

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 December 2011 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.58 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Keith R. Mitchell CBE – in the Chair
Councillor David Robertson (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Arash Fatemian
Councillor Louise Chapman
Councillor Jim Couchman
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat
Councillor Melinda Tilley

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Zoe Patrick (Item 8)
Councillor Jenny Hannaby (Item 9)
Councillor Jean Fooks (Items 10 and 11)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Joanna Simons (Chief Executive)
Graham Warrington (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting

| Item | Name |
|-------|--|
| 6 & 7 | Lorna Baxter (Corporate Finance) |
| 8 | Jonathan McWilliam (Director of Public Health) |
| 9 | John Jackson (Director of Social & Community Services); Simon Kearey and Laurence Dowden (Social and Community Services); Sue Scane (Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer); Nick Graham (Deputy head of Law & Governance) |
| 10 | Paul Gerrish |

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.

142/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Rodney Rose and Councillor Kieron Mallon.

143/11 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 November 2011 and 12 December 2011 were approved and signed.

144/11 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Zoe Patrick had given notice of the following question to the Deputy Leader:

“Why are the sandwiches sold in the Common Hall cafe being bought from a company in London rather than being purchased locally according to the County's procurement rules? According to the Source Oxfordshire website it states "We are supporting the Federation of Small Businesses' Keep Trade Local campaign - the Oxford part of which was launched in November 2008." This is certainly not consistent with that policy. It has also meant that there have been some days where there have been no sandwiches available because they have not arrived from London.”

Councillor Robertson replied

“When originally looking for suppliers of ready- made sandwiches for The Common Hall Cafe we invited several companies to produce trial samples of their products, including a local company called Brambles. Only one company, Greencore, provided us with these samples and met with us, despite the other companies stating they would deliver samples, etc.

We are aware that there have been some problems recently with delivery from Greencore which we have addressed. However, we are currently looking again at alternative suppliers and will consider local suppliers, as we did in the first instance. However, while our preference would be to use a local provider, our choice of suppliers will be governed by cost and location as well as reliability.”

Supplementary

“Has consideration been given to this service being provided in house.”

Reply

“This service has in the past been provided in house and some sandwiches are of course still produced in County Hall. Catering staff are I understand

keen to resume provision of this service and I will look at all options available.”

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

"The lack of an information board in the reception area of County Hall is meaning that people, whether members or visitors, have to ask the reception staff where their meetings are. This is unwelcoming to visitors and an unnecessary nuisance for members and the reception staff. I understand that in the present financial situation, it is not possible to provide a new electronic board giving the information. There is usually an A4 sheet to which the staff refer. Would it be possible to enlarge this to A3 or bigger and display it on the wall, so that it is immediately visible and would help people find where their meeting is without having to bother reception staff and often have to wait in a queue to ask ?"

Councillor Robertson replied

“The details of the meetings on the ground floor are now displayed on a notice board on the right hand side of the reception desk. This should help visitors find out where their meeting is to be held and, hopefully, reduce the need to wait in a queue. To cut down on costs we have utilised a notice board that was retrieved from Cricket Road for this purpose.

Visitors to meetings in secure areas of the Council building will still have to report to reception.

My thanks to Councillor Fooks for her suggestion.”

Supplementary

“Many thanks for providing a notice board, which I’m sure will be useful. However, could something larger be provided.”

Reply

“Having provided the board I will be looking at options to provide something more professional although these things must be taking in the context of the funding issues facing the County Council.”

145/11 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

Item 8 - Councillor Zoe Patrick, Leader of the Opposition and Olive McIntosh-Stedman

Item 9 – Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Item 10 and 11– Councillor Jean Fooks, Deputy Leader of the Opposition

146/11 2011/12 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - OCTOBER 2011

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report which focussed on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies agreed as part of the service and resources planning process for 2011/12-2015/16 and which formed part of the forecast position for each Directorate.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) note the report and approve the virements as set out in Annex 2a to the report CA6 and agree the return to balances as set out in Annex 2e to CA6;
- (b) agree the Children's Act loan write off as set out in paragraph 44 of the report CA6;
- (c) agree the creation of the Children, Education and Families reserves as set out in paragraphs 50 to 52 of the report CA6;
- (d) approve the change to the Capital Programme as set out in Annex 9c of the report CA6.

147/11 BUSINESS STRATEGY AND SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING REPORT FOR 2012/13 - 2016/17 - DECEMBER 2011

(Agenda Item. 7)

The Cabinet considered a further report (CA7) on the service and resource planning process for 2012/13 to 2016/17 which provided information on budget issues for 2012/13 and the medium term, included an update on directorate business strategies with a summary of changes to the pressures and savings therein, provided an update on government consultations and announcements, set out the review of charges and provided a draft capital strategy, corporate asset management plan and transport asset management plan. Also tabled was a supplementary report to CA7 setting out the implications of the draft local government finance settlement and associated announcements.

During discussion Cabinet members addressed specific issues within their respective portfolios.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the report CA7 and the implications set out in the addendas when forming budget proposals in January 2012;

- (b) to consider the revised Business Strategies (Annex 3 to CA7) and the changes to the pressures and savings (Annex 2 to CA7) in forming their budget proposals in January 2012;
- (c) to consider, in forming their budget proposals, the implications in 2013/14 of accepting the Council Tax Freeze Grant in 2012/13;
- (d) to agree that funding from the New Homes Bonus would be made available for capital as part of the Rolling Fund, noting that the allocation for 2012/13 was £1.068m;
- (e) that in relation to the review of charges to:
 - (1) note those charges prescribed by legislation;
 - (2) approve those charges where there was local discretion as set out in Annex 6 to CA7 noting that some of those charges would commence before April 2012;
- (f) to agree the capital prioritisation assessment set out in Annex 8b to CA7.

148/11 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item. 8)

The Cabinet considered (CA8) the fifth annual report of the Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire.

Olive McIntosh Stedman addressed the Cabinet on behalf of the Oxfordshire Mental Health Crisis Bed Project regarding funding for a crisis house providing respite support for mental health users and carers in cases not considered serious enough for hospital.

Responding to Councillor Robertson she confirmed that there were about 10 cases each requiring care 3 times per annum at a total cost of £6,300.

Councillor Zoe Patrick referred to the key reference on referrals and the need to minimise time wasted referring people unnecessarily from one part of the system to another. She welcomed the section on breaking the cycle of deprivation; the high priority to be given to addressing the high percentage of children living in poverty in many areas of Oxfordshire; the fall in the high rates of teenage pregnancy in the City although there were areas still with high rates; improvements in the mental health system particularly for carers and GP commissioning; Oxfordshire's rating as the sportiest county in England; the encouraging results in the fight against killer disease and the HPV vaccination programme against cervical cancer and stressed the need to continue to concentrate efforts on reducing alcohol addiction. She

acknowledged the hard work in realising all these achievements but stressed the need for work to continue.

The Director of Public Health presented his report and the Cabinet Member for Adult Services commended it to the Cabinet.

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

149/11 HAMPSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ICT PARTNERSHIP

(Agenda Item. 10)

The Cabinet considered (CA10) proposals for a formal partnership agreement for ICT services between Oxfordshire and Hampshire.

Councillor Fooks welcomed and commended the proposal.

Councillor Robertson commended the proposal and the opportunities which it now presented for similar arrangements in other service areas.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) agree the establishment of a Joint ICT Partnership between the Oxfordshire County Council and Hampshire County Council ICT Services;
- (b) agree the first area of partnership collaboration to be the provision of SAP Support to Oxfordshire;
- (c) agree that the Cabinet portfolio holder for ICT had responsibility for approval of other potential areas of collaboration, that had material or significant impact;
- (d) delegate responsibility for agreement to the finalised Partnership agreement to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for ICT.

150/11 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER 2011

(Agenda Item. 11)

The Cabinet considered (**CA11**) a report setting out progress made toward the Corporate Plan priorities for the period between July and September 2011.

Councillor Fooks welcomed progress on development of the Local Enterprise Board but expressed concerns regarding the need to improve performance in

a number of areas such as educational attainment; area stewards fund and cycle of deprivation.

Councillor Robertson felt the County Council had achieved a number of positive outcomes and that overall progress against 2011/12 targets were on track overall. However, he acknowledged that there were some priority areas which needed to be improved and these areas would continue to be monitored closely.

RESOLVED: to note the report

151/11 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 12)

The Cabinet considered a list of items (CA12) 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

152/11 EXEMPT CLAUSE

(Agenda Item.)

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded for the duration of Item 9E since it was likely that if they were present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in relation to that item 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 on the grounds in that the information related to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that otherwise commercially sensitive information would be disclosed to the detriment of the companies involved.

153/11 DEVELOPMENT IN THE OXFORDSHIRE CARE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Cabinet considered (CA9) a report setting out the principles for developing a partnership agreement with the Oxfordshire Care Partnership (OCP) for the provision of services for the care and support of older people in Oxfordshire whilst achieving service and financial objectives of the Council and the OCP.

Councillor Hannaby recognised the need to make savings but expressed some concern regarding the reduction in the number of residential beds and monitoring of self funding and stressed that those not eligible for self funding

should be helped. She highlighted the potential to work with district councils to include extra care housing in the local plan process.

The Director of Social and Community Services presented the report.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services commended the proposals and welcomed the comment by Councillor Hannaby regarding extra care housing. There would be further reports to the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on these proposals and to the Cabinet in March regarding care home fees.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) note the negotiations underway to achieve savings via planned development of care homes, reduction in block beds, increased rental income, replacement of residential beds with extra care housing, retention of Lake House and Glebe House within the contract, providing continuing care beds through the OCP contract and further ad hoc block bed reductions;
- (b) note that there will be a special meeting of the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee in early January to enable them to consider the proposals;
- (c) endorse the proposals for overall service redevelopments and the recommended changes to the OCP contract;
- (d) agree to the sale of the freeholds of 5 Phase 1 new build sites proposal to OCP for a capital receipt in order to achieve flexible reduction of the block contract subject to conclusion of ongoing negotiations;
- (e) delegate authority to the Director of Social and Community Services to sign off the changes to the OCP contract and the revised financial model with advice from the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet members for Finance and Property and Adult Services following a consultation with the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee in January 2012.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing