are still large potential pressures in regards to government announcements such as the academy programme, and request that we are kept updated as the figures and situation become clearer, and fully consulted on any major changes that they may include.’</p>
<p><b>Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny</b></p>	<p>The Committee broadly supported the Chief Executive’s Office</p>	<p>From their discussion the committee decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To add an item on changes to staffing in the Chief Executive’s Office to be added to the future work plan. This will specifically explore how restructuring has affected staff</li> </ul>

<b>Committee</b>	Business Strategy. After some discussion they also supported the Business Strategy for Property, OCS and IT.  Capital Strategy Members supported the capital strategy as set out in Annex 7b.	stress levels and the support provided to staff to adopt new ways of working.
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