

## **Divisions-N/A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL – 10 September 2024**

#### **REPORT OF THE CABINET**

#### ***Cabinet Member : Leader of the Council***

#### **1. Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership -Board Appointments**

*(Cabinet: 16 July 2024)*

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the decisions taken at the OxLEP Board meeting on 11 June 2024 requiring Company Member endorsement. The recommendations related to the appointment of two new Non-Executive Directors (NED's) replacing existing NED's who had signalled their intent to resign.

Cabinet endorsed the appointments of Dr Olga Kozlova and Cllr David Hingley as Board Directors.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Finance***

#### **2. Treasury Management Annual Performance 2023/24**

*(Cabinet: 16 July 2024)*

A report on the Council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2023/24 was considered by the Cabinet. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' required that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee received a report on Treasury Management activities at least four times per year. This report was the final report for the financial year 2023/24 and set out the position at 31 March 2024.

Members thanked the Treasury Manager and his team for their excellent work in achieving the results presented to the Cabinet.

Cabinet noted the report and recommended the Council to note the council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2023/24.

#### **3. Business Management & Monitoring Report- May 2024**

*(Cabinet: 16 July 2024)*

Cabinet considered a report presenting the May 2024 performance, risk, and finance position for the council. The business management reports were part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance.

Cabinet noted the report and approved the financial adjustments set out in the annexes.

#### **4. Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report- July 2024** (Cabinet: 16 July 2024)

Cabinet had before it the first quarterly capital programme update and monitoring report for 2024/25 which set out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of May 2024. The report also provided an update to the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2024, taking into account additional funding and new schemes.

Cabinet approved the updated Capital Programme incorporating the following changes:-

- a) The release £4m of corporate funds back to the capital programme from the Special Education Needs (SEN) Provision Programme due to the additional SEN High Needs Grant funding received between 2021/22 and 2024/25 following the announced funding allocations
- b) the inclusion of Oxford Community Support Service (CSS) Cowley into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.078m to be funded from the Asset Rationalisation Programme, Property Decarbonisation Programme and Section 106 funding.
- c) the change of the use of the budget for the purposes of relocating Banbury Library.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Infrastructure & Development Strategy***

#### **5. Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) - Amendments to the Grant Determination Agreement** (Cabinet: 16 July 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report regarding amendments to the grant determination agreement with Homes England for the Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund project (HIF1). The project had been widely publicised and the details published in previous Cabinet reports.

Following consideration by the Council's Planning and Regulation Committee in July 2023, the HIF1 planning application was 'called in' by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 25 July 2023, and a decision was now awaited following the conclusion of conjoined planning and Orders Public Inquiries, which closed in May 2024.

After extensive negotiation, Homes England had agreed to contribute further funding to the programme of £36,400,000, potentially extending to £116,000,000, and to extend the funding window to 31 March 2028. The remaining required funding would be met by the previously approved contributions from OxLEP, Section 106 income, and the allowance in the Council's budget through capital borrowing.

Cabinet approved the proposed changes to the Grant Determination Agreement and authorised the Director of Environment and Highways, in consultation with the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 officer, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy and Cabinet Member for Finance to finalise the terms of, and enter into, the amended Agreement.

**LIZ LEFFMAN**

Leader of the Council

September 2024