

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 JUNE 2011

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

1. Establishment Review

(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on activity since the implementation of the Establishment Review and associated Recruitment Approval process on 1 August 2005. Details of the agreed establishment figure at 31 March 2011 in terms of Full Time Equivalents was provided, together with the detailed staffing position at 31 March 2011. The report also contained information on grant funded posts and those vacancies which are being covered by agency staff and at what cost.

Cabinet Member: Adult Services

2. Changes to the Internal Home Support Service

(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the results of a 3 month consultation exercise into proposed re-provision of a range of internal Home Support services which employ around 320 staff and support 500 Service Users and Cabinet gave final approval to the proposed changes to service provision. They agreed that the internal Home Support Service will cease to operate by April 2012, subject to satisfactory re-provision arrangements and any other necessary actions required to maintain continuity of service; and requested a progress report from the Director of Social and Community Services to Adult Services Scrutiny Committee in December 2011.

Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families

3. Children, Young People & Families Service Redesign

(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)

Cabinet approved a report that set out a proposed new direction for the provision of services for children, young people and families in Oxfordshire, including the creation of a new, single integrated Early Intervention Service and changes to the provision of Education Services and Children's Social Care Services.

4. Outcomes of the Recent OFSTED Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services and Consequential Action Plan

(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)

Cabinet considered a report that summarised the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services in Oxfordshire.

The report indicated that Ofsted concluded that in Oxfordshire:

- Overall effectiveness of safeguarding services was good.
- Capacity to improve was good.
- Overall effectiveness of services for looked after children was good; and
- Capacity to improve was good.

Cabinet noted that the judgement for "Making a positive contribution, including user engagement" for looked after children and care leavers was outstanding.

Cabinet noted the recommendations in the inspection report and approved the proposed actions and timescales to address the recommendations in the report.

5. Progress Report on Children Looked After (LAC) and Leaving Care

(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)

Cabinet considered one of a regular series of reports that came to Cabinet on its role as legal "Corporate Parent" to the Children and Young People Looked After by the Council, and those Leaving Care to live independently.

Cabinet agreed their continued support for the Corporate Parenting Strategy and noted the information on outcomes for looked After Children and the associated performance measures.

Cabinet Member: Finance & Property

6. Financial Monitoring

(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)

Cabinet considered the March 2011 financial monitoring report. It included projections for revenue, balances, reserves and capital monitoring.

The in – year Directorate forecast underspend including the Council elements of the Pooled Budgets was -£3.318m

The forecast for general balances was £13.763m. Taking into account the forecast underspend consistent with IFRS reporting requirements (-£6.817m), the consolidated revenue balances forecast as at 31 March 2011 were £20.580m.

Cabinet agreed the contribution of £0.266m from the Efficiency Reserve to offset the shortfall of in-year grant reductions; agreed the bad debt write off;

agreed the Pre-Planning and Archaeology charges; agreed to defer a decision on the use of the extra funding of £1.941m, notified for services for which funding has already been agreed, until the outcomes of the consultations are known; agreed that the grants provided for the provision of additional services of £4.295m are spent in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to them and are allocated to the appropriate Directorates; and approved virements for financial year 2011/12.

Cabinet Member: Growth and Infrastructure

7. Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy *(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)*

Cabinet considered a report that set out and sought approval for a strategy for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). A public consultation had been undertaken in order to obtain feedback from Oxfordshire residents, Councillors and Parish, Town and District Councils and inform the strategy. The consultation was undertaken between 7th March and 4th April 2011.

Cabinet approved the Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy and gave authority to the Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure to approve detailed implementation plans, including minor changes to the strategy.

Cabinet Member: Police & Policy Co-ordination

8. Big Society Fund *(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)*

Cabinet considered a report that set out the position with regard to young people's centres on school sites and where there were requests to transfer them to a number of schools.

Cabinet agreed to the transfer of buildings to the school on sites: at King Alfred's School east site, Bartholomew School and at Chipping Norton School; they requested a sustainable business case to come forward for the future management and use of the Wheatley Young People's Centre led by the Children's Centre and agreed to encourage proposals to come forward for the remaining young people's centres on school sites for Cabinet to consider as part of the Big Society Fund.

Cabinet Member: Safer & Stronger Communities

9. Future Arrangements for Call Receipt, Mobilising and Incident Management for Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service *(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)*

Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals for future arrangements following the cancellation of the government project to regionalise Fire and Rescue Service call receipt, mobilising and incident management

arrangements. Cabinet endorsed the progression of the collaborative scoping study and creation of the Strategic Outline Business Case being undertaken by Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Royal Berkshire FRSs; approved Oxfordshire requirements as benchmarks against which future options would be assessed; approved options included within the options appraisal; and required the Chief Fire Officer to instigate appropriate actions for asset management and capital strategy as necessary and that he report back to the Cabinet Member on a regular basis.

Cabinet Member: Schools Improvement

10. New Marston Primary School

(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)

New Marston Primary School is a primary school for 3-11 year-olds in the north-east of Oxford. Its catchment area includes Headley Way and Northway. Until recently the school had planned to admit 30 children each year. Due to rising numbers of children needing primary school places in Oxford, the school agreed to take more than its admission number in September 2009 and 2010. The school's admission number for 2011 was published at 60 and Cabinet considered a report seeking a decision whether to expand the school permanently to 2 forms of entry (with an admission number of 60), requiring an enlargement to the physical capacity of the school and approved the publication of a statutory notice for the school's expansion.

11. Charlton Primary School

(Cabinet, 19 April 2011)

In recent years the Wantage and Grove area had experienced a significant and sustained rise in primary pupil numbers due to birth rates and recent/current housing development in Wantage. Following local consultation, Cabinet considered a report seeking a decision on whether to expand the school permanently to 2 forms of entry (with an admission number of 60), which will require an enlargement to the physical capacity of the school and approved the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of the school

12. Culham Parochial Primary School

(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)

The closure of Culham Parochial Primary School was proposed in November 2010 and was the subject of an extensive public consultation. The responses to the consultation were reported to Cabinet in February 2011 where a decision about whether or not to publish a statutory closure notice was deferred until March 2011 Cabinet to give the school's governors more time to address, through a recovery plan, a number of key issues. Although progress had been made by the time Cabinet met in March, a robust recovery plan was not fully in place and a decision was taken to publish the statutory notice while 'leaving the door open' to governors. Cabinet considered a report detailing the representations made to the statutory notice; assessing progress made towards addressing the key issues; and considering the implications of closing the school with effect from the end of August 2011.

Cabinet agreed not to seek the closure of the school.

Cabinet Member: Transport

13. Didcot Parkway Station Interchange

(Cabinet, 24 May 2011)

Cabinet considered a report that gave an update on progress with the project and sought authority to proceed with the award of a contract so that construction could begin this year. Cabinet gave approval to the detailed project appraisal.

KEITH R MITCHELL CBE

Leader of the Council

May 2011