

## CABINET

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17 March 2015 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.46 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair  
Councillor Rodney Rose  
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat  
Councillor Melinda Tilley  
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale  
Councillor David Nimmo Smith  
Councillor Lawrie Stratford  
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Liz Brighthouse (Agenda Item 3)  
Councillor Laura Price (Agenda Items 6 & 7)

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting Peter Clark, County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer; Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting

Item	Name
6 & 7	Kate Terroni, Deputy Director Joint Commissioning
10	Mark Kemp, Deputy Director, Commercial

*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.*

### **21/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nick Carter

### **22/15 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2015 were approved and signed subject to the following correction:

Minute 17/15 – Delete the last two sentences of the second paragraph and replace with the following:

Councillor Heathcoat explained for the benefit of all that Mr Hugh-Jones had had a meeting with Ben Threadgold explaining all the points he had raised again today. Mr Threadgold was in the audience and agreed to meet Mr Hugh-Jones yet again.

Responding to a question and comments from Councillor Brighouse about the need for a protocol to ensure that questions asked at Cabinet were as far as possible answered within Cabinet so that they were recorded in the minutes and open to public scrutiny, Peter Clark, County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer undertook to take the request forward as part of the next constitutional review.

## **23/15 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

(Agenda Item. 4)

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

“Money for Cycling in the city

It is of course very welcome that the Government has allocated some funds to the County Council to improve Cycling in Oxford. When this was originally announced, the Cabinet member was quoted as saying that it would be directed towards providing a comprehensive cycling network across the city. It now seems as if it is going to a major project or two – not to supporting the development of a joined-up network across the city after all. Can the Cabinet member confirm that it remains his ambition to support the development of a proper network, with no gaps as at present and safe junctions throughout, to encourage more people to feel it is safe to cycle in Oxford?

Further, can he ask officers to investigate how Oxfordshire children could benefit very much more than at present from Bikeability training grants from the Dft? It is very disappointing to see that while Cambridgeshire has been awarded £204,160 for 2015/16, Oxfordshire has only been awarded £8,800.”

Councillor Nimmo Smith replied:

The Draft Oxford Transport Strategy demonstrates a commitment to citywide cycling improvements and proposes a network of cycle super routes, premium routes and connector routes linking all parts of the city. The recent projects for which we have secured funding (including Access to Headington, The Plain, and the Riverside routes to the city centre) will form an important part of this network, working towards our aim of a joined up cycling network across the city. We are also developing proposals for smaller schemes to fill in missing gaps in on-road cycle provision and provide new quiet connector routes at relatively low cost. This work is due to be completed in the spring and could form part of future funding bids.

The main reason for Oxfordshire's relatively low Bikeability funding award is that we have a different, and very successful, model for providing cycle training in schools, using an established network of volunteers trained by qualified staff. This is managed as part of the Council's Fire & Public Safety work. This programme is topped up by Bikeability training in some areas where the Oxfordshire model is not able to provide what we need.

Supplementary: Councillor Fooks asked when the consultation would take place and the procedure to be followed. She also asked why Bikeability was not available to Cherwell School. In response Councillor Nimmo Smith explained that he could not give an exact timetable now but would advise her when he had that information. He would investigate the reason why Bikeability was not available to Cherwell School and respond to Councillor Fooks directly.

Councillor John Tanner had given notice of the following question to Councillor Melinda Tilley

'The County Council claims that "almost 91 per cent (90.98) of Oxfordshire children due to start secondary school this year have been allocated a place at their first-preference school". Would you tell me how many children, and what percentage, living in my Isis division and in the wider Oxford City were offered their first choice of secondary school and how many were not?'

Councillor Tilley replied:

"To answer this question at this stage would require officers, currently working to ensure that primary school allocations are made on time, being pulled off this important task. The answer will be passed directly to Councillor Tanner and all councillors as soon as possible."

Supplementary: Councillor Tanner asked when he would get an answer and queried whether, from the information provided to Councillor Sanders, Councillor Tilley agreed that at least 62 children in the City had not received their first preference. In response Councillor Tilley, confirming that the figures referred to in Councillor Tanners question were correct and not a "claim" by the County Council, indicated that as soon as the primary places were done Councillor Tanner would get an answer. She did not know whether the figure of 62 was right.

Councillor Gill Sanders had given notice of the following question to Councillor Melinda Tilley

"Whilst I recognize that almost 91% of Oxfordshire children due to start secondary school this year have been allocated a place at their first-preference school, and that the figure is very slightly higher than last year's, this still means that over 9% of children have not been given their first choice. A larger percentage of children have been allocated places at either their second or third choices with over 2% still not being lucky enough to have been allocated a place at any of their listed preferred schools.

Could Councillor Tilley please ask officers to prepare a detailed list of secondary schools that have been oversubscribed and those that are undersubscribed and to circulate to all councillors in order that they can be informed of any problems with place allocations in their individual divisions?

It would also be helpful if the primary schools where most problems of children not being able to access their first or second choices of secondary schools could be listed to give a complete picture of the problems.”

Councillor Tilley replied:

The document (attached as an annex to these minutes) lists the number of first preferences received on time for each school and compares these with the number of places being made available. The analysis of primary school applications will be available in due course.

Supplementary: Councillor Sanders, welcomed the information, looked forward to receiving the primary school figures and commented that some of the secondary school figures were worrying and asked if Councillor Tilley agreed that more work was needed to encourage parents to use local schools. She also referred to the large number of houses planned and the need to ensure school places were available. Councillor Tilley replied that officers were working 5 -10 years ahead to plan places. It was not possible for everyone to get their first choice but Oxfordshire had a good record.

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

“Is the Rectory Road Sexual Health clinic Equality Act 2010 compliant? I have received a complaint from a patient with mobility difficulties who was advised that she could not attend the clinic (which is on the first floor) at a time convenient for her because the lift is accessible through the Drug & Alcohol service and the opening times do not always co-incide.”

	Sexual Health Service	Drug & Alcohol Service
Monday	09.30 – 19.00	12.00 – 19.00
Tuesday	09.30 - 19.00	12.00 – 16.00
Wednesday	11.30 – 19.00	12.00 - 16.00
Thursday	09.30 – 19.00	12.00 – 16.00
Friday	09.30 - 16.00	12.00 – 16.00
Saturday	No service	11.30 – 14.30

Councillor Hibbert Biles replied:

“The Sexual Health Service at Rectory Road Clinic is compliant with the 2010 Equality Act. There are other services which are provided at this building and access to the lift to the first floor where the services are located is via the Drug & Alcohol service. Those who are wishing to access services who have mobility issues are welcome at this site by appointment to ensure that they have access arranged to the lift at the time of their visit.

There are also fully accessible services available to service users a short distance away at the Churchill site for those who do not find the times available at Rectory Road suitable to them.”

Supplementary: Councillor Phillips commented that the reply was disappointing as she believed the services should be accessible to all the people at all open times. It was not always appropriate to get an appointment and there were times when immediate access was needed. Councillor Phillips asked if Councillor Hibbert Biles was content with the level of access and if not what she intended to do. Councillor Hibbert Biles replied that with a change of provider there was an opportunity to change the internal arrangement to improve matters. Things were not perfect but it was one of the best services. She had received no other complaint and would welcome receiving more details of the patient. The building was DDA compliant. Councillor Phillips added that if it was possible to make an appointment to attend in the morning and have access to the lift then it would be helpful if that could be publicised.

## **24/15 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to speak had been agreed

Item 3 – Councillor Brighthouse (Question)

Item 6– Councillor Price

Item 7– Councillor Price

## **25/15 THE BIG PLAN - LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY - 2015-2018**

(Agenda Item. 6)

Oxfordshire County Council is the lead commissioner of learning disability health and social care services, through a county council and clinical commissioning group pooled budget.

The current Learning Disability Strategy is due for a refresh and a new strategy and commissioning intentions have been developed with people with learning disabilities, their families, and professionals before going to a broader consultation, which finished on 9 February 2015.

Cabinet considered a report that covered commissioning plans for delivering services to people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire, including changes made as a result of the consultation.

Councillor Laura Price, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, commented that there was good and bad in the report but that generally it was a good response to a good well run consultation and the wellbeing and

employment service had merit. However she had a major concern over the mainstreaming of health provision where there was a risk due to the lack of detail and the reliance on other major aspects of policy for success. In particular there was not enough detail about reasonable adjustment, including the size, scope and cost and how long it would be funded for. There were links to GP waiting times in terms of assumptions of how complex needs could be met and aspects connected with the governance of contracts and the management of pooled budgets. She concluded that this was a big piece of work and it was important not to rush it but to work for the long term.

Councillor Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied that throughout the development of the new strategy the aim had been to ensure that all were well informed. That was why the consultation had been so broad and so long with the use of workshops. She was aware that there were concerns but overall it was her view that the work is exciting, allowing for greater independence.

In introducing the contents of the report Councillor Heathcoat advised of the following correction:

Reference to paragraph 24 in paragraph 24 amended to refer to paragraph 23.

Cabinet Members commented that it was a comprehensive report following a lengthy consultation. It was acknowledged that any change in service would create some anxiety and time would be needed for everything to bed in. The County Wide Domestic Service was welcomed. Kate Terroni added that they would continue to focus on communication to alleviate the anxieties expressed.

**RESOLVED:** having considered the results of the public consultation on Oxfordshire's joint Learning Disability Strategy 2015 – 2018 to approve the way forward as set out in the paper.

## **26/15 CARE HOME FEES 2015**

(Agenda Item. 7)

The services that care homes provide within Oxfordshire play an important role in helping to meet the needs of vulnerable adults. The Council has to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the social care market to meet its current and future commissioning requirements.

The Council has stated that it is keen to ensure the sustainability of care home services in Oxfordshire to meet the assessed needs of vulnerable adults, and is committed to work alongside providers to ensure that services are of the highest quality.

Cabinet had before them a report that described the process the Council has undertaken to review the amount it pays for care homes and in particular to agree the Target Banding Rates to be applied for 2015-16.

Councillor Laura Price, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care noted that there was a slight increase in the number of care homes engaged but that she felt that it was still far away from the level of transparency needed. Councillor Heathcoat replied that every care provider had had the opportunity to respond and there had been a providers' day plus other meetings that meant that the transparency was there.

Responding to a question from Councillor Hibbert Biles, Councillor Price stated that she was not saying that the Council was not trying to get responses but that there needed to be new ways of doing it to challenge the complacency of the market. She added that measures such as signing up to the Ethical Care Charter could have a cumulative effect.

In introducing the contents of the report Councillor Heathcoat thanked Oxfordshire Carehomes Association and Mr Taylor, proprietor for Banbury Heights and Julie Richardson Nursing Homes for their recent representations that had been seen by Cabinet Members.

**RESOLVED:** that in view of the above:

for 2015/16 to revise our Target Banding Rates from April 2015 and

- (a) Increase the Target Banding rate for the Residential-Extensive Specialist Category to £473 per week for new placements.
- (b) Increase all existing weekly Residential payment rates that are currently paid below £473 per week to £473 per week
- (c) Increase the Nursing-Extensive Target Banding Rate to £583 per week
- (d) Increase all existing weekly Nursing Extensive that are currently below £583 per week to £583 per week
- (e) Increase the Nursing-Specialist Target Banding Rate to £655 per week
- (f) Increase all existing weekly Nursing Extensive and Substantial rates that are currently below £655 per week to £655 per week
- (g) Increase the above rates to reflect the increase in Funded Nursing Care once this is announced later in April 2015.
- (h) Increase all other existing Care Home placements to reflect the increase in Funded Nursing care once this is announced later in April 2015
- (i) Continue to use these rates as a guide to secure a care home placement at a funding level as close to the Target Banding Rate as possible.
- (j) The above to apply from April 2015 and for care home placements in Oxfordshire.

**27/15 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

(Agenda Item. 8)

The Cabinet considered a list of items 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.

**28/15 EXEMPT ITEM**

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet agreed to hold discussion of the next item in public, whilst confirming that the annex contained exempt information and should not be made public.

**29/15 NORTH WEST BICESTER EXEMPLAR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cherwell District Council is developing a new local plan to guide the development of the district up to 2031 and significant housing growth is planned for Bicester. This plan includes proposals for North West Bicester (Eco Town) for at least 5000 homes in total (1793 of these by 2031) along with new primary schools and a Secondary school.

Outline Planning consent has been gained for the first phase (exemplar) of this overall development (housing and schools etc.) by the developer; associated with which is a S106 agreement securing land and contributions towards various infrastructure, including the proposed primary school.

The Scheme has been submitted for detailed planning consent in November 2014 following approval of the Outline Business Case that was granted in October 2014. The scheme is currently being developed to detailed design to be completed in order to enable construction to start in June 2015, with completion in time to enable pupils to begin school in September 2016.

Cabinet considered a report that was submitted for consideration in anticipation of an expeditious Final Business Case review and subsequent governance approvals in the first financial quarter 2015, to facilitate mobilisation phases on receipt of the Land transfer agreement expected in May 2015.

During discussion Cabinet welcomed the proposals ahead of the bulk of the housing being built. It was hoped that the building standard would reflect the standards expected of an Eco Town.

**RESOLVED:** to:

- (a) endorse the progress to date; and



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- (b) delegate to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader the authority to approve the Stage 2 Full Business Case and the award of the construction contract.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

School	Places available	1st Preferences	Surplus or (-) shortfall	Over subscribed?	
Banbury Academy (931/4000)	180	102	78		
Bartholomew School (931/4054)	210	214	-4	O	
Bicester Community College (931/4030)	240	121	119		
Blessed George Napier Catholic School (931/4600)	142	120	22		
Burford School (931/4040)	200	187	13		
Carterton Community College (931/4041)	140	105	35		
Cheney School (931/4120)	240	195	45		
Chiltern Edge School (931/4092)	180	86	94		
Chipping Norton School (931/4010)	240	155	85		
Didcot Girls' School (931/4139)	240	207	33		
Faringdon Community College (931/4141)	210	197	13		
Fitzharrys School (931/4127)	180	96	84		
Gillotts School (931/4055)	180	204	-24	O	
Gosford Hill School (931/4060)	180	147	33		
Heyford Park Free School (931/4003)	60	49	11		
Icknield Community College (931/4082)	140	81	59		
John Mason School (931/4126)	180	211	-31	O	
King Alfred's (931/4142)	310	297	13		
Langtree School (931/4094)	112	153	-41	O	
Larkmead School (931/4125)	180	108	72		
Lord Williams's School (931/4580)	320	238	82		
Matthew Arnold School (931/4128)	180	224	-44	O	
North Oxfordshire Academy (931/6905)	180	172	8		
Oxford Spires Academy (931/6907)	210	158	52		
St Birinus School (931/4129)	240	209	31		
St Gregory The Great Catholic School (931/4145)	210	190	20		
The Cherwell School (931/4116)	270	452	-182	O	
The Cooper School (931/4032)	220	226	-6	O	
The Henry Box School (931/4050)	240	216	24		
The Marlborough Church of England School (931/4560)	180	209	-29	O	
The Oxford Academy (931/6906)	210	104	106		
The Warriner School (931/4007)	228	256	-28	O	
Wallingford School (931/4140)	190	222	-32	O	
Wheatley Park School (931/4077)	185	172	13		
Wood Green School (931/4052)	210	155	55		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7017</b>	<b>6,238</b>	<b>779</b>		

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