

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.30pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Leffman – in the Chair
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Glynis Phillips
Councillor Dr Pete Sudbury
Councillor Tim Bearder
Councillor Duncan Enright
Councillor Calum Miller
Councillor Mark Lygo
Councillor Andrew Gant

Other Members in

Attendance: Councillors David Bartholomew, Donna Ford, John Howson
Dan Levy and Nigel Simpson

Officers:

Whole of meeting:

Martin Reeves, Chief Executive, Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, Kevin Gordon, Director of Children's Services, Claire Taylor Director of Customers, Organisational Development and Resources, Chris Reynolds, Committee Officer.

The Cabinet 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.

47/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hannaby.

48/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

49/23 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

50/23 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

See Annex.

51/23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

5 Petition – “Save our bus seats”

Annalisa Miller

6 Reports from Scrutiny Committees – Home to School Transport Policy Working Group

Grant Cawte
Peter Walker
Katrina Randon
Sarah Obinna
Cllr John Howson

52/23 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 6)

On behalf of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Tom Hudson, Principal Scrutiny Officer introduced the report “Cost of Living Performance”, which summarised the Committee’s consideration of the interventions in place and in development to support those facing challenges with the cost of living and comparing them with LGA advice on the role that Councils should play in this area. He referred to the recommendation regarding regular liaison with Locality meetings on cost-of-living activity.

Councillor Nigel Simpson, Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the report “Transitions to Adult Social Care” which summarised the Committee’s consideration of Oxfordshire’s approach to supporting young people through their transition into adult services. He referred to the recommendation regarding the potential opportunities for Section 106 capital funding for housing needs.

Councillor Simpson also introduced the report “Children and Adult Social Care Workforce” which summarised the Committee’s consideration of the

children and adults' social care workforce (both internal and external), recruitment and retention challenges and opportunities. He referred to the recommendations the Council introduces a Council-wide staff retention strategy and to develop a partnership approach to key-worker housing with the District Councils.

Councillor Andy Graham, Chair of the Home to School Transport Working Group, introduced the report from the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee which summarised the Working Group's findings from its review of the Home to School Transport Policy. He gave details of the various factors which had led to the 9 recommendations in the report. Councillor Simpson, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the recommendations had been carried with cross-party support.

Councillor Liz Brighouse, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services responded to the report and thanked Councillor Graham and the members of the Working Group for their work which had led to the recommendations. She made the following points:

- The Council had been provided with information about the alternative bus provision in a number of schools
- There had been considerable work on mitigation in response to the reduced numbers of spare seats in some schools
- The Council would continue to support the spare seats policy
- A report on the policy would be brought to the Cabinet meeting in May

During discussion members made the following points:

- The provision of public transport was an important element of the Council's environmental strategy to tackle the impact of climate change and all possible steps should be taken to reduce the number of car journeys and mitigate the loss of spare seats in some areas of the County
- Parents attending the meeting were encouraged to hold discussions with the Director of Children's Services regarding the concerns expressed at the meeting

Cabinet will respond to the four Scrutiny Committee reports in due course.

53/23 PROPOSAL FROM OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB TO OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AS LANDOWNER: UPDATE

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet had before it a report which provided an update on progress with negotiations with Oxford United Football Club on the future use of Council-owned land and timetable for provision of a new stadium.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, introduced the report and explained the progress that had been made with stakeholder engagement on the proposals as detailed in the report.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed.

RESOLVED to note :-

- a) the progress set out in the report
- b) that the “likely case” timetable set out in appendix 1 remains the probable timeframe for decision making.

54/23 ERP OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE - A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSFORMING THE COUNCIL'S ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet had before it a report presenting an outline business case to transform finance, procurement, HR and payroll services and systems within the authority. These services were currently delivered in partnership with Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services introduced the report and explained the reasons for transferring the services to an in-house model which would better meet the Council's needs going forward.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- The importance of involving staff at all levels in the organisation in the transformation process
- The process should be conducted through a sequential approach to ensure sustainability and that the financial, capability and delivery aspects of the project were given adequate consideration

Councillor Phillips proposed the recommendations, Councillor Sudbury seconded and they were approved.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) approve the development of detailed requirements and a full business case to review delivery options for corporate support services and underpinning technology including human resources, finance, payroll and procurement in order to deliver services more efficiently, modernise business processes and upgrade current IT systems.
- b) approve funding of £1.57m for programme resources to prepare requirements for a transformation and potential procurement

process. This funding will be drawn from the council's transformation reserve.

- c) note that a further Cabinet decision to commit capital funding and progress to the next stage will be required in due course, which will be based on a full business case.**

55/23 DELEGATED POWERS REPORT FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2023

(Agenda Item. 9)

RESOLVED to note the executive decision taken under the specific powers and functions delegated under the terms of Part 7.1 (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3(c)(i). It is not for Scrutiny call-in

56/23 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 10)

The Cabinet considered a list of items (CA10) for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED to:

- a) note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.**
- b) add the decision on the Home to School Transport Policy to the Forward Plan for the Cabinet meeting in May 2023**
- c) note that the Portfolios listed for the non-key decision on Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy should be the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equalities and the Cabinet member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment**

.....in the Chair

Date of signing

CABINET – 18 APRIL 2023

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p data-bbox="248 584 680 611">1. COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY</p> <p data-bbox="199 655 1043 983">Could the Cabinet Member for Travel Development and Strategy please give an update on the plans for the HIF2 A40 project, given the extended delay since the project was paused for review? Can he also assure us that prior to any plans being presented to Cabinet they will be shared with active travel advocates to ensure they give safe and direct cycling facilities on the main route to Oxford from the west, and with the councillors for the divisions directly affected?</p> <p data-bbox="199 1023 490 1054"><u>SUPPLEMENTARY</u></p> <p data-bbox="199 1099 1043 1171">Will the Cabinet member ensure that a full consultation takes place with stakeholders and not merely a briefing?</p>	<p data-bbox="1070 584 1973 647">COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p data-bbox="1070 695 1980 871">The HIF2 A40 scheme remains paused and under review for the time being. The project team is aiming to present to Cabinet in June, its recommendations following the review. A sequence of activities, including briefings with the key stakeholders, are to be scheduled in due course.</p> <p data-bbox="1070 1023 1216 1054"><u>ANSWER</u></p> <p data-bbox="1070 1099 1989 1171">The briefing will be the first stage of the process and there will be full consultation with all stakeholders as the scheme progresses.</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>2. COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY</p> <p>I was recently only just made aware of an event having taken place in my back yard, a production of Godspell by Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre. We all acknowledge and appreciate the crucial role that musical theatre (and the creative arts more widely) can play in developing essential skills and confidence in our young people, and that therefore as a Council and Councillors we should do everything we can to ensure that we support these groups to thrive. Can the cabinet member assure me that in future any events from OCC's Music Service: (A) are widely publicised within the Council and to local Councillors (so that people need not rely on last minute word of mouth), (B) are given external promotion they need in order to attract the audience they deserve, and (C) are encouraged and empowered to have daytime performances so that other children and young people can attend, ensuring that it continues to inspire more young people?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SAFETY</p> <p>Thank you Cllr Ley for your question and for your words of support for the work of OCCs Music Service and in particular Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre (OYMT), an important aspect of the Service. The Music Service works closely with the Council's comms team, and has engaged in social media campaigns, flashmob performances and produced publicity materials for OYMT. The Music Service is currently further developing its comms strategy, and in conjunction with Council colleagues in Comms and ICT has developed a new Music Hub website, which hosts events listings and promotions. Oxfordshire Music Hub Oxfordshire We will of course ensure that Cllrs are kept informed in advance too.</p> <p>The Service is open to performances during the school day – there was a highly successful Youth Orchestra day at the Sheldonian in January which was attended by over 1400 school pupils . and whilst this does involve releasing pupils from school etc, it is certainly a consideration going forward, and one which will be raised for future planning with the appropriate school consent</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>3. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>The report to Cabinet on OUFC proposals states in paragraph 13</p> <p>“OUFC have continued to undertake their own stakeholder engagement.”</p> <p>Then in Paragraph 20 it again says :</p> <p>“OUFC is undertaking their own engagement activities to help shape their own planning”</p> <p>As the local member, I’m unaware of any further engagement activities being carried out by the club since the revised proposals were brought to the cabinet in January. Given that there still appears to be very little substance to these proposals, it’s unclear as to what any such engagement could be based on.</p> <p>As the report states that there has apparently been further engagement undertaken by the club surrounding the revised proposals, could I please be provided with details of what it was based on, when it was done, what form it took, who it involved and what has been the result so far?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>OUFC are responsible for undertaking community engagement for their scheme and it is important to draw a distinction between the work the club are undertaking as the scheme promoters and the stakeholder engagement we are undertaking to listen to local views.</p> <p>With regards to OUFC we expect them to undertake community engagement as part of the development of the scheme proposal, as would be the case for any major development of this kind. OUFC have told us they have identified six groups of stakeholders: Local Residents, Fans, Local Sports Groups, National Sports Bodies, Locally Elected Representatives, Community and Economic Groups and that they are engaging with these groups. We expect them set out the engagement work they have undertaken as part of the information they submit to us and highlight how this engagement has supported the development of the scheme.</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>4. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>A recent letter has been sent by OCC to ‘stakeholders’ including local councillors in my division inviting them to a meeting during April to discuss the proposals from OUFC.</p> <p>It says :</p> <p>“Discussions will focus on your early views on the extent to which OUFC’s emerging plans meet the key strategic priorities set out below.”</p> <p>Yet the report to cabinet states in paragraph 17 :</p> <p>“At this stage no additional technical information has been provided by OUFC regarding the details of the scheme, as such the stakeholder meetings are designed to capture early views as to how OUFC’s emerging plans meet the council’s seven strategic priorities”</p> <p>If there are no details of the scheme available, how exactly are stakeholders going to be able to provide any relevant or applicable views, early or otherwise, as to how it will or will not meet our priorities?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>The Cabinet report considered in March 2023 sets out our approach to public engagement. We are approaching our engagement in two phases. The first phase is formative discussions with stakeholders to listen to views, concerns and aspirations, taking place in April and May. clearly, These are focused on the location and general principles regarding a stadium. The second phase will take place after OUFC have published further detailed information about the proposals for their scheme. The timeframe is dependent on OUFC providing us with sufficient information and we have committed to a period of six weeks for this to take place. Our engagement and communications strategy has been published alongside timetables for decision making. We are committed to open stakeholder engagement and welcome approaches from any community group, we are keen to meet with people and hear their views.</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>5. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Is the Cabinet Member content with the arrangements for the less mobile bus passengers and local residents following the closure of the Botley Road?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Yes. In addition to the support provided by marshals on the site, Network Rail has also commissioned additional support for the less mobile via Oxfordshire County Council, Fleet Services. The Service is now signed as Botley Road Flyer.</p> <p>This will operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An accessible vehicle with capacity for 12 seats and 1 wheelchair. - Operate the vehicle as an open door service at designated bus stops, signage at stops will be Botley Road Flyer - The bus signage will be BOTLEY ROAD FLYER - Network Rail (and their contractor Kier) will contact users and will organise and take responsibility for passengers knowing the bus stops and route. - The timetable will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 4 runs a day, at 10.00, 11.00 , 12.00 ,13.00. - The route will be: Botley Road, Seacourt P&R, A34, Wolvercote Roundabout, Woodstock Road, Jericho, Walton Street, Frideswide Square , Abingdon Road, Redbridge P&R, A34, Botley Road. - KIER and Network Rail will overview the service and can ask for alterations.

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p><u>SUPPLEMENTARY</u></p> <p>Will you be holding further discussions with the bus companies on the need to improve services for these passengers and prevent the stacking of buses inhibiting the safe use of pelican crossings by pedestrians? Would you also seek improvements to the bus stop facilities at Osney Island?</p>	<p>For local residents, access to the City Centre is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists with vehicles wanting access diverted via the A34 North and South to Woodstock or Abingdon Roads.</p> <p>Oxford City based Members were updated on the arrangements at a series of briefing sessions run by Network Rail and supported by Officers from the County Council over recent weeks, as well as a specific briefing on arrangements on 6 April 2023 which the Member attended.</p> <p><u>ANSWER</u></p> <p>Yes, the measures introduced are being monitored and further discussions would be held with the bus companies on the points raised by Cllr Howson.</p>

