

## CABINET

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 April 2014 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.06 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair  
Councillor Rodney Rose  
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat  
Councillor Nick Carter  
Councillor Melinda Tilley  
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale  
Councillor David Nimmo Smith  
Councillor Arash Fatemian  
Councillor Louise Chapman

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Nick Hards (Agenda Items 6 and 7)  
Councillor John Sanders (Agenda Item 7),  
Councillor Liz Brighthouse, (Agenda Items 7 and 10)  
Councillor John Christie, (Agenda Item 8)

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting: Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting: Item	Name
6	Stephanie Skivington (Corporate Finance)
7	Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy
9	Andrew Colling, (Quality, Procurements and Contracts)

*The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **31/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Hibbert Biles.

### **32/14 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 were approved and signed.

### **33/14 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Jean Fooks had given notice of the following question to Councillor Rose:

“It is good that we have a screen in the reception area giving information about meetings in County Hall. However, it would be much more useful if it listed meetings in time order, giving the room involved, rather than in room order as at present. Please can you change this to help people find the meeting they want to attend?”

Councillor Rose replied:

“I thank the Councillor for this enquiry and take on board the request for a more user friendly screen presentation. Once this is established I will be consulting the group leaders before going forward.”

Councillor Nick Hards had given notice of the following question to Councillor Heathcoat

“How helpful or otherwise is the delivery of personal budgets through self-directed support in Oxfordshire?”

Councillor Heathcoat replied:

- “We strongly support the use of personal budgets as a way of allowing people more choice and control over their care.
- Oxfordshire performs extremely well on the numbers of people receiving self-directed support.
  - In the national outcome framework for adult social care for 12/13, 71% of adults, older people and carers receiving community based services are receiving self-directed support compared to 56.2% nationally.
  - 45.5% of adults, older people and carers receiving community based services are receiving a direct payment, the highest percentage in the country and significantly higher than the national average of 16.8%.
- Each year we take part in a national survey of people who use social care. Last year over 500 people in Oxfordshire responded to the survey.
  - 93.7% said they were satisfied with the service they got (compared to 90.4% nationally).
  - 62.7% said they were very satisfied (compared to 64.1% nationally)
- There was a specific evaluation of people in Oxfordshire receiving a direct payment at the end of 2012.
  - People felt they had increased choice and control, and they found support networks of other people who receive direct payments really helpful.

- They also highlighted the need to improve the customer journey from assessment to management of direct payments, and to provide more information and training around how to manage direct payments.
- Since this survey we have done a great deal of work to improve information and advice, including the introduction of community information networks, and the Adult Services Improvement Programme will simplify the process of accessing and managing personal budgets and direct payments further.”

Councillor Nick Hards had given notice of the following question to Councillor Rose

“I see that a new approval and adoption scheme is being put in place for sustainable drainage systems on new developments (Annex 9 on page 53 of the Cabinet papers). How hopeful are you that this scheme will reduce the incidence of flash flooding associated with new developments in the county?”

Councillor Rose replied:

“Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) is being promoted on all new developments as a method of restricting the discharge from the development to the green field run off rate only, by doing this any new development is not increasing the flooding risk downstream.

The methods which can be used are soakaways, swales, porous pavements underground storage, retention ponds and detention ponds, all these methods follow the Government recommendations and guidelines. All these methods cleanse the water which improves water quality and biodiversity.

At the present time intense storms or prolonged rainfall events that we are experiencing are surcharging our existing drainage systems and causing flooding, the only cost effective way of holding and storing rainfall or floods is by sustainable methods. Whilst this will reduce the incidence of flash flooding it will not prevent it entirely.

In 2007 we had major flooding in Oxfordshire, within these flooded areas, where we had porous pavements flooding did not occur. The flood flows were stored and discharged slowly under the pavement surfaces.

Oxfordshire are looked on as one of the leading Authorities in promoting and adopting SUDS systems within the Country.”

Councillor Glynis Phillips had given notice of the following question to Councillor Hibbert Biles

'We have been promised an improved integrated sexual health service bringing together Contraception & Sexual Health services with Genito-Urinary Medicine. There is universal support for an integrated service but one obvious requirement is that these services are easily accessible in

community settings. The service for Oxford City which serves the whole county is now on the Churchill Hospital site which is difficult to get to by public transport. Can you advise when a genuine community based service will be provided in Oxford City and what are the lessons that have been learned from this experience? '

Councillor Hibbert Biles had provided the following written answer:

"The new provider was keen to continue to deliver services from the site; unfortunately they have reported that this is not possible as the site will not be made available to them. Since OUHT were informed that the current site was not available to them they have been working to identify and secure an appropriate site in East Oxford to replace the Raglan House clinic. We are advised that OUHT have identified a suitable location, when the lease is secured an announcement will be made."

Supplementary: Councillor Phillips asked, that given the importance of continuity, what the length of lease would be on the new community facility. Councillor Hudspeth replied that he would let Councillor Phillips have this information when it was available.

### **34/14 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

Item 6 – Councillor Nick Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance

Item 7 – Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment; Councillor Nick Hards, Councillor Liz Brighthouse, local councillors

Item 8 – Councillor John Christie, Deputy Opposition Leader

Item 9 – Mr Richard Burden, Oxfordshire Carehomes Association

Item 10 – Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee

### **35/14 2013/14 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2014**

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report that focused on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies which were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2013/14 – 2016/17. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of February 2014, and also an update on grant funding for the costs of the recent flooding. Capital Programme monitoring was included at Part 3. Part 4 set out requests for changes to 2014/15 Fees and Charges and the Contributions in Adult Social Care Policy.

Councillor Hards referred to the useful overview provided by the summary on page 13 and commented that it would be helpful if public health information could be included. Referring to the savings as a result of staff vacancies he sought assurances that the impact on services would be monitored. Referring to the extra funding to deal with the impact of flooding he expressed concern that with only a limited number of experts in the field we would not be able to get the right people. He highlighted the one off funding for the Thriving families programme and looked forward to seeing how it progressed.

The Leader, responding, paid tribute to the Thriving Families Team who had done a terrific job which had been recognised by central government. Councillor Tilley, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families commented that the Thriving Families programme was very much valued and every effort would be made to keep it going.

Councillor Fatemian, responding, thanked Councillor Hards for his comments. He recognised that the hiring freeze put a possible pressure on staff but felt that overall there was an effort to ensure that they were not under undue pressure. Where there were issues they were picked up and he paid tribute to staff who worked to targets and were delivering the budget.

**RESOLVED:** to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) note the 2013/14 virements set out in Annex 2d;
- (c) approve the 2014/15 virement requests set out in Annex 8; and
- (d) RECOMMEND Council to approve the requests to move additional non – Pool Mental Health expenditure into the Pool and to approve the use of £2.000m of the Public Health Grant Funding to support the Capital Programme in 2014/15 as set out in paragraph 49 and Annex 8;
- (e) approve the debt write off set out in paragraph 53;
- (f) note the updated Treasury Management lending list at Annex 4;
- (g) note the changes to the Capital Programme set out in Annex 7c;
- (h) approve the changes to Fees & Charges and the Contributions in Adult Social Care Policy as set out in Annex 9.

## **36/14 CITY DEAL - OVERVIEW & DELIVERY OF TRANSPORT SCHEMES**

(Agenda Item. 7)

The report summarised Oxfordshire County Council's City Deal submission as the first phase of achieving the long term ambition which will be fully set out in the forthcoming Strategic Economic Plan and further developed through the Local Growth Deal. The report set out the City Deal Transport Business Cases, progress to date, and requested the schemes' inclusion into the Capital Programme.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, in accepting the concept raised a few individual issues: the bio escalator for the Churchill hospital site would put pressure on the infrastructure; referring to the Growth Board and the inclusion of District Councillors he queried whether there would be a conflict for them between wanting to save the green belt and the growth agenda; referring to all the transport schemes he queried who would be connecting them all up.

Councillor Hudspeth commented that the Universities were promoting the bio escalator and that the Growth Board would negotiate to find the right areas for development. Sue Scane and her team had done a great deal of work so far and there would be people working on the individual projects.

Councillor Hards, speaking as the local councillor for Didcot West highlighted the maps on page 71 and the implications of the Strategic Housing market Assessment (SHMA) for Didcot. With the proposed development getting the highways right was vital. The work to the transport hub would be wasted if the road network around it was choked. He also queried aspects of the funding.

The Leader responded to the points made and in particular commented that the SHMA had only been published in February and sites had not yet been identified. The County Council was working closely with District Councils to determine requirements. He highlighted that in terms of transport, cycling was a key element, particularly cycling between Didcot and Harwell science park. He would discuss the funding queries separately with Councillor Hards.

Councillor Brighouse, speaking as local councillor for Churchill & Lye Valley in connection with the bioescalator emphasised the concerns around road capacities in the local area. Transport reports from the City Council had highlighted severe transport problems more than once. There were major implications for the local community in terms of the traffic generated. Councillor Brighouse highlighted a number of issues, including problems with Old Road, the possibility of CPZs and that the Neighbourhood Planning Area would exclude Wood Farm so that needed funding from the CIL may not reach the community. The Leader commented that the Oxford Transport Strategy would look at these issues.

Councillor Nimmo Smith, Cabinet Member for Environment, moved the recommendations.

Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy, corrected the dates on page 59 of the agenda to read October 2013 to June 2014. Although the timescales were very tight work had been ongoing for some time. The biggest risk was that the Government had made it clear the money had to be spent by 2015.

**RESOLVED:** to

- (a) approve the proposed schemes for inclusion into the Capital Programme, to note the progress of the business case for each scheme and to note that the detailed business cases will be submitted for approval, in accordance with the financial procedure rules; and
- (b) approve the release of £1.5m project development budget for the Access to Enterprise Zone project under stage 0b of the capital governance procedures.

### **37/14 EXTERNALISATION OF BACK OFFICE/SCHOOL FACING SERVICES**

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update and sought approval to the next steps in the externalisation of corporate facing HR and Finance back office services and the joint venture proposal to cover school back office and schools learning and foundation years.

Councillor Christie, Opposition Deputy Leader, stated that this was a very welcome initiative and he offered public support for the recommendations. He commented that there was a lot of detail to be considered, not least governance and staffing. Staff had concerns which would need sensitive handling. He looked forward to seeing the detailed business case at scrutiny.

Councillor Rose in proposing the recommendations stated that he did welcome them and that if it did not work out there was the option to return to the full procurement process. Schools had previously indicated they preferred the status quo and valued the public element of the services provided so the public partnership element was to be welcomed.

**RESOLVED:** to:

- (i) suspend the current procurement process for the Outsource of Finance and HR back-office services and the Joint Venture for School Improvement and related support services for schools (with the exception of Outdoor Education Centres); and
- (j) commission a full business case for Oxfordshire with a view to joining the Hampshire IBC partnership and creation of a new partnership with Hampshire for Education services.

### **38/14 CARE HOME FEES 2014**

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet considered a report that described the process the Council had undertaken to review the amount it pays for care homes this year, and that sought agreement of the Target Banding Rates to be applied for 2014-15.

Mr Richard Burden, Oxfordshire Carehomes Association, spoke on the fee increase figures and the lack of response from Care Homes referred to in the report. He commented that in the past figures had been provided and that the Council had a good idea of the figures. He noted the decline in the number of homes accepting Council placements and with regard to delayed transfer of care hoped the Council would not give up an opportunity to help the situation. He called on the Council to move to a negotiated fee increase. Responding to questions from Members Mr Burden commented that it was difficult to fill out the online form in the timescale provided unless you already had figures separated out. He referred to his costs per week and commented that the Council fees were far adrift of these figures. He did not take people at the Council rates.

Councillor Heathcoat, in proposing the recommendation emphasised that her role was to support the users to ensure genuine choice. However there had been wide consultation with the Care Homes with an open process asking for information. The model used was robust and in use nationally.

**RESOLVED:** that in view of the information in the report:

(a) for 2014/15 to:

- Revise our Target banding Rates from April 2014 and:
  - (i). Increase the Target Banding rate for the Residential-Extensive Specialist Category to £458 per week for new placements.
  - (ii). Increase all existing weekly Residential payment rates that are currently paid below £452 per week to £458 per week
  - (iii). Increase the Nursing-Extensive Target Banding Rate to £568 per week
  - (iv). Increase all existing weekly Nursing Extensive and Substantial rates that are currently below £560 per week to £568 per week.
  - (v). Increase the Nursing-Specialist Target Banding Rate to £639 per week
  - (vi). Increase the above rates to reflect the increase in Funded Nursing Care once this is announced later in April 2014.
  - (vii). Continue to use these rates as a guide to secure a care home placement at a funding level as close to the Target Banding Rate as possible.
  - (viii). The above to apply from April 2014 and for care home placements in Oxfordshire.

(b) to approve a permanent virement of £217,000 from corporate contingency to fund the increase in the Target Banding Rate.

## **39/14 CABINET BUSINESS MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 3**

(Agenda Item. 10)



Cabinet had before them a report that provided details of performance for quarter three for the Cabinet to consider. 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.

Councillor Brighthouse commented that the Performance Scrutiny Committee had considered the issues raised by the report. Responding to a comment from Councillor Chapman, Councillor Brighthouse confirmed that the Performance Scrutiny Committee had scheduled an item on the 365 Alive Campaign for a future meeting.

Councillor Heathcoat, noted that delayed transfer of care had been brought up in the report and at the Performance Scrutiny Committee which she had attended. She commented that a lot of work was being done and improvements were being made. There was a need to ensure that these improvements were sustained. She also noted that re-ablement was improving.

**RESOLVED:** following discussion to note the performance reported in the dashboards.

#### **40/14 DELEGATED POWERS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - APRIL 2014**

(Agenda Item. 11)

**RESOLVED:** to note the following executive decisions taken by the Chief Executive under the specific powers and functions delegated to her under the terms of Part 7.4 of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 1(A)(c)(i).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Reasons for Urgency</i>
3 February 2014	Amendment to the Contract for the Provision of a Discharge to Assess Service	Approved an exemption from the full tendering requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with an amendment to the current contract for the provision of a discharge to assess service to include additional volumes over and above those	To provide additional capacity urgently to support the discharge of service users from hospital during a period of severe pressure on acute hospital beds.

		originally contracted	
<p>.....</p> <p>4 February 2014</p>	<p>Further Education provision for High Needs Learners</p>	<p>Approved an exemption from the full tendering requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of commencing or continuing contracts in the academic year 2013/14 for the provision of education to learners with higher special educational needs which result in contracts with a value of over £75,000</p>	<p>To ensure continuity of provision for individuals with higher special educational needs.</p>

**41/14 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

(Agenda Item. 12)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

**RESOLVED:** to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2014