

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 October 2014 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.25 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 Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Nick Hards (Agenda Items 5 and 15)
Councillor Gill Sanders (Agenda Item 7)
Councillor John Sanders (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor John Howson (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor Liz Brighthouse (Agenda Items 10 & 11)

Officers:
Whole of Meeting Joanna Simons (Chief Executive); Deborah Miller (Chief Executive's Office).

Part of meeting
Item

5	Kathy Wilcox, Chief Accountant
7	Maggie Blythe, Independent Chair of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board, Lucy Butler, Deputy Director, Children's Social Care & YOS
8	Mark Kemp, Deputy Director, Commercial
9	Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy, Steve Smith, Service Manager and Daniel Round, Locality Manager
10	David Etheridge, Chief Fire Officer, Simon Furlong, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
11	Maggie Scott, Head of Policy
15	Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy, Jeremy Hollard, Commercial Delivery Manager

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.

92/14 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2014 were approved and signed.

93/14 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Hards had given notice of the following question to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

“Please would the Cabinet Member for Cultural and Community Services explain how the proposed enhanced Home Library Service would be publicised if the service changes in line with the current proposals? I ask because my enquiries suggest that the current Home Library Service is not well known among the potential users.”

Councillor Lindsay-Gale replied:

I agree that the wonderful service that the Home Library Service provides should be better known. We do undertake regular promotion to customers, communities and the general public but I agree more could be done. What the current review of mobile library services is demonstrating is that there is a clear interest and demand for this service. Once the consultation has been completed and the results analysed, if we proceed in line with the current proposal, then our enhanced Home Library Service will be strongly promoted through a coordinated publicity campaign with posters and leaflets in libraries, health centres, doctor’s surgeries and other appropriate locations.

We will talk to existing service users and reach potential customers through engagement with Adult Social Services, our delivery partners, AgeUK Oxfordshire and the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), and referral through the Community Information Network via community events and locality workers. There is a dedicated page on the OCC website which will be updated regularly and we will seek to publicise the service through partner publications, parish and town newsletters and the local press. We would welcome the support of county councillors in promoting the service in their divisions.

Supplementary: In answer to a request by Councillor Hards, Councillor Lindsay-Gale undertook to make a concerted effort to publicise the service changes and in particular to those staff that ran the old peoples homes

Councillor John Sanders had given notice of the following question to Councillor Hudspeth:

“I am told that it will take about half a day of preparation for negotiation of the lease of the Council’s land that would form the site, off Cornwallis Road in

my Division, for the proposed City Farm development, to the advantage of children in Cowley and in the rest of Oxford. We have been waiting 15 months for this half-day's work by the County's Contractor and seem no closer to achieving it than we were 15 months ago.

I concede that the project will not provide statutory services, however, we are not asking that the Council should provide the project, merely that it facilitates its implementation where it, cheaply, can. If it will help, I am prepared to contribute money from my community budget to pay for the Contractor's time and I should point out that I and Cllr Gill Sanders have already contributed £3000 of previous Community Budget money to facilitate earlier work on the project.

While this matter remains unresolved the project is in grave danger of losing substantial funding from other sources and may be cancelled.

Will the Council now negotiate with the Contractor to facilitate a speedy resolution to this impasse?"

Councillor Hudspeth replied:

I'm sure that Cllr Sanders is aware of my personal support for this project. I first met with the project team in 2010 when I was Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure and was impressed with their vision. When a funding issue was identified last year I was able to find a solution which should have unblocked the process. Unfortunately, there was a disconnect in the process and the history behind this was lost until recently. I can now report that the work has been reviewed and the papers should be completed by 24th October.

Organisations do need to recognise though, that while schemes may be a priority for them, we need to consider them along with all other schemes requiring input. We only have a limited resource to pay our contractor and need to be clear that we will not be able to progress everything as quickly as we would like.

Councillor John Tanner had given notice of the following question to Councillor Nimmo Smith:

"The infuriating road-works on the Oxford southern by-pass, next to my division, are way behind schedule, again over budget, and are imposing huge costs on local businesses and disruption to family life for tens of thousands of road users in and around Oxford. To what extent does the Cabinet agree it would have been better to shorten the number of weeks of traffic chaos by making sure the work was carried out over-night and at weekends, as well as during the day?"

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

It is infuriating that yet again Cllr Tanner has his facts wrong and is jumping on yet another band wagon, we sympathise with all those people who have suffered delays during the work, particularly while the contraflow has been in place. However you must keep in mind why the work is being done – the road network in and around Oxford is already at capacity and we need to introduce extra capacity to ensure that the city is able to thrive now and in the future. This project has the backing of the business community as it was part of the successful funding bid by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Trying to construct a complex scheme such as this in a location where there are already peak time delays without increased disruption is unrealistic. We have put a lot of effort into ensuring we communicate with the public to encourage them (and their employers) to plan their journeys where possible, such as using other forms of transport, routes or travel times, and will be continuing to keep them informed through the remainder of the scheme.

The road works on the Oxford southern bypass are on schedule and the contraflow is planned to come off at the end of November, the advertised completion date for the scheme.

For this final phase of the contraflow which started on Wednesday night, there is a lot less highway work to complete on the roundabout, and this phase will be a lot shorter than the first. The removal of the contraflow will bring more road capacity and ease journeys for many people. There will be a few remaining works taking place in early December, but these will be completed overnight to avoid any disruption to road users.

It is true to say that the intended start of the scheme was delayed on several occasions by nine months due to issues with Thames Water's infrastructure which were beyond our control, and during the scheme when an unmapped electricity cable in poor condition was discovered which put a key area of the site on hold for over four weeks while SSE disconnected it. As you know, we have allocated extra money to the scheme partly so that this recent discovery could be dealt with and the work accelerated further to ensure that the contraflow could come off as scheduled at the end of November.

Many people have called for 24 hour working and increased hours, as there has been a perception that works have only been taking place within 'normal' site hours. In fact works have taken place over longer daytime site hours and the majority of weekends, including Sundays, for some time now, although hours and numbers of personnel will vary - at times people won't be able to see them depending on where they are working, collecting materials off site/in compound, on breaks, weather etc.

Night-time work has also been taking place for some activities, for example works have been taking place last week on Thursday/Friday night to plane off all the existing surfacing, and other night-time works are planned. Material and labour availability for full 24 hour working is limited in the short term due to the volume of road works being undertaken within the industry at

this present time, which particularly affects some of the specialist subcontract resource required for parts of this project.

Some of the delays we experienced during August due to a fragile unmapped electric cable would have meant that increasing resources/night time working would have resulted in a large additional cost for very little benefit, as we were dependant on this cable to be disconnected to allow us to complete work in a key area at Kennington Roundabout. We also have had to consider noise issues, as there are residential properties at either end of the scheme, and we have had complaints over noise during night time works earlier in the scheme.

We have also reviewed the traffic management plans for this new phase of the works to see where further changes could be made to the layouts to relieve some of the pinchpoints on the scheme, whilst maintaining safety. Initial observations are that the main contraflow and the delays to the A34 are significantly improved. However there are still inevitable delays affecting other local routes – we will be reviewing these over the coming days as drivers will inevitably make their own adjustments to their routes/times. Where beneficial we will make further adjustments to signal timings/signage/layouts.

Supplementary: Asked whether he regretted that the new measures introduced to reduce delay were not implemented earlier, Councillor Nimmo Smith replied that the delay had been due to Thames Water Infrastructure and not the County Council.

Councillor John Howson had given notice of the following question to Councillor Stratford:

“Can the Cabinet member explain the background to the Catering Investment Reserve Fund revenue reserve mentioned in paragraph 84 of the Report by the Chief Financial Officer including the source of funds for the reserve?”

Councillor Stratford replied:

The Catering Investment Fund is the historical Trading Account surplus from Food with Thought, accumulated prior to the service being delivered via the CCS contract. The surplus achieved was the difference between the DSG funding allocated to schools and the cost of delivering the catering service. This earmarked reserve is used to fund the investment needed to meet basic statutory H&S requirements of kitchens and essential upgrades.

Councillor Fooks had given notice of the following question to Councillor Nimmo Smith:

“It is hard not to be pleased that at last there is government money to improve the road network in and around Oxford. It is, however, at least as hard not to be appalled at the current chaos around the city. Oxfordshire residents and businesses need an apology and an explanation as to why all

these works have to be done at once, leading to maximum congestion and delay. Would the Cabinet member please take advice from highway experts as to how to reduce the congestion, whether by working much longer hours or stopping some work until others are finished, and implement it right away before Oxford grinds to a halt?”

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

I sympathise with everyone who has been delayed in traffic in recent weeks and I am sorry that the work we are doing is meaning longer journeys for people in the short term. I also understand why people are asking why so much needs to be done so quickly.

To understand the scheduling of the work you need to look at how the future of Oxford is shaping up. The council was successful in bidding for money from government in making much needed investment into the area's transport infrastructure. We have major developments at the train station, the Westgate and Westway and Barton on the horizon. Our improvement works need to be done before those schemes happen – doing them at the same or afterwards would not be good planning.

In addition, timescales to deliver all the schemes are constrained by milestones laid out by the government.

There is no getting away from the fact that there is a massive amount of work which must be done if Oxford and Oxfordshire is to continue to thrive. Work has to be carefully coordinated to ensure a minimum of overlap between each activity and ensure certain schemes are completed in time to enable other schemes to be undertaken.

On the subject of working hours, I can assure you that we work very hard to strike the balance which means we get work done efficiently, at a reasonable cost and with a level of disturbance that is acceptable to residents. Where we can work longer hours, or do tasks more quickly during a job, we do. However, you can work longer hours up to a point, but when you need to employ extra gangs and bring in materials round the clock the cost becomes unaffordable. The impact of night time working on local residents also has to be taken into consideration.

Finally, you asked about stopping work on projects until others were finished – in effect doing one job at a time. Doing this is not possible as it would mean not only that it would take a great many years to deliver the improvements needed right now but also that funding would be lost as deadlines were not met, so schemes would never happen. To do nothing is not an option, the residents of Oxfordshire have been requesting improvements to be made and we are now delivering them.

Supplementary: Asked whether he would be prepared to introduce 2-way traffic through the Worcester Street junction during peak hours, Councillor

Nimmo Smith replied that although this was possible, it would extend the works dramatically and cause further delay through the Christmas period

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

“The minutes of the Cabinet meeting 16th September advise that Cllr Hibbert Biles would provide me with a written answer to my question about the opening times of the Sexual Health clinic based in Rectory Road Oxford. When can I expect to receive this information?”

Councillor Hibbert-Biles replied:

The sexual health service that is in place is a different model to the services that were previously available to the local population. It is not appropriate to compare the previous contraceptive and sexual health services that were delivered by the previous provider and their clinic opening times of the old site in East Oxford.

The service model for this service is in accordance with current best practice providing a network of clinics across the County which provide different levels of service to the public. As part of this service the Rectory Road site is a second site in Oxford for the public to access services.

Both sites in Oxford now provide both contraceptive and sexual health, and sexual transmitted infection testing and treatment, which are a more comprehensive range of services than was available at East Oxford under the previous Oxford Health service, which only delivered contraception services.

From October 2014 there will be a phased increase in the opening hours of the Rectory Road clinic as new staff are recruited into the sexual health service to provide safe and quality sexual health services and as more residents avail of the services from this site.

It is anticipated that the clinic will have completed the phased increase in opening times early in the New Year. Residents can continue to access sexual health services nearby at the main Churchill site which is open six days a week or can contact their local GP. Details of the current and future opening times of all the clinics in the sexual health service across the County are available from the service website which is the most commonly used point of information for service users.

Supplementary: Councillor Phillips asked Councillor Hibbert-Biles whether she shared her concerns about the need to recruit staff at Rectory Road and therefore increase opening hours and whether the Cabinet Member knew why so many staff had left. Councillor Hibbert-Biles replied that she did share the members concern and there was a meeting this week to discuss the matter.

Councillor Phillips had given notice of the following question to Councillor Nimmo Smith:

“Can I be supplied with the following information?

- a) the list of new pedestrian crossings agreed since May 2013
- b) the criteria used to agree to provide each pedestrian crossing
- c) the source of funding”

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

For (a) and (c) Please see chart below, the ones shaded in green are sites installed since beginning of 2013 and in yellow, the ones either approved for construction, or otherwise reasonably firm in terms of design etc. Please note that these only include ‘free standing’ signalled crossings / zebras, and not pedestrian phases at signals or pedestrian refuges.

There are a number of other crossings planned as part of developments etc., but these are still at a reasonably early stage.

(b) The criteria used to agree to provide each pedestrian crossing are provided in the Department for Transport guidance on the provision of zebra and signal controlled crossings – see specifically Local Transport Note 1/95 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-assessment-of-pedestrian-crossings-ltn-195> supplemented by any specific local considerations as deemed appropriate by officers and as a result of local consultation etc.

Parish Name	Location	Crossing type	Funding	Installation
ABINGDON	SPRING ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	May-13
ARDLEY	B430	PELICAN CROSSING	Developer	Dec-13
BICESTER	FIELD STREET / QUEENS AVE / ST JOHNS ST	ZEBRA CROSSINGS (3)	Developer	Apr-13
CARTERTON	ALVESCOT ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	Apr-13
CARTERTON / BRIZE NORTON	CARTERTON ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	Feb-13
CHIPPING NORTON	B4026 OVER NORTON ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Developer	Mar-14
DIDCOT	B4493 FOXHALL ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	Apr-13
DIDCOT	AVON WAY	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	May-13
DIDCOT	TYNE AVENUE	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	May-13
MARCHAM	A415	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	Aug-13
OXFORD	B4495 WEIRS LANE	ZEBRA CROSSING	Locality	Apr-13
WANTAGE	LIMBOROUGH ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	Developer	Mar-13

WARBOROUGH	A4074 HENLEY ROAD	PELICAN CROSSING	Locality	Mar-13
WHEATLEY	LONDON ROAD / PARK HILL	ZEBRA CROSSINGS (2)	Developer	Nov-13
ABINGDON	A415 OCK STREET	PELICAN CROSSING – approved (CMD 9 October) - <i>decision called -in</i>	Developer	
BICESTER	A4095 LORDS LANE	TOUCAN CROSSING - pending consultation	Developer	
CHILTON	A4185	TOUCAN CROSSINGS (2) – pending consultation	Capital	
CUMNOR	CUMNOR HILL	PUFFIN CROSSING - design stage	Developer	
EAST CHALLOW	A417 MAIN STREET	PUFFIN CROSSING - approved	Developer	
EAST HENDRED	A417 READING ROAD	PUFFIN CROSSING - pending consultation	Developer	
EYNSHAM	WITNEY ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING - pending consultation	Developer	
KINGSTON BAGPUIZE	A415 WITNEY ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING - pending consultation	Developer	
STANFORD IN THE VALE	A417 FARINGDON ROAD	PUFFIN CROSSING - approved (but deferred)	Developer	
WITNEY	BRIDGE STREET	ZEBRA CROSSING - approved	Developer	

94/14 2014/15 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - AUGUST 2014

(Agenda Item. 5)

Cabinet had before them a report which outlined the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2014/15 – 2017/18. The report included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of August 2014, Capital Programme monitoring and an update to the Capital Programme. It also set out a change to un-ringfenced grant funding in 2014/15.

Councillor Nick Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance, expressed concern over the level of overspend in the report, whilst acknowledging the plan to reduce the overspend outlined in paragraph 30 of the report. He questioned why the Highways Services Contract Management Fee had been reduced and whether the Council were equipped to cope with the rising level of local authority children in care.

He further expressed concern over the way the current road works around Oxford had been executed, whilst acknowledging that the timings of the 3 major schemes being undertaken were due to constraints imposed by Central Government Funding. The delays had meant that people were avoiding coming into the City which was bad for the Economy.

He welcomed the works being undertaken on the A34, though in his opinion doing both schemes together was unfortunate.

In response, Councillor Stratford, Cabinet Member for Finance acknowledged that there was a continuing pressure with more children being referred to the Council. A temporary one-off funding from reserves had been used but a long term solution needed to be identified.

In introducing the report, Councillor Stratford indicated that the overspend forecast would need to be reduced through management action and/or the use of one off funding during the year. Whilst action was being taken to manage the position in the year, there was underlying pressure on both Childrens' and Adult Social Care. Any temporary use of balances to address these issues would need to be made up next year and could not be repeated.

Councillor Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care confirmed that plans were in place to address the overspend within her area. She referred to paragraphs 27 and 28 of the report which outlined the huge amount of work being undertaken within her area including the fact that over 90% of social care clients were now being supported to live in their own homes.

In relation to Highways, Councillor Nimmo Smith, Cabinet Member for Environment reminded the Cabinet that the works being undertaken currently were building a better future for Oxfordshire and had been identified back in 2009 but had been cancelled due to lack of funding.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report and annexes including the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 3 and changes set out in paragraph 63;
- (b) approve the virement requests set out in Annex 2a and the supplementary estimate requests in Annex 2e;
- (c) delegate the approval of virements relating to the restructuring of Commercial Services (EE2) within Environment & Economy as set out

in Annex 2a(b) and paragraph 53 and the implementation of saving 14EE31 relating to the consolidation of print services (paragraph 54);

- (d) approve the write off of invoices totalling £39,246.67 as set out in paragraph 62;
- (e) approve the new joint reserve for the Thames Valley Control Centre (paragraph 73);
- (f) approve the £0.480m contribution to capital from the Catering Investment Fund to part fund the capital scheme for the delivery of Universal Infant Free School Meals (paragraph 74);
- (g) approve the contribution of £0.532m of developer contributions funding to King Alfred's Academy to secure additional school places (paragraph 97);
- (h) approve the outline business cases for the three City Deal schemes and release a total budget of £2.132m for detailed design and procurement (paragraph 99);
- (i) approve to delegate authority for the approval of land purchase and advanced utility diversions ahead of full business case approval by Cabinet to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy (paragraph 100);
- (j) approve the budget increase of £0.610m on the A423 Southern bypass Kennington and Hinksey Hill roundabouts scheme (paragraph 101);
- (k) approve the forward funding of the Didcot Station Car Park Expansion to enable early delivery of the scheme in advance of receiving the grant through the Local Growth Fund (subject to final confirmation of the Local Growth Fund allocation) (paragraph 102);
- (l) approve the inclusion of the £2m contribution to the Advanced Manufacturing Hub in Culham as part of Chief Executive's Office capital programme to enable the full delivery of this City Deal scheme (paragraph 103);
- (m) approve the updated capital programme in Annex 8 (changes to the Capital Programme are set out in Annex 7c); and
- (n) RECOMMEND Council to:
 - (i) approve the release of £2.751m contingency to Children's Social Care (CEF2-3) within CE&F on a one – off basis (paragraphs 55-56);
 - (ii) agree that that £1.500m one – off funding from the Older People and Physical Disability Pooled Budget reserves will be used to

- offset part of the in – year pressure across the pools including the Learning Disabilities Pool (paragraph 72);
- (iii) approve the request to release £0.500m one – off funding from the Efficiency Reserve for the Adult Social Care Improvement Programme (paragraph 76);
 - (iv) approve the transfer of £1.193m from the Carry Forward reserve to the Budget Reserve (paragraph 77); and
 - (v) approve the £0.850m contribution to capital from the Early Years DSG funding to increase capacity for two year olds (paragraph 98).

95/14 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 6)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

- Item 5 Councillor Nick Hards, shadow Cabinet Member for Finance;
- Item 7 Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families;
- Item 9 Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor John Howson, Local Member;
- Item 10 Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Opposition Leader;
- Item 11 Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Opposition Leader;
- Item 15 Councillor Nick Hards, Local Member.

96/14 OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (OSCB) ANNUAL REPORT - RELEVANT ISSUES

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 May 2014 had agreed the recommendations of the Cabinet Advisory Group on the Strategic Assurance Framework for safeguarding children and young people. One of those recommendations was that the Director for Children’s Services should provide a report to Cabinet on relevant issues for the County Council arising from the Annual Report of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB). This was the first such report.

This report followed the Annual Report of the OSCB for 2013 - 2014 which had been approved by the Board on 28th July 2014. The OSCB report was the first by its new independent Chair, Maggie Blyth.

The Leader commented that it was for all the community to take responsibility for the safeguarding of children. More reports meant that eventually it could stop.

Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families paid tribute to the report as a very good way forward to prevent further sexual exploitation of children and Safeguarding. Referring to page 132 of the report, she asked whether it could be compulsorily for all members to be trained so that they would know what to look for in order to pass information onto the relevant person/s. She further asked how information was disseminated and whether the information set out on page 144 of the document could be available at community centres, doctors waiting rooms, notice boards and other public places to ensure more cases were picked up. She referred to the £5m overspend in Children's Social Care and the need for Central Government to fund this area properly.

Councillor Tilley, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families thanked Maggie Blythe for such an excellent report concurring with the need for councillors to have as much information as possible. She commended the report to the Cabinet.

Maggie Blyth, in introducing the report, outlined the progress achieved in relation to the objectives, together with the priorities moving forward. She confirmed that it was a requirement to publish serious case reviews in full, but that the number of children harmed had remained constant over the last 30 years. She was confident that the partnerships across Oxfordshire would provide continually improving services for all children and young people, ensuring too that the most vulnerable children had their voices heard.

RESOLVED: to note the annual report of the OSCB and the progress made in relation to its objectives.

97/14 CHANGES TO PARKING POLICY

(Agenda Item. 8)

West Oxfordshire District Council had contacted the County Council seeking authority to undertake vehicle removals within West Oxfordshire as allowed for in the agency agreement delegating Civil Parking Enforcement Powers to the District Council. As a result the Cabinet had before them a reviewed Parking Policy for Oxfordshire.

RESOLVED: to approve:

- (a) use by West Oxfordshire District Council of delegated powers to remove vehicles;
- (b) the amended parking policy and adopt it as the Oxfordshire Parking Policy;
- (c) the authority for the Civil Enforcement Manager to approve removal of vehicles as described in paragraph 12 of this paper;
- (d) the nomination of the post of Traffic Manager to approve the removal of vehicles as described in paragraph 14 of this paper.

98/14 FRIDESWIDE SQUARE CONSTRUCTION WORKS

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Cabinet had before them a report which sought approval for the revised design of the Frideswide Square transport and public realm improvements in Oxford.

The latest design before the Cabinet took into account the feedback from stakeholders and the public following consultation on the scheme that ran from 14 August to 12 September 2014.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, referred to lack of specific cycle lanes in the proposals which was of great concern to the cyclists who would be using the junction. He asked the Cabinet Member whether he thought that mitigations to traffic hold ups had been maximised and whether he was going to listen to cyclist lobby groups and provide a scheme similar to those schemes implemented abroad with segregated cycle lanes.

Councillor Howson stressed the importance of this north – south cycle route for residents in his division. He highlighted the importance of light phasing at the Worcester Street junction. This was a 4 way junction with traffic often backed up to Walton Street and St Giles. Further consideration to signposting, particularly in Park End Street was needed to stop traffic backing up. He further expressed concern about the lack of Cycle lane after Upper Row/ Rewley Road – there was a need to consider what would happen to cyclists when the cycle path disappeared. He expressed the importance of people coming from the North seeing some benefit of the scheme.

Councillor Nimmo Smith, Cabinet Member for Environment commented that he was satisfied that the junction would be much improved and that comments on the design should have been given at the consultation stage.

Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy referred to paragraph 18 of the report. The City Council Executive Board had resolved to support the scheme subject to asking the County to give further consideration to a two lane cycle lane, clearer definition of the shared space, adequate parking for loading for local businesses, signage and lighting. The full City Council resolution and the County's response had been placed on the website.

RESOLVED: to approve:

- (a) the revised design for Frideswide Square shown in Annex 4 to be priced for construction;
- (b) the Traffic Regulation Orders as advertised for a restricted zone for Frideswide Square;
- (c) the area shown on the plan in Annex 1 to be shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.

99/14 OPERATIONAL PEER ASSESSMENT AUDIT ACTION PLAN

(Agenda Item. 10)

Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service had received an external Operational Assessment Peer Review in May 2014. This was a sector led process which replaced the previous inspection regime carried out by of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire Service. It was managed by the Local Government Association, Chief Fire Officers Association and supported by the Fire and Rescue sector.

The Service was required to complete a self-assessment against 7 key critical areas of delivery and the Peer review team then carried out a 4 day visit to review the self-assessment. The Peer Review team were then required to produce a report to advise the Service on areas of notable practices and areas for improvement. The team also reviewed the overarching areas of Leadership, Governance and Capacity.

Having received the report from the peer review team, Cabinet were asked to note the contents and approve the recommendations.

Councillor Brighouse, Opposition Leader congratulated the Chief Fire Officer on the outcome of the Peer Review and in particular on the 365alive target. She paid tribute to the fact that Oxfordshire had retained its own Fire & Rescue Service.

Councillor Rose, Deputy Leader added his thanks to the Chief Fire Office and the Fire & Rescue service for the excellent review and commended the recommendations to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the positive overall assessment (including three areas of notable practice) of OFRS by the peer review team, particularly in relation to its integrated approach with other OCC and partner services;
- (b) support OFRS Strategic Management Team's aim to further add value to OCC (e.g. continuing to develop its safeguarding and community protection activities with SCS, CEF, E & E and PH);
- (c) support OFRS Strategic Management Team's aim to increase specialist resource and asset collaboration with other 'Blue Light' services (i.e. Fire, Police & Ambulance), in line with current government policy and on the grounds of economy, effectiveness and/or efficiency;
- (d) agree for the Peer Review report to be made public via the OCC website and through normal communication channels.

100/14 CABINET BUSINESS MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 1

(Agenda Item. 11)

Cabinet had before them a report that provided details of performance for quarter one for the Cabinet to consider. The report was required so that the Cabinet could monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas and be assured that progress was being made to improve areas where performance was below the expected level.

Councillor Brighouse, Chairman of the Performance Committee, commented that in her view the Performance Committee had begun to work really well and that the Committee had decided to take a more focused approach when looking at issues. The last issue that the Committee had focused on had been around safeguarding children and budget issues to ensure that the Council could respond to vulnerable children.

The Committee were also focusing on drug rehabilitation and opiate use including the on-going use of methadone when coming off heroin, particularly in relation to child protection issues. She hoped that the Health Scrutiny Committee would also be looking at this issue.

Councillor Hibbert Biles, Cabinet Member for Public Health & the Voluntary Sector, commented that she shared the Performance Committee's concerns over the use of methadone and that it was a case of educating GP's to tackle the issue. She confirmed that steps were being taken to address the issue.

Following discussion:

RESOLVED: to note the performance reported in the dashboards.

101/14 DELEGATED POWERS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - OCTOBER 2014

(Agenda Item. 12)

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>
11 July 2014	Request for Exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules – Purchase of 2 Second Hand light Fire	Approved an exemption from the Council's Contract procedure rules for the purchase of 2 second hand light fire appliances at a 50% discount off retail price at a cost of £100,000.	To take advantage of the opportunity to purchase two necessary vehicles at a considerable discount.

	Appliances		
1 August 2014	Request for Exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules – Amendment to the current contract for the provision of a Discharge to Assess Service (to continue with additional volumes	Approved an exemption from the Council's Contract procedure rules in connection with the amendment to the current contract for the provision of a Discharge to Assess Service to include additional volumes over and above those originally contracted.	The additional volumes would ensure the continued support the discharge of service users from hospital and alleviate Delayed Transfers of Care.
8 August 2014	Request for Exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules – Housing Related Support Services for Homeless People and substance misusers – funded by former Supporting People Grant	Approved an exemption from the Council's Contract procedure rules for the extension of contracts for Support Services for Homeless People and substance misusers to 31 January 2016 to a value of £1,663,108 over the extension period	To maintain the service while a full procurement process is carried out.

102/14 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 13)

(Agenda Item)

The Cabinet considered a list of items (CA13) 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.

103/14 A34 MAJOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

(Agenda Item. 15)

.....

The Cabinet had before them a report which followed the 16 September 2014 Cabinet Report for A34 Major Improvement Schemes Ref: 2014/116. This report was provided specifically for Chilton Interchange, and updated the Cabinet on the current position of the scheme, and provided the Stage 2 Business Case for approval.

The information contained in Annex 2 was exempt in that it fell 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 was considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, in that where a tender or bidding process was 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.*

In the event the Cabinet did not discuss the Exempt Information contained within the Annex.

Councillor Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance welcomed the Business Case whilst warning that there was some disquiet amongst the public regarding the validity of the Business Case. He referred to the need for consultation on safe crossing points, especially at Chiltern Fields which was fairly isolated.

The Leader confirmed that the Business Case for the proposals was strong and that the scheme would provide many benefits for the Science Area. In response to Councillor Hards, he referred to two pedestrian crossings, on Chiltern East Side and on the village side. These crossings would be activated by cars coming out of the village and would have yellow boxes in front of them.

RESOLVED: to:

- (e) approve the Stage 2 – Full Business Case for the Chilton Interchange scheme;
- (f) pass Delegated Authority to the Executive Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Leader to Award the contract for construction once tender assessment is complete and provided the costs are within the budget envelope.

in the Chair

CA3

.....
.....
Date of signing