

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 July 2014 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.16 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
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

Other Members in Attendance:

Officers:

Whole of meeting	Joanna Simons (Chief Executive); Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)
Part of meeting	
Item	Name
6	Lewis Gosling (Treasury Management & Pension Fund Investment)
8	Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health
9	Jim Leivers, Director for Children, Education & Families; Janet Johnson, Children with SEN Manager
10	Chris Kenneford, Service Manager - Planning Regulation; Peter Day (Minerals & Waste Policy Team)
11	Lorna Baxter, Chief Finance Officer; Steve Munn, Chief HR Officer; Graham Shaw, Deputy Director – Oxfordshire Customer Services
12	Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer
13	Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer
15	Maggie Scott, Head of Policy

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.

60/14 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2014 were approved and signed.

61/14 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Howson had given notice of the following question to Councillor Melinda Tilley:

“In view of the comments in paragraph 66 of the Treasury Management Outturn for 2013/14 about the total level of revenue balances held by schools, will the Cabinet member identify those primary schools that have held more than 8% of their annual budget in reserves at the end of all of the last three financial years, in order that an explanation may be made of what success there has been in persuading such schools to spend this money on the education of the children that currently attend the school?”

Councillor Tilley replied:

“Members will note that this matter is the subject of a paper that will be discussed at Education Scrutiny later this week, and that the Deputy Director for Education and Early Intervention will challenge the use of balances with schools identified as having consistently held excess balances. Work is on-going to scrutinise and challenge the balances held by individual schools, where excess balances have been held consistently over a number of years. Based on this work, a number of schools will be invited to meet with the Deputy Director and discuss their proposed use of balances to support the education of pupils currently attending the school.

A list of Primary school balances is available on the web site (and attached as an annex to the minutes) for the last 4 financial years, based on DfE published schools outturn information, and including the provisional figures for 2013-14 which are still subject to audit.

The 2013-14 original revenue funding column was compiled on a different basis from the total revenue funding used in the final outturn data published by the DfE. The 2013-14 column includes only the schools' main budget share and does not include pupil premium or other school generated income such as lettings. The impact is to overstate the % of the revenue balance for 2013-14 compared to previous years. Further work is being done to refine these calculations for 2013-14. This will allow attention to be focussed on those schools that have consistently held excess balances where there does not appear to be an acceptable reason for holding those balances. 32 Primary schools have initially been identified as holding excess balances at the end of the last 4 years.

It may be reasonable, for example, for a school to have held balances to meet the costs of an approved scheme within the capital programme e.g furnishing a new classroom or other significant project. “

Supplementary: In response to a question from Councillor Howson querying how given the level of revenue balances Councillor Tilley justified the County Council remaining a member of the F40 Group of local authorities arguing that they were underfunded, Councillor Tilley replied that the two things were not connected

Councillor Roz Smith had given notice of the following question to Councillor Nick Carter:

“Which school capital projects, due to provide space for additional pupils in September 2014, are currently so far behind schedule they will not be ready at least one week before schools re-open in September?”

Councillor Carter replied:

“In the 2014/15 Basic Need Programme, there are 12 projects which require the delivery of new space for extra pupils in September 2014. Four of these are behind schedule (because of unforeseen ground conditions, third-party works, etc).

The four projects are St Gregory the Great, Botley Primary, Cowley St Christopher and Bletchington Primary. In each case, alternative arrangements have been made to accommodate the delay.”

Supplementary: Councillor Roz Smith queried what alternative arrangements were in place for Windmill School should the works not be completed. Councillor Carter gave assurances that in general terms if there was a danger of slippage there would always be adequate alternative arrangements and he undertook to provide Councillor Smith with a detailed answer.

Councillor Pressel had given notice of the following questions to Councillor Hilary Hibbert Biles:

“ITEM 8 –

There are 4 groups of people in Oxfordshire who are particularly likely to suffer poor health. I'd like to know, please, what the Cabinet intends to do about this?

1) People in poverty

Although it is possible to live a healthy life on a low income, it is much more difficult. We have seen the rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer in the last 4 years. Please can you lobby the government to say that it is unfair to make poor people in our country pay the price for the bankers' greed?"

Councillor Hibbert Biles replied:

"Through Public health initiatives we target those groups with the worst outcomes – though these are not necessarily always those on low incomes as other inequalities arise from poor access to services, such as in rural areas or because of language or cultural barriers. Examples include:

- Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation work in Oxford and Banbury e.g. targeting smoking cessation work, mental wellbeing initiatives,
- Focussing on young mothers to support them in breastfeeding their babies
- Making sure access to drugs and alcohol treatment is spread across the county.

Other Council initiatives which target inequalities and poor outcomes (regardless of income) might include:

- reducing the number of young people not in Employment Education and Training - through the Early Intervention Service
- support for young carers"

"2) People in some ethnic minority groups.

The reason this currently escapes much attention is because, astonishingly, GPs are not required to record the ethnicity of their patients. There is some national data (e.g. it is thought that women of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin are 3 times more likely than white women to commit suicide), but it is not possible to say whether this also applies to Oxfordshire. Please will the Cabinet press our GPs to change their practice? The government should act on a national level."

Councillor Hibbert Biles replied:

"The recording in GP systems is set out in the national GP contract. There is little chance that this can be changed locally.

Members of the Council may be interested to know that the whole of the Public Health Surveillance Dashboard is now available as a public resource. It can be found on the County Council public website and comprises analysis and interpretation of over 100 measures of the population's health."

"3) People who are or have been dependent on drugs or alcohol

Your page 102 shows that we are going to be addressing this well, but something more fundamental is required: the "war on drugs" is not working. Please join other groups in pressing the government to come up with a new approach."

Councillor Hibbert Biles replied:

"Thank you for acknowledging the work being carried out to address Drug & Alcohol recovery. Public Health England (PHE) is the lead agency for advising on national policy with regard to drugs and alcohol, the public health team in the Local Authority works closely with PHE colleagues in ensuring that all avenues are pursued in tackling drug problems."

"4) People who are obese

Some action is taking place (your page 97), but this is far from enough. Almost all health professionals agree that the government needs to act. We need either regulation of the amount of fat and sugar in our food (and voluntary regulation is not working anything like well enough) or a tax on junk food and drinks or both. Please add your voice to the voices in the NHS which are calling for this. It will save money and lives."

Councillor Hibbert Biles replied:

"Ensuring that the people of Oxfordshire achieve and maintain a healthy weight is a priority for the Public Health directorate. We have recently developed a healthy weight strategy that acknowledges the complex factors that are contributing to the rising rates of obesity in both adults and children. At a local level, as well as successful weight loss programmes, we are focusing on working with a diverse range of partners to address some of the environmental and cultural barriers people face when trying to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. For example, we are developing a working strategy with planning and transport colleagues to encourage active transport choices wherever possible for people's everyday journeys to work, school and local infrastructure.

We are also very aware of the fact that unhealthy food choices often develop in childhood and our EatWell, MoveMore summer campaign is taking the EatWell plate in to schools and out to playday activities and other festivals around the County. The EatWell plate is an excellent visual resource and activity developed by nutritionists and public health experts, which allows children to easily understand what is meant by a balanced diet. We also plan to develop a programme of work in conjunction with the oral health promotion team to address children's consumption of fizzy drinks in the County.

For National issues such as taxation and reducing sugar and fat content in food products, we work closely with our colleagues in Public Health England (PHE). PHE are our National representatives and are responsible for effecting change at this level, as well as supporting our efforts locally."

62/14 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 Nick Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance

Item 8 – Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health & the Voluntary Sector

Item 9 – Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families;
Councillor John Howson, Local councillor

Item 10 – Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment

Item 11 – Councillor Liz Brighouse, Opposition Leader in the absence of Councillor Christie as Opposition Deputy Leader;
Councillor John Howson; local councillor
Councillor Michael Waine, local councillor
Ian Jones, Secretary of the Council of Oxfordshire Teachers' Organisations (COTO);
Ms Catharine Darnton, Headteacher, Gillotts School

63/14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2013/14

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered the report setting out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2013/14 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential

Indicator Outturn, changes in Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Councillor Hards speaking as Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance commented that some people found it surprising that the council has on average £349m of surplus cash alongside debt of £388m as the complexities of running a Local Authority the size of Oxfordshire were all too often underestimated. He highlighted that with growth in the county there was a need to secure infrastructure ranging from roads to broadband to schools. He also referred to the need to develop facilities for looking after vulnerable children and make provision for adults with learning difficulties and very elderly people who can no longer look after themselves. There will always need to be capital investments with democratic accountability for the management of those investments. He referred to additional other factors that all combined to make the council's Treasury Management a complicated exercise. He indicated that he was impressed with the skill and dedication of the staff concerned.

He highlighted a number of areas where there was a need to exercise particular caution including with credit ratings and lending to other local authorities. He asked that there be sufficient staff in the team with the skills and time to do the job properly. He further sought assurance that the County Council's lending to other authorities is carefully scrutinised at all times and that no undue risks are involved in particular with regard to Scottish authorities in the light of the independence referendum.

Councillor Fatemian paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the team. He highlighted that the Council was living within its means with no new borrowing as referred to in paragraph 17. He added that a line had now been drawn with regard to Landsbanki with 95% of the money recovered. Councillor Fatemian thanked Councillor Hards for his efforts through the year and gave an assurance that there was continual scrutiny with all lending closely monitored. Lewis Gosling explained the approach to lending to Scottish authorities.

RESOLVED: to note the report and to **RECOMMEND** Council to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2013/14.

64/14 2014/15 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - MAY 2014

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet had before them a report that focussed on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2014/15 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of May 2014. Capital Programme monitoring and update is included at Part 3 and Part 4 sets out a change to un-ringfenced grant funding in 2014/15. Changes to Fees and Charges are included at Part 5.

Councillor Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted the main problem areas: the Children, Education & Families (CEF) budget and the Social & Community Services (S&CS) budget. Although accepting that it was early in the year he doubted if all the hoped for savings would be realised and was worried that staff savings in the CEO and E&E budgets would be used to meet the targets. He expressed concern for staff and referred to a duty of care owed to all staff.

Councillor Hards highlighted one or two of the pressures on costs in CEF. Including the home to school transport; the trend in the number of independent foster agency support days. He added that the forecast overspend in the All Rights Exhausted budget, where the achievement of a £150k saving is in doubt, might provoke complaints but he was satisfied with the explanation provided to him by Kathy Wilcox on the nature of the process and its inherent uncertainty. It might however be necessary to look for those savings elsewhere. Councillor Hudspeth agreed that that was the challenge throughout the budget process and it was a difficult thing to manage.

Cabinet Members responded to the individual points made and in particular the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care stressed that staff were valued and she appreciated the work of the staff in Adult Social Care. The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families noted that home to school transport was expected to deliver savings. Councillor Fatemian in introducing the contents of the report thanked Councillor Hards for some of his comments and endorsed comments about the value placed on staff. He stated that it was early in the year and was showing the worst case scenario. He agreed that there were some underlying concerns and that it would be a challenge to see how those pressures were resolved.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) approve the virement requests and changes related to unringfenced grants set out in Annex 2a and Part 4;
- (c) approve the supplementary estimate request in Annex 2e;
- (d) note the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 3;
- (e) approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 8 and the associated changes to the programme in Annex 7c;
- (f) approve the contribution of £1.7m of developer contributions funding to the Cheney Academy to expand the school by an additional class in each year;
- (g) authorise the Director for Children, Education & Families and the Chief Finance Officer to enter into a funding agreement with Cheney Academy to transfer £1.7m of developer funding in stages;
- (h) approve the use of the £1.120m grant to implement the Universal Infant Free School Meal programme and the addition of the scheme to the Capital Programme;
- (i) approve the fees and charges as set out in Part 5 and Annex 9.

65/14 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered the seventh Director of Public Health Annual Report.

As well as reporting on the overall state of health and wellbeing of the county, the paper:

- Reported on the Public Health services that the county council is now responsible for as set out in legislation.
- Reflected on the opportunities afforded by the return of Public Health to Local Government and sketch out some of what the future may hold.

The report analysed these opportunities and included sections reporting on services, important issues and progress in the following chapters:

1. The Best Start in Life
2. Improving Quality of Life for All
3. Reducing Inequalities in Health
4. Infectious and Communicable Diseases

Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Voluntary Sector commented on the report. She highlighted the good news on the Thriving families programme, welcomed the innovation around trainees, the support for young carers and for moving services into the workplace and community. She would have preferred to see more outcome-based evidence in the content and noted the duplication in the introduction. She commented that there were missed opportunities in the report such as the lack of reference to smoking cessation and air quality.

Councillor Biles responded to the points made noting that the Council had worked for many years with District Councils over air quality. She stressed that this was an independent report and that the content was determined by the Director for Public Health. On smoking cessation the County Council were doing quite well and she confirmed that school nurses would be picking the issue up. In introducing the report Councillor Hibbert Biles praised the hard work of the Team and referred to the work on commissioning integrated health services which was seen as an exemplar.

Jonathan McWilliam, presented the contents of the report and thanked members for their input including consideration by the Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He highlighted the 6 challenges within the report around mental health, workplaces, smoking quitters, drugs and alcohol, uptake of health checks and working with the University Hospital Trust. He indicated that he saw opportunities in terms of reducing inequalities and the need to shape services to meet the needs of a diverse range of people.

During discussion Councillor Hudspeth noted the comments of the Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee set out on the addenda. Members generally welcomed the report.

RESOLVED: to **RECOMMEND** Council to receive the report and note its recommen

66/14 SEND (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES) REFORMS

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Children and Families Act (March, 2014) introduced significant changes affecting children and young people, aged 0 - 25, with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. These, in turn, have implications for a number of public bodies, including the Council. The principle changes which impact on the role of the Council include the requirement to publish a 'Local Offer'; the replacement of Statements of SEN with Education, Health and Care Plans; and personal budgets. Cabinet considered the report that summarised the key issues, their implications and how the Council is responding.

Councillor Gill Sanders welcomed the report but expressed concern over the timetable for implementation from Government and the impact on already overburdened staff.

RESOLVED: to be aware of the significant changes to SEN and disabilities and the challenges facing the Council over the coming years as set out in the report.

67/14 OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(Agenda Item. 10)

The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Cabinet considered a report that set out how the Council will involve the community (consultees, stakeholders and other interested parties) in: preparing and reviewing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan; and making decisions on planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council developments. The Council must comply with its SCI in preparing the Local Plan.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment asked what criteria was used to decide on the statutory consultees, noting that there was not a comprehensive list of Council parishes. He also queried what measures had been taken to consult the general public. Councillor Nimmo Smith replied that all 63 Councillors knew that this was happening and they should be making people aware. Peter Day added that consultation included all Parish and Town Councils in Oxfordshire and they relied on the Councils and established Action Groups to get word out.

Following comments from Councillor Lindsay Gale it was agreed to amend paragraph 5.15 on the review of old mineral permissions to reflect that the process would be similar to that for planning permissions.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) agree the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement at Annex 1, subject to final detailed amendment, updating and editing, including the change to paragraph 5.15, as a draft for public consultation ;
- (b) authorise the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning) to:
 - (i) carry out final detailed amendment, updating and editing of the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment;
 - (ii) publish the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation.

68/14 EXTERNALISATION OF BACK OFFICE/SCHOOL FACING SERVICES - NEXT STEPS

(Agenda Item. 11)

This report provides an update and 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 Liz Brighouse, Opposition Leader, stated that the Labour Group supported the public/public partnership as proposed but that there were some issues of concern. There was a risk that people would leave in advance of externalisation and this would need to be managed. There had been a lot of hard work with trade unions to avoid major conflict around human resources such as staff relations: there was a need to ensure that people we need to continue to work sensitively with schools are based in Oxfordshire and available to schools to avoid escalation of issues.

Councillor Howson, speaking as a local councillor, welcomed paragraph 6 but queried if there was any condition on the level of buy in. He expressed concern at the transition cost and asked how the IT funding was to be spent. He was concerned about incompatibility issues between systems. He also expressed concern with regard to education improvement which he hoped would continue to be delivered within the County and that the work of Education Scrutiny would not be downgraded.

Councillor Waine, speaking as a local councillor broadly supported the proposals. He knew that all efforts were being taken to keep schools and governors informed and this was important going forward. Schools were the customers and without their buy in there would be no service. Schools would be looking for value for money, efficiency and accessibility. He queried whether work was being done to ensure the QUEST offers were a local service and requested that schools be totally involved in performance monitoring.

Ian Jones, COTO, stated that following initial fears they were heartened by the proposals. Personal contact was vital and he detailed a number of individual concerns including querying where staff direction would lie. Councillor Tilley thanked Mr Jones and other Trades Union members for their support.

Ms Darnton, speaking as a representative of the Schools Forum, noted the improvement in the proposal from the early stages. She shared concern about the reality of the partnership and the potential for the loss of control which was a key point of negotiations going forward. Named contacts were currently much valued. The change in the period for buy in from 1 year with Oxfordshire to 3 years for the partnership was a concern and could affect take up.

Councillor Rose, in moving the recommendations commented on the points made and confirmed that efforts had been made to keep all involved. The Council valued its relationship with Trades Unions and policy would remain with Oxfordshire. He noted the requests to keep various aspects local but recognised that it was not possible to keep everything in house and still achieve the savings.

Lorna Baxter added that the transition costs included the cost of aligning IT with Hampshire. Steve Munn confirmed that HR policy and strategy remained with Oxfordshire County Council. Graham Shaw added that with regard to the 3 year contracts that 1 year contracts were hard to sustain and 3 years was the norm.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) agree to join the Hampshire partnership as an operational partner for the provision of back office support services with an expected go-live date of 1st July 2015.
- (b) note that a report will be brought to Cabinet in September 2014 setting out the progress made towards a business case for a second partnership with Hampshire concerning a range of school improvement and support services.

69/14 MODIFICATION TO APPROVED ALTERATION OF AGE RANGE AT ST EDBURG'S CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL, BICESTER

(Agenda Item. 12)

In July 2012, Cabinet approved the proposal for St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School in Bicester to alter its age range in order to establish a Nursery class. The alteration is linked to the future relocation and expansion of the school to a new building in the Kingsmere housing development.

The relocation of the school is delayed and so the original implementation date cannot be met and must be postponed until the school is in its new building. Under the Guidance that the original approval was given, a change of implementation date must be approved by the same Decision Maker (Cabinet). Cabinet had before them a report seeking approval of the modified implementation date.

Michael Waine, speaking as a local councillor commented that he had worked with the school on the project since its inception. He was aware of the problems that had beset it and in supporting the project he asked that every effort be taken to expedite matters to ensure the school was ready for September 2015.

Councillor Tilley in moving the recommendation proposed that in future such procedural reports come to her delegated decision making meetings rather than Cabinet unless there were exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) approve the modification to the implementation date of the approved alteration of age range at Edburg's CE (A) Primary School, Bicester; and
- (b) agree that future alteration of age ranges and similar proposals on school organisation be determined by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families at delegated decision making sessions rather than Cabinet unless there are exceptional circumstances.

70/14 RECOMMENDED SPONSOR FOR THE NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR BARTON, OXFORD - REPORT ON THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPROVED PROVIDERS AND APPROVAL OF PREFERRED OPTION

(Agenda Item. 13)

The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as this which requires a new primary school for 2015.

This process has been followed for a new primary school for Barton, Oxford and Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to the recommended provider which will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for a final decision.

Glynis Phillips, speaking as a local councillor, supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED: to approve the Cheney School Academy Trust as the preferred provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

71/14 RECOMMENDED SPONSOR FOR THE FIRST NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR NW BICESTER - REPORT ON SELECTION PROCESS FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS AND APPROVAL OF PREFERRED OPTION

(Agenda Item. 14)

The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as this which requires a new primary school for 2015.

This process has been followed and Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the preferred provider which will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for a final decision.

In addition the Cabinet was asked to consider whether similar decisions on further schools should be made by the Lead Cabinet Member unless there are exceptional circumstances. Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families supported the proposals but felt that it would be better if similar recommendations came to Cabinet for transparency to allow councillors to be involved thus strengthening the recommendation to the Secretary of State for Education. The Leader clarified that the cabinet Member would take such decisions at her delegated decision making sessions which were public meetings.

RESOLVED: to agree

- (a) the White Horse Federation as the recommended provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement; and
- (b) that in future the preferred provider for a new school should be approved by the Lead Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Education & Families in a delegated decision meeting rather than Cabinet, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

72/14 CABINET BUSINESS MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 4

(Agenda Item. 15)

Cabinet had before them a report that provided details of performance for quarter four 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 Liz Brighthouse, Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee informed Cabinet of the approach The Performance Scrutiny Committee had taken and noted that it was for them to work effectively to focus in depth on particular performance indicators. At the last meeting they had looked at adult social care and she thanked Councillor Heathcoat and John Jackson, Director for Social & Community Services for their attendance. They had also looked at Children, Education & Families and in particular had focussed on NEETs.

Following discussion:

RESOLVED: to note the performance reported in the dashboards.

73/14 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 16)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet.

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

74/14 DELEGATED POWERS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - JULY 2014

(Agenda Item. 17)

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 7.3 of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3.1(A)(c)(i).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Reasons for Urgency</i>
7 February 2014	Provision of Drug & Alcohol Education in Secondary Schools	Approved a contract award for the provision of drug and alcohol education in secondary schools to "The Training Effect" for two years with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months at a total value of £521,240	To ensure continuity of service provision of a statutory service following transfer of functions from Public Health to local authority.

75/14 EXEMPT ITEM

(Agenda Item. 18)

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RESOLVED: that the public be excluded during the consideration of the Annex to Item 19 since it is likely that if they were present during that discussion there would be a disclosure of "exempt" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below the item in the Agenda.

76/14 DIDCOT GREAT WESTERN PARK - PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Agenda Item. 19)

The information contained in the annex to the report is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed category:

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that where a tender or bidding process is in progress disclosure would distort the proper process of open competition and would prejudice the position of the authority in the process of the transaction and the Council's standing generally in relation to such transactions in future, to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to discharge its fiduciary and other duties as a public authority.

As a consequence of a new 3,300 unit housing development at Great Western Park, Didcot, there is an immediate need to provide a 420 pupil Primary school within the development for September 2015. Outline Planning consent has been gained for the overall development (housing and schools etc.) by the developer; associated with which is a S106 agreement securing land and contributions towards various infrastructure, including the proposed primary school. Work to complete this new school project commenced in June 2013 and the Cabinet considered a report setting out actions so far and the planned approach to enable detailed design to be completed in order to enable construction to start in October 2014, with completion in time to enable pupils to begin school in September 2015.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) endorse the progress to date
- (b) delegate to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader and the local councillor the authority to approve the Stage 2 Full Business Case and the award of the construction contract.

in the Chair

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Date of signing

2014