

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 January 2017 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.55 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat
Councillor Nick Carter
Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillor Steve Harrod
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor David Nimmo Smith
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

Officers:

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| Whole of meeting | Peter Clark (Interim Chief Executive) |
| Part of meeting | |
| Item | Name |
| 6 | Ian Dyson, Assistant Chief Finance Officer (Assurance) |
| 7 | Lorna Baxter, Director of Resources |
| 8 | Kate Terroni, Director of Adult Services |
| 9 | Kate Terroni, Director of Adult Services |
| 10 | Kate Terroni, Director of Adult Services and Natalia Lachkou (Adult Services) |
| 11 | Bev Hindle, Strategic Director for Communities; Chris McCarthy, Interim Director Environmental Operations and Peter Day, Minerals & Waste Policy Team Leader |

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.

1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Rodney Rose.

Cabinet asked that their best wishes be passed to him.

2/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2016 were approved agreed and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Nimmo Smith sought a clarification from Cabinet in relation to Minute 110/16 Proposed Amendments to Traffic and Access Restrictions – Queen Street, Oxford. The record of the discussion by Cabinet records that Cabinet “also highlighted the dangers to pedestrians posed by cyclists and indicated that future proposals should also include banning cyclists for the experimental period.” Procedurally this point was not included in the proposed and agreed resolution when it should have been. Cabinet agreed the following resolution to be read in conjunction with Minute 110/16 - Proposed Amendments to Traffic and Access Restrictions – Queen Street, Oxford:

RESOLVED: To agree that the future Cabinet report on proposals for an experimental closure of Queen Street as agreed by Minute 110/16 should include consideration of banning cyclists for the experimental period.

3/17 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

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

“ How many faults with streetlights have been reported each month since the termination of the contract on street lighting; cumulatively how many faults with street remained outstanding at 31st December?”

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

“There are approximately 66,000 streetlights, illuminated signs and bollards, subway lights etc in Oxfordshire. At the end of December there were 1,694 faults, which is just 2.5 per cent. This is broadly what we would expect at this point in the calendar year as there are more faults reported in the late autumn and winter months than at other times of the year. Therefore 97.5 per cent of streetlights/illuminated signs etc in Oxfordshire are in full working order and our interim contractor is working hard on the list of current faults.

| Month` | Issued | Completed |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| April | 375 | 49 |
| May | 228 | 44 |
| June | 213 | 53 |
| July | 214 | 161 |
| August | 378 | 504 |

| | | |
|-----------|------|------|
| September | 252 | 140 |
| October | 948 | 225 |
| November | 702 | 356 |
| December | 490 | 574 |
| January | | |
| February | | |
| March | | |
| Totals | 3800 | 2106 |

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

“Can the Cabinet member provide a date when a new contract dealing with street lighting will be signed?”

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

“Work on preparing a new contract is well underway and the procurement is programmed to take place to enable award at the start of September 2017. However, it is worth pointing out that the council is not without a streetlighting contract, last year the council appointed an interim contractor – Amey.

Amey have been working on emergency repairs since mid-June which is a much better situation than we envisaged back in the spring. That is why we have a number of faults awaiting repair that is not dissimilar to what we’d expect in most normal years in mid-Winter.”

Councillor Tanner had given notice of the following question to Councillor Tilley:

“Donnington Doorstep is an independent family centre in my division which until 2015/16 received an extremely helpful £60,000 a year from the County Council to part fund Doorstep’s drop-in stay-and-play work. It has not proved possible for Doorstep to replace all of the County Council funding in one go. Doorstep is therefore being forced to reduce its drop-in service to just one day a week from February 2017.

However the Doorstep board (of which I am treasurer) is confident that in time we will be able to obtain sufficient extra income from trusts and the local community. Will the Cabinet member ask the cross-party group of councillors to look again at whether it is possible for Donnington Doorstep to obtain some transition funding from the £1 million set aside by the County Council for the purpose of supporting stay-and-play and other activities in the now voluntary children’s centres?”

Councillor Tilley replied:

“I appreciate the position that Donnington Doorstep finds itself in and sympathise with the difficult times that the voluntary sector as a whole are

experiencing. You will be aware that we previously commissioned a service from Donnington Doorstep under contract which came to an end in March 2016.

Council discussed the transition fund at its meeting on the 12th July with the motion resolved unanimously as: Council continues to support the general principle that those in greatest need should have the highest priority. However, Council regrets that it has been compelled to abandon the concept of universal provision offered by our children's centres in Oxfordshire as a result of the Government's cuts in Local Authority Funding.

In the meantime, Council is aware that, as a result of the focus of the most needy children and families in our county, there will be large areas – particularly in the West which now have no Children's Centre buildings – the same areas likely to suffer most from rural isolation as the council removes bus subsidies.

Ensuring that there were some compensation for these areas was a key statement agreed by Council in its February budget. Council therefore believes it is now essential that the effects of the loss of Children's Centres, in these areas is compensated for by:

1. Offering active support to the parents, volunteers and parish councils taking over or hoping to take over the vacated centres;
2. Persuading district Councils to join us in giving as much support to these bodies as possible;
3. That the £1m Transition Fund agreed at the February budget should be committed to these areas to achieve the above.

In addition to the above Cabinet agreed the panel Terms of Reference and Grant Criteria on 20th February with the guidance 'to provide pump priming grants for establishing universal provision of children's services in communities.

The panel chairman Cllr Stratford advised that the application was declined for funding on the basis that this did not meet the criteria of the 12 July in that these services were outside of those offered by our centres.

I feel it is clear that the discussion at council was for supporting those groups to take over vacated centres as outlined in number one and to direct the transition fund to these areas as outlined in number three. I am aware that Donnington Doorstep have resubmitted their proposal and that the Cabinet will be considering the recommendations of the cross-party group when it meets in February."

Supplementary: In response to a request for an assurance that the Transition Funding Working Group would consider the latest application Councillor Stratford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Chairman of the Group confirmed that it had been looked at by the Group and recommendations would come to the next Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Williams had given notice of the following question to Councillor Tilley:

“Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to restore the £60,000 grant withdrawn by the County Council to Donnington Doorstep Family Centre. The reason being that this Children's Centre being a separate trust is not part of the local authority network of provision and therefore cannot benefit from the concession on rents recently granted by the Council to Children's Centres.”

Councillor Tilley replied:

In early 2013, Donnington Doorstep, following an open tender process, was awarded a contract by the Council to deliver the following services:

1. Two Stay & Play sessions per week to support the work of East Oxford Children's Centre services
2. Outreach support for families (up to 10 at any one time) who find it difficult to access Children's Centre services, working in partnership with Florence Park Children's Centre.

Agreed cost was just over £60k per annum.

The contract started on 1st July 2013 and ran in the first instance for two years to 30th June 2015. The contract was extended in October 2014, to run to 31st March 2016 when the contract ended

There is no budget identified in the Children Education and Family budget 2017 / 18 to commission providers such as Donnington to provide stay and play sessions.

Donnington Doorstep would not be eligible for concession on rent as this concession is only available to community groups delivering from OCC .

Supplementary: Asked whether the Cabinet in making its decision would take into account the impact on the Centre; that it was an independent centre and therefore not eligible for the rent waiver and in view of the work done during Bullfinch Councillor Hudspeth replied that recommendations would come to Cabinet and everything would be taken into account.

4/17 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

A petition was submitted by Beth Knighton Director of Donnington Doorstep in support of a request to be considered for Transition Funding.

The Chairman had agreed the following requests to address the meeting:

Item 6 – Councillor Nick Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee

Item 7– Councillor Nick Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Richard Webber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Item 8 – Rachael Scott-Hunter who also submitted a petition in support of
stopping the closure of day support centres
Ted Cooper resident of Witney
Maggie Swain, Chair of the October Club Management Committee
Councillor Jenny Hannaby, local councillor for Grove & Wantage
Councillor Janet Godden, Liberal Democrat Group spokesperson on adult
social care
Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Liz Brighouse, Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee

Item 9 – Councillor Janet Godden, Liberal Democrat Group spokesperson on
adult social care
Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Item 10 – Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult
Social Care

Item 11 – Jaqi Mason, Parish Councillor, Clifton Hampden & Burcot speaking
on behalf of OXAGE
Councillor Charles Mathew, local councillor for Eynsham
Councillor Lynda Atkins, local councillor
Councillor Steve Curran, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Godden, Liberal Democrat Group spokesperson on adult social
care spoke together on Agenda Items 8 and 9. Councillor Godden
commended the consultation that she thought had been well run. She
considered that the analysis good and the reports sensitively written.
However with regard to daytime support Councillor Godden was concerned
that the recommendations did not mitigate the problems for some users that
they would be unable to access services or would be unable to afford
services. The extra grant money referred to was welcome but may be
inadequate. She felt that more work was needed to look for innovative
solutions and to improve the transport scheme. With regard to carers they
provided a valuable service and the amounts of funding were small overall
when compared to the pressures created and the impact of the proposals.
Councillor Godden urged Cabinet to put vulnerable people first and to close
the door on the savings.

5/17 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 2 - JANUARY 2017

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report providing details of performance for quarter two
2016-17. 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, Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee highlighted a number of areas they had considered at the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting. There had been concern over the reported outcomes on a number of indicators including keeping children safe, the extra pressure on children's services, the cost of the transport budget and indicators around children's social care. She also highlighted the good performance in relation to delayed transfers of care. She commended the new approach to business management and monitoring that allowed Performance Scrutiny Committee to see both the broad picture and where necessary to undertake a deep dive to better understand an issue.

Councillor Hards, Shadow Cabinet member for Finance, commented on a number of areas including the importance of balancing important ongoing and where necessary reactive maintenance of the infrastructure with the major projects being undertaken. He also expressed concern at the increased activity around child social care and was concerned that too much pressure was being placed on social workers.

Responding to a question from Councillor Carter in relation to protecting vulnerable people Councillor Hards agreed that it was worth exploring the idea of cross party work to develop an approach that encouraged this to be seen more widely than just as a council issue.

RESOLVED: to note the performance set out in this report.

6/17 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING REPORT - 2017/18 - JANUARY 2017

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet had before them the final report in the series on the service & resource planning process for 2017/18 to 2020/21, providing councillors with information on budget issues for 2017/18 and the medium term. It set out the proposed 2017/18 budget, the draft 2017/18 – 2020/21 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and 2016/17 – 2020/21 Capital Programme.

The budget and draft 2017/18 – 2020/21 MTFP included the Cabinet's budget proposals which take into consideration the latest information on the council's financial position outlined in the report plus comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5 January 2017 and comments from the public consultation on the budget. As final notification of some funding streams is awaited, some further changes may be made to the budget proposals ahead of Council on 14 February 2017.

Councillor Webber, Liberal Democrat Group Leader highlighted paragraph 8 of the report that outlined the amount of provisional information the figures were based on. He commented that the delays from government created very great difficulties for officers and made it difficult for them to act as a

responsible opposition. He felt that this was damaging to local democracy and asked that the Leader do what he could to ask government to address this in future. Having said this he commended the Council for managing austerity well.

Councillor Hards, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance commented on a number of specific areas: on revaluation of commercial property and business rates he would treat the figures with some caution as it was not clear how many would pay; Councillor Hards expressed interest in the saving on inflationary expectations and suggested that rather than it going straight to contingency the labour Group may like to see it spent elsewhere; he felt that in relation to the council tax rise that even though government had not yet produced the rules for the additional social care elements of it there would be no difficulty in justifying it to government when required; on the Schools Funding Formula he was at a loss to understand how so many of Oxfordshire's schools could end up worse off; It was important to find the money for highways asset management.

Councillor Stratford in introducing the report and moving the recommendations referred to the list of known unknowns at paragraph 8 and referred to by both speakers. What could provide a greater problem was the unknown unknowns and he commended officers for their work in difficult circumstances. He emphasised that this was the second year of a 4 year plan that gave some stability. He referred to the new homes bonus and stressed that this was not new money. Likewise the additional money from the 3% increase in the Council tax was not new money in the MTP but by taking it earlier it would enable the Council to carry out some much needed initiatives.

Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, detailed the suite of reports and drew attention to the addenda.

RESOLVED: to **RECOMMEND** Council to approve:

- in respect of revenue:
 - (1) a budget for 2017/18 and a medium term plan to 2020/21, based on the proposals set out in Section 4.2;
 - (2) a council tax requirement (precept) for 2017/18;
 - (3) a council tax for band D equivalent properties;
 - (4) virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget;
- in respect of treasury management:
 - (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18;
 - (2) to continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;
 - (3) that any further changes required to the 2017/18 strategy be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;

- (4) the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix A of Section 4.5;
 - (5) Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Appendix B of Section 4.5;
 - (6) The Specified Investment and Non Specified Investment instruments as set out in Appendix C and D of Section 4.5;
 - (7) The Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out in Appendix E of Section 4.5;
- In respect of capital:
 - (1) Approve a Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 as set out in Section 4.9 including:
 - (i) the new capital proposals as set out in Section 4.9.1 (Appendix 3);
 - (ii) the Highways Structural Maintenance Programme 2017/18 and 2018/19 as set out in Section 4.9.2;
 - (2) Approve the Strategic Asset Management Plan at Section 4.9.3;
 - to delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, following consultation with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make appropriate changes to the proposed budget.
2. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve:
- (1) the Review of Charges as set out in Annex 1A and as revised in the addenda.

7/17 DAYTIME SUPPORT REVIEW

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report that asked them to consider the results of the public consultation on the proposed model and options for daytime support in Oxfordshire, and the recommended way forward. Cabinet were asked to recommend the County Council's future funding of daytime support and approach to delivering this, for a final decision by Council on 14 February as part of the broader budget-setting process.

Rachael Scott-Hunter spoke against the proposals and submitted a petition in support of stopping the closure of day support centres. She referred to her experience as a parent caring for a dependent adult daughter and the importance to her of Kidlington Day Centre which was a totally safe space and respected her needs. Changes will bring about anxiety, stress and challenging behaviours. Mrs Scott-Hunter referred to the intention behind direct payments to ensure greater control for users over how care support needs are met. They were to meet needs innovatively and creatively and should not be used to direct users to one provider. She queried the legal soundness of the recommendations and asked Cabinet to reconsider.

Ted Cooper resident of Witney, expressed the disquiet around users of his local centre in Witney. He stated that they had not been directly consulted and there were particular concerns around transport. He believed that some elderly people would not be able to manage the online registration process

and that booking a seat a week in advance was not practicable. Councillor Heathcoat in response to a comment about the registration charge stated that there would not be a £100 charge.

Maggie Swain, Chair of the October Club Management Committee emphasised the value of the small local groups particularly for those with Alzheimer's/dementia who would struggle with transport and responded better in a smaller less busy environment. She asked that Clubs such as hers be seen as a financial investment in helping people to remain at home.

Councillor Hannaby, local councillor for Grove & Wantage, expressed pleasure that Wantage was to retain its day centre. She commented that she had made the suggestion that Centres could amalgamate some time ago. Councillor Hannaby whilst sorry that the review was necessary in light of government funding cuts she recognised that people with eligible needs would have those needs met. Her concern was for those on personal budgets or self-funders. She added that transport needed more work to clarify how it would work in practice. She was pleased that there would be additional funding during the transition period.

Councillor Janet Godden, Liberal Democrat Group spokesperson on adult social care spoke together on Agenda Items 8 & 9 and this is recorded at Minute 4/17 above – Petitions and Public Address.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care spoke against the proposals commenting that the discussion had been around options for cuts. Having lived with austerity since 2010 the Council behaved as if reducing the budget was the only option. Having said that officers had worked hard and the consultation showed that there was a lot that was right. However although buildings mattered, people mattered more. The reductions will mean people will lose contact with those support workers that they know and trust. Councillor Phillips supported the proposals for a planned transition and welcomed the update. The transport solution was vital. She welcomed the early implementation date to reduce uncertainty and drew parallels with the children's centre cuts. She noted that OCVA were available to support organisations in applying for services and stressed that often these organisations did not consider themselves as businesses. She hoped that the complexity of the process would be commensurate with the relatively small size of the grants. She was sure that the Council would be monitoring the transition and levels of access.

Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee explained that the proposals had been carefully considered at Performance Scrutiny Committee although they had not had before them the final proposals nor information on the additional funding. The Committee had expressed concern that people would stop using the services and received assurances that the impact on individuals would be followed up. There had been particular concern about elderly isolation which could lead to people losing the ability to live independently. The Committee had also expressed concerns at the impact on voluntary groups who arranged transport and the

need to ensure that money was available to ensure services could continue and that groups knew how to access such funding. Councillor Brighthouse commented that people had liked option A but would perhaps also like elements of Option B. There was therefore a need to move forward innovatively.

Councillor Heathcoat introduced the contents of the report thanking officers for their work and detailing the consultation that had taken place. She stressed that full Council had agreed the savings in February 2016 and that the agreed savings would come from the changes being proposed. In moving the recommendations Councillor Heathcoat stressed the focus on services for the most vulnerable and the availability of the transition fund.

Kate Terroni, Director for Adult Social Care detailed the proposals, referred to the adult social care precept and outlined the consultation responses.

Councillor Heathcoat, responding to a comment from Councillor Hibbert-Biles indicated that in the extensive engagement process there would have been people at meetings from the local centre in Witney as referred to by Mr Cooper; however she would check that this was the case.

Cabinet in supporting the proposals highlighted the decision of full Council and commended the proposals as an imaginative way forward. Kate Terroni, responding to a question about the concerns expressed around transport advised that for those with eligible needs their transport needs would continue to be met. For others a large number already made their own arrangements. Through OCVA they would encourage providers to share expertise and the Comet service would be made available giving a range of options with regard to transport. Responding to concerns over access to facilities by the elderly in rural areas and the wish that the Council would continue to work to see what could be achieved Councillor Heathcoat commented that of 200 groups across the County only 49 received funding so there was a lot of self-help already out there. Kate Terroni added that the ambition with the Innovation Fund was to increase the number of groups and the variety available to users

RESOLVED: Subject to full Council making appropriate provision with the 2017/18 Budget and Medium Term Plan to 2020/21 to:

- consider the results of the consultation;
- agree to adopt the proposals outlined in this document for community and voluntary support;
- agree to adopt option A (the building based option) for delivery of the Community Support Service;
- agree the charges for the Community Support Service and the method of charging as set out in paragraphs 82 and 83 above.

8/17 CARERS' STRATEGY AND CARERS' PERSONAL BUDGETS

(Agenda Item. 9)

In February 2016, the Council agreed savings against carers' services totalling £660,000. This included a suggestion that savings could be made by introducing charging for carers' services.

It was found following investigation that the introduction of charging for carers' services was not viable and would not produce the savings required. Proposals for releasing funding by redesigning carers' personal budgets were developed, and these proposals were the subject of a public consultation, alongside the refreshed and updated version of the Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy.

Cabinet considered a report on the outcome of the public consultation and seeking approval to the proposed way forward.

Councillor Janet Godden, Liberal Democrat Group spokesperson on adult social care spoke together on Agenda Items 8 & 9 and this is recorded at Minute 4/17 above – Petitions and Public Address.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that it was unacceptable to be looking at options for making cuts and highlighted paragraph 17 commenting that carers would not feel as valued. However she welcomed GP referral service and the decision not to introduce charges for carer services. She welcomed that the impact of the proposals would be monitored but suggested that it was a false economy to cut budgets as the support enabled people to stay out of care longer and if in hospital to get out more quickly.

Councillor Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care introduced the report and noted that the savings against the carers' service were previously agreed as part of the budget process. It had included the possibility of charges for carer services but she had been uncomfortable with this. The proposals were about targeting limited resources on those that most needed them. In moving the recommendations Councillor Heathcoat proposed an amendment to include reference to paragraph 24 confirming the share of costs with the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. On the suggestion of Councillor Carter, Councillor Heathcoat included also reference to paragraph 26.

During discussion Councillor Tilley referred to the numbers of young carers and the support provided to them. Councillor Heathcoat highlighted the work of adult social care and the Safeguarding Board who were keen to work closely with children's services to ensure continuity of care.

RESOLVED: to approve the revised carers' personal budget payment and to welcome the intention of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to fund an enhanced information and advice offer via direct GP referral in accordance with paragraphs 24 and 26 of the report.

9/17 HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT POOLED BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Agenda Item. 10)

The County Council together with the five city/district councils and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has developed under the Health Improvement Board umbrella a new commissioning plan for housing related support services in light of the County Council's £1.5m budget reduction by 2019/20.

Cabinet had before them a report seeking approval to enter into this new partnering agreement.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care welcomed the spirit of co-operation evidenced by the report but queried why District Councils were not increasing their funding year on year.

Councillor Hudspeth, Leader of the Council, confirmed that housing and homelessness was a City/District Council function and referred to the historic basis of County Council funding through the supporting people funding from Government. This funding had been cut by a previous government and the County Council had subsidised services over a number of years. Cabinet welcomed the proposals to work together.

Councillor Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, in moving the recommendations, thanked Natalia Lachkou for her work in looking after the services over a number of years. The funding agreement was the final piece in the jigsaw.

RESOLVED: to agree to contribute to a pooled budget for housing related support between the County Council, the District and City Councils and Clinical Commissioning Group, under the terms of the proposed partnering agreement; the final version of which would be signed in due course by the relevant senior officer under the delegated decision making authority scheme.

10/17 OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL PLAN - CORE STRATEGY

(Agenda Item. 11)

The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, to provide an effective planning strategy and policies for the supply of minerals and management of waste in the county, consistent with environmental, social and economic needs. The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy (the Plan) was approved by the County Council in March 2015 and submitted for independent examination by a planning inspector in December 2015. Following a hearing held in September 2016, the Inspector has issued an Interim Report.

The further work required by the Interim Report has been undertaken, including: consideration of alternatives for the minerals and waste strategies. Proposed modifications to the Plan have been drafted in response to the Inspector's Interim Report and in the light of representations made on the Plan and discussion at the examination hearing and the further SA/SEA of reasonable alternatives. Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the proposed modifications and the SEA/SA to be published for public consultation prior to the Inspector considering any representations that are made before he finalises his report of the examination of the Plan.

Jaqi Mason, Parish Councillor, Clifton Hampden & Burcot speaking on behalf of OXAGE welcomed the public consultation but outlined 3 concerns: the wording of the recommendation negates the public consultation and should be amended to make it clear that this is a proposed plan; that little weight can be given to the emerging plan based on the extent to which there are unresolved objections; and concerns that Policy M5 does not comply with the National Policy Framework. Ms Mason added that she still did not agree with the additional amount of minerals and that figures were based on old data.

Councillor Charles Mathew, local councillor for Eynsham, expressed concern at the proposals believing that only token notice had been paid to the consultations over the last 4 years. He commented that 90% of councils used a 10 year average for the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) and argued that there was no basis for the approach used by the County Council. He referred to information in Part 1, Appendix 3 and in table 5b that he asserted were incorrect. He suggested improvements that could be made including updating data in the Plan and enforcing conditions.

Councillor Lynda Atkins, local councillor for Wallingford, spoke against the proposals in relation to Policy M3 and the LAA suggesting that evidence was that there was a reverse correlation between growth and use of aggregate and that therefore the figures were based on a false assumption. Councillor Atkins referred to the 40% of aggregate being exported outside the County and stated that the sustainability of that had not been considered. She referred to areas of growth that were not included in the Plan that indicated significant growth in the North. Councillor Hudspeth in response commented that the figure had been reduced over time and that in terms of including development sites the position was always changing.

Councillor Steve Curran, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, commended the paper commenting that it was a comprehensive piece of work. He considered that the split between North and South seemed correct. However he raised a number of minor concerns around the waste situation: with the developments going on waste needed to be processed as close to its production as possible. In addition he queried why the County was still a net importer of waste with a huge amount of crushed rock waste coming into the County. Councillor Nimmo Smith, Cabinet Member for Environment explained that a lot of that traffic was historic and were long term arrangements that could not easily be unpicked.

Councillor Nimmo Smith introduced the contents of the report and in moving the recommendations commented that much of the concern was around the mineral and gravel extraction. It was a balancing act between supply and demand. He refuted comments about the LAA stating that it was a robust assessment and that the methodology was sound.

Bev Hindle, Strategic Director for Communities; Chris McCarthy, Interim Director Environmental Operations and Peter Day, Minerals & Waste Policy Team Leader responded to the points made by speakers. In particular Cabinet was advised that the sustainability appraisal on the North South split was part of the new work required by the interim Inspector's report and that that work had been done and gave the figures in the report. With regard to the point about the correlation between growth and aggregate use It was explained that the figures looked at the indicators of demand in the County and included population, growth, housing stock, planned housing growth and employment trends. There was agreement that there was a need for more recycling facilities and the modified policies provided a more positive approach. With regard to waste imports most were going to landfill. Oxfordshire had more landfill capacity than many authorities. Whilst that was available waste would come in but in future that capacity would be used up and the imports would end.

In response to a question from the Leader of the Council, Chris McCarthy stressed that the report was seeking approval for public consultation not approval to a final plan. In relation to the question of development sites Cabinet was advised that consideration had not been given to individual sites but had been looked at by District. There was a possibility that future developments could affect the Plan as it moved on but this was seen as unlikely.

Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, expressed sympathy with much of what had been said by the speakers. She had been disappointed by the Inspector's attitude with too much weight given to the Regional Aggregate Working party. She felt that there was a lack of robust evidence supporting a move from the 10 year average and queried why Oxfordshire was different. She objected to the North South split figures which she believed were arbitrary. She added that the Cabinet Advisory Group had not endorsed the Plan and that there were serious concerns amongst those members. Cabinet was being asked to agree the proposals for consultation and Councillor Lindsay-Gale was certain that people would take that opportunity to put forward their objections.

RESOLVED: (by a vote by a show of hands of 6 for, 0 against with 1 abstention) to:

- (a) agree the main modifications to the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy in Annexes 8, 8a and 8b for publication for public consultation; and

- (b) authorise the Strategic Director Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to finalise the additional modifications to the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy in Annex 8 for publication for public comment; and
- (c) authorise the Strategic Director Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to finalise the Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal report on the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy, to include the work contained in Annexes 2 – 7, for publication for public consultation; and
- (d) authorise the Strategic Director Communities to make a request to the Inspector who is carrying out the examination of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy to recommend modifications to the plan under section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

11/17 DELEGATED POWERS - JANUARY 2017

(Agenda Item. 12)

Cabinet noted the following executive decisions taken under the specific powers and functions delegated under the terms of Part 7.2 (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3(c)(i).

It is not for scrutiny call in.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Subject</i> | <i>Decision</i> | <i>Reasons for Urgency</i> |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| 21 November 2016 | Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules – Funding to Groundwork South for outstanding property items at outdoor education centres: Kilvrough, and Yenworthy | To approve an exemption from tendering under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of a Contract for Works/Development Agreement with Groundwork South for outstanding property items at outdoor education centres: Kilvrough, and Yenworthy. The total cost of the funding from the council to Groundwork South is no more than £185,000 plus VAT | In order to put in place a Contract for Works/Development Agreement as soon as possible, as the funding is a key part of the transfer of the service from the council to Groundwork South which went ahead on 1 October. Any delay in providing this puts at risk the excellent working relationship built up between the council and Groundwork South over the past 12 months and slows down the |

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| | | with the council recovering the VAT. | delivery of essential maintenance works at the centres. |
| 30 November 2016 | Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules – Condom Distribution Services | To approve an exemption from tendering under the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules in respect of a contract for the provision of condom distribution services by Oxford University Hospital Foundation Trust (OUHT) at a cost for two years of £78,858 (£39,429 per year). | To ensure integration with the existing sexual health services contract and to allow any future contract for services for condom distribution to be negotiated into the wider integrated sexual health services contract when it is recommissioned for commencement 1 st April 2019. |

12/17 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 13)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet as set out in the report and schedule of addenda.

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

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2017