



Cabinet Tuesday, 19 September 2017

ADDENDA

4. Questions from County Councillors (Pages 1 - 4)

Attached.

5. Petitions and Public Address (Pages 5 - 6)

Attached.

7. Service & Resource Planning Report - 2018/19 - September 2017

See below a corrected table in respect of Paragraph 1 to Annex 1b (Page 61 of the original agenda pack).

The table below sets out the inflation assumptions built into the current MTFP.

Year	Pay	Prices	Contracts (up to)	Income	In MTFP
2018/19	1%	0%	3%	2%	£5.650m
2019/20	1%	0%	3%	2%	£5.700m
2020/21	2.5%	0%	3%	2%	£7.500m

8. Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (Pages 7 - 12)

Supplementary report attached including amended recommendations.

10. Forward Plan and Future Business (Pages 13 - 16)

Attached.

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ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

'Eighteen months ago, St Gregory the Great School was placed in financial special measures by the ESFA; recently it received a challenging Ofsted report about aspects of the work of the school; there have also been concerns about both attendance and exclusions.

What steps have the authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner and the diocese taken to ensure the children forced to attend the school because of a shortage of secondary school places in the city will receive a high quality education that ensures they can achieve their potential?'

Answer:

"As Cllr Howson knows, due to our very effective pupil place planning processes, we don't have a shortage of secondary school places in Oxford City, or anywhere else in the county for that matter. It is, however, the case that there aren't enough spare places in other schools to accommodate every pupil currently attending St. Gregory the Great.

I and Lucy Butler, Director of Children's Services, have met with the head teacher and a representative of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Our safeguarding team has put a lot of effort into helping the school's leadership address a number of pressing safeguarding issues - a return visit has been arranged for October to make sure that improvements are fully embedded.

As Cllr Howson is aware, the Regional Schools Commissioner and the diocese have responsibilities given St Gregory the Great School is an Academy"

2. Councillor Phillips to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

'The Royal College of Nursing is asking the government to provide funds for local authorities to fully fund school nursing services. Can you provide an update of the current staffing position of school nurses in Oxfordshire and the progress being made for primary schools to have access to school nurses?'

Answer

“Oxfordshire County Council supports the Royal College of Nursing in their call to Government to provide resources to local authorities for school health nursing for all children.

We are aware that other local authorities have reduced their school health nurse provision in the last few years however the Council has prioritised the public health of younger people by increasing public health nursing support in schools and colleges of further education.

Oxfordshire’s School Health Nurse service provides a team of school nurses for primary schools and has school health nurses based in secondary schools and nurse’s based in colleges of further education.

In line with other front line services there are difficulties with recruiting skilled professionals to work in Oxfordshire however there are currently only 3 vacancies in the service which are all being advertised to fill the posts.”

3. Councillor Phillips to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

‘There is increasing evidence of 6th form pupils being expelled from schools because they have failed to achieve top grades in AS and equivalent internal examinations. Can you give assurances that this practise is not taking place in 6th forms in Oxfordshire?’

Answer

"Unfortunately no, I cannot give Cllr Phillips the assurance she is seeking. With the exception of two sixth forms which between them have about 150 students, the remainder, around 6,000, attend academies. Although the council is notified of formal permanent exclusions and schools are required to advise us when pupils join or leave, they are not obliged to provide us with the reasons and wouldn't I am sure, identify those departures which are due to unlawful exclusions such as appear to have been happening from the high profile Kent grammar school."

4. Councillor Pressel to Councillor Constance

It is now several weeks since the County Council received the draft feasibility study on options for a possible zero emission zone and/or more clean air zones. Why are we STILL waiting for the launch of the public consultation?

Air quality is a matter of huge public concern. The Cabinet MUST address it urgently, instead of wasting time and further endangering our health.

Answer

“As you will be aware the County Council alongside Oxford City Council jointly commissioned a feasibility study which considers the implementation of a Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) for Oxford to 2035.

This is in hand and the requisite briefings to Councillors have been scheduled with a wider locality briefing planned for early October.

Once the briefings have been completed we will be sending out a press release and then commencing a public consultation (currently expected mid-end of October.”

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CABINET – 19 SEPTEMBER 2017 ITEM 5 – PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

The Leader of the Council has agreed the following requests to address the meeting:-

Item	Speaker
<p>Item 6 – Transition Fund for Open Access Children’s Centres</p>	<p>Mr Aquib Hafeez (3 mins)</p> <p>Mr Misbah Hafeez (3 mins)</p> <p>Councillor Linda Smith, Oxford City Council (3 mins)</p> <p>Jane Gallagher (3 mins)</p> <p>Mr Chris Sewell (3 mins)</p> <p>Mr Alexander Massey Member of the local Stakeholder Steering Group for the bid. (3 mins)</p> <p>Dr Hilary Walker (3mins)</p> <p>Rev Elizabeth Allison-Glenny (3 mins)</p> <p>Mr Terry Tran-Nguyen (3 mins)</p> <p>Nick Lunch (3mins)</p> <p>Ms Lesley Williams (3 mins)</p> <p>Ms Candida March - Member of Stakeholder Steering Group for Aspire's bid for Florence Park Children's Centre (3mins)</p> <p>Mr Paul Roberts, Aspire (3mins)</p> <p>Councillor Jamila Begum Azad (5 mins)</p> <p>Councillor John Sanders (5 mins)</p> <p>Councillor Helen Evans, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance (5 mins)</p> <p>Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Opposition Leader (5 mins)</p>

Item 7 – Service & Resource Planning Report 2018/19	Councillor Helen Evans, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance (5 mins)
Item 8 - Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund	Councillor Jane Murphy, Deputy Leader, SODC (3 mins) Councillor Neville Harris (5 mins) Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Opposition Leader (5 mins)
Item 9 – Staffing Report	Councillor Laura Price, Opposition Deputy Leader (5 mins)

Division(s):

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Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund

ADDENDUM REPORT

Report by Strategic Director for Communities

Additional information not available at time of publication

1. On Thursday 14 September (subsequent to the publication of the substantive report), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched a consultation on measures set out in the housing white paper (published in February 2017) to boost housing supply in England. Alongside important proposals for policy change, the consultation included proposals on a new national standardised formula for addressing housing need.
2. Across England as a whole, the new formula would result in an overall increase in housing supply expectations above the currently projected levels. Initial analysis of the outcome for Oxfordshire is that adoption of the formula could result in a reduction against existing expectations as generated from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) by an overall 30%, making Oxfordshire a significant outlier in the South-East and on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc with regard to the change.
3. The revised formula relies on demographic projections, based on past population growth, rather than forecasts, which would include analysis of changing trends and expected real-world events in the future, such as anticipated jobs growth or infrastructure commitments. Therefore, while the headline assessment is for a reduction from the current expectations, it is important to note that the consultation includes proposals on measures to acknowledge that for areas particularly impacted by economic factors including strong employment growth, the demographic projections may not be sufficient on their own and additional analysis may need to be factored into the final calculations.
4. It will be noted that the new formula includes an allowance for affordability, automatically increasing expectations of supply in areas with a high ratio of house prices to earnings. While this element will tend to increase the expectations for delivery, in Oxfordshire, this is outweighed by the impact of the population projections used.

5. Ultimately, agreeing the new housing targets are a matter for local planning authorities. However, the outcome of these deliberations will have a significant impact on the planning of County Council services and investment.
6. While changes to housing delivery expectations may result in specific changes to Local Plans with subsequent impact on infrastructure requirements, such changes are some way in the future. They are dependent on the outcome of the current government consultation and subsequent policy being adopted in regulations and then in the adoption of new approaches within local planning frameworks. This final step depends on the different stages of development of Local Plans in different districts and different transitional arrangements are described within the consultation. At this stage therefore there can be no certainty either on the impact of the consultation or the timescale over which changes will be adopted albeit that there will inevitably be an extended transition period. In terms of relevance to this decision, the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) delivery period is through to 2020/21 and it is likely that in many cases existing frameworks will remain unchanged in that period.
7. It is also the case that while the consultation may result in a change to Local Plans, housing delivery will still remain significant as existing expectations are already high. The project packages set out in the proposed HIF bids have been identified as the most urgent relevant infrastructure within the emerging Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy and should still be expected to be required in all scenarios.
8. With respect to the recommendations before Cabinet, given the uncertainty in the impact of the potential changes set out in the consultation and the already identified need for the specific infrastructure identified in the bids, it is appropriate to maintain the assumption of housing requirements as already identified in the Local Planning framework. Until and if official expectations change, the existing numbers will remain in place and any other approach using different assumptions would risk opportunities for challenge to local planning decisions.
9. Planning on the assumption of housing delivery expectations that may change introduces a new risk to delivery to the County Council although given the uncertainty, it is difficult to quantify the risk at this stage. During the negotiation of any successful HIF bid, officers will seek to negotiate with government and local planning authorities to fully understand national and local approaches and to mitigate this risk.
10. Given the likely long timescales for review and the opportunity to seek assurance from government and local planning authorities, officers consider this risk proportionate.

Correspondence

11. A letter from the Robert Courts MP has also been received and this is attached as Addendum Annex A, for Cabinet's information.

Revised Recommendations

12. Recommendation four has been amended to clarify the considerations to be taken when taking the final decisions on submission. Therefore the full recommendations are set out below.

13. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

1. **Agree to the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund**
2. **Agree to the process set out above for the assessment of viability of schemes and for their subsequent prioritisation**
3. **Note the current candidate scheme packages and current draft assessments**
4. **Delegate to the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Environment, and taking into account the view of the Growth Board, the final viability and prioritisation assessment and the detail of the bid submission including the detail of projects to be included within each scheme. This should be based upon further thorough evaluation of the robustness of governance arrangements and levels of assurance on deliverability.**

Bev Hindle
Strategic Director for Communities

Background papers: n/a

Contact Officer: Susan Halliwell, Director for Planning and Place

September, 2017

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ADDENDUM ANNEX A

Monday, 18 September 2017

Dear Cllr Hudspeth,

RE: Cabinet 19th September 2017, Agenda Item 8 -

Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund

I write to urge Cabinet to express interest in the HIF programme as laid out in the above report at tomorrow's meeting. May I start by congratulating the Council for the work that has led to this report being brought forward.

I have campaigned over the last year for improvements to the A40 running between Witney and Oxford, which is not only a source of significant frustration to residents, but significantly restricts the economic potential of this dynamic area. There is no doubt that this is one of the most important issues facing West Oxfordshire, and this bid offers a very good chance of securing the investment we need from Government.

This Government has listened to concerns expressed by myself and others not only over the adequacy of transport routes such as the A40 as they exist now, but over the capacity of West Oxfordshire's infrastructure to cope with housing that is already planned. Currently, the projected growth in jobs and housing risks making the situation much worse, and it is essential that action is taken.

HIF is part of a multi-faceted response developed by the Government, and was announced in July this year as a programme of investment operated by the HCA under the aegis of DCLG.

I am pleased therefore to see that the OCC report includes a £135.4m bid for upgrades to the A40, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy, and that this would be used to support the delivery of homes planned in Witney, Carterton and around Eynsham.

Additionally, whilst the "north of Oxford" scheme falls outside my constituency, its effects would be of great importance to my constituents in the Woodstock area, particularly the public transport infrastructure schemes that are proposed.

Whilst, naturally, my preference would be for the scheme benefitting West Oxfordshire to be prioritised first - and I would ask for this to be considered (in contrast to para 37, but in line with para 39) - what is of overwhelming importance in any event is for all local Councils to come together to make this bid and to secure the money offered by the HIF for the whole of Oxfordshire. The HIF offers the potential to unlock funding to deliver major infrastructure upgrades in precisely the places - like the A40 - where they are most needed.

It is of note that my constituency's District Council, West Oxfordshire, is also supportive of this bid, which offers an opportunity for the two Councils to continue to work closely together for the benefit of all in the area. The Government has listened to concerns that have been expressed and has acted - it is incumbent upon all of us now to work together to ensure that we make the most of the opportunity that the HIF represents.

Unfortunately pre-existing commitments prevents my attending Cabinet in person as I would have liked, but I hope that you will take my support as expressed in this letter into account when you consider this agenda item tomorrow.

I look forward to continuing to work with Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council to bring this scheme to fruition in the future, and continue to assist as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



ROBERT COURTS, Member of Parliament for Witney & West Oxfordshire

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CABINET – 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

ITEM 10 – FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

Members are asked to note the following changes to the Forward Plan:

Amendments to items in the present Plan

Portfolio	Topic (Ref)/Decision	Present Timing	Change
<i>Environment</i>	Review of Highway Maintenance Policies (Ref 2017/105)	17 October 2017	Deferred to 28 November 2017
Cabinet	To seek approval of the policies.		
<i>Property & Cultural Services</i>	Promotion of Council Land for Development - Eynsham Garden Village (Ref: 2017/104)	17 October 2017	Deferred to 28 November 2017
Cabinet	To seek approval for the County Council to enter into agreements with third party land owners to collaborate and promote their land as part of a joint development. Approval required to incur costs associated with securing planning consent which will be offset against future capital receipts.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Amendments to Cycle Tracks and Waiting Restrictions - Access to Headington Scheme (Ref: 2017/007)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Double Yellow Lines - Mill Road, Shiplake (Ref: 2017/051)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Waiting Restrictions - Radley Station, Radley (Ref: 2017/029)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		

Portfolio	Topic (Ref)/Decision	Present Timing	Change
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Double Yellow Lines - Hawksworth and Collett, Didcot (Ref: 2017/044) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Waiting Restrictions - Greenwood Meadow and Station Road, Chinnor (Ref 2017/034) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Amendments to Waiting Restrictions and Bus Gate - Access to Headington Scheme (Ref: 2017/138) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Double Yellow Lines - Cromwell Way and Water Eaton Lane, Gosford (Ref 2017/076) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed 30mph Speed Limit Extension - B4016 Appleford Road, Sutton Courtenay (Ref: 2017/054) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Speed Limit - A417 Wantage to Lockinge (Ref: 2017/055) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Extension to Double Yellow Lines - Rock Road, Carterton (2016/135) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
<i>Environment</i> Cabinet Member	Proposed Amendments to Parking Restrictions - Frenchay Road, Oxford (Ref: 2016/083) To seek approval of the proposals.	12 October 2017	Deferred to 11 January 2018

Portfolio	Topic (Ref)/Decision	Present Timing	Change
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Double Yellow Lines and Disabled Bay - Chilton Field Estate, Chilton (Ref: 2016/136)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed 30mph Speed Limit - The Hale, Chesterton (Ref 2017/022)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Relocation of a Toucan Crossing and Right Turn Ban - Bicester Road, Gosford (Ref: 2017/024)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Proposed Loading Bay - School Lane, Grove (Ref: 2017/025)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		
<i>Environment</i>	Amendments to Parking Order - Water Eaton Park & Ride, Gosford (Ref: 2017/047)	12 October 2017	Deferred to 23 November 2017
Cabinet Member	To seek approval of the proposals.		

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