

Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 May 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership and Charter

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an overview of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) including the development and launch of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter on 24 January 2023. The report recommended that the Council becomes a signatory to the charter and makes four pledges to demonstrate the Council's commitment to an inclusive economy.

Cabinet agreed amended recommendations to note the establishment of the Partnership, that the Council become a signatory to the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter, to make four pledges to build on the Council's commitment to become an inclusive economy, and that the OIEP was considered to be a Strategic Body and the Council's representative would be the Leader of the Council with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equality as substitute.

Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care

2. Adult Social Care Market Sustainability Plan

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report recommending approval of a draft Market Sustainability Plan detailing how social care needs would be met in the next 3 years. The proposed plan included an increased offer to providers which would assist them in the current economic climate but recognised radical reform to the provision of services was needed for the long term.

Cabinet agreed to approve the draft plan for publication and Submission to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services and Finance

3. Proposal from Oxford United Football Club to Oxfordshire County Council as landowner: engagement and communications strategy, timeframe and memorandum of understanding

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Proposal from Oxford United Football Club to Oxfordshire County Council as Landowner: Update

(Cabinet: 18 April 2023)

In March, Cabinet was asked to consider an engagement and communications strategy in relation to the proposal from Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) to use a parcel of Council land known as 'Land to East of Frieze Way / South of Kidlington Roundabout or the triangle' for the development of a new stadium.

The engagement and communication strategy aspects of the report would be undertaken in two phases, both meeting with stakeholder groups and inviting wider feedback. This would take place over a six week period following receipt of the club's proposals.

Cabinet agreed the amended recommendations to approve the engagement and communications strategy, the memorandum of understanding and the timetable for the process.

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

Cabinet noted the progress that had been made and the "likely case" timetable for decision making.

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services

4. Workforce Report and Staffing Data – Quarter 3 – October to December 2022

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update on the key strategic workforce priority areas for Quarter 3 and a refreshed workforce profile.

A new workforce strategy and action plan was being developed across the organisation. The results of the staff wellbeing survey would be reflected in this work. The survey had illustrated that more needed to be done to support staff, especially in Children's Services and schools.

Cabinet noted the report.

5. ERP Outline Business Case – A Programme for Transforming the Council's Enterprise Business Systems and Processes

(Cabinet: 18 April 2023)

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. The importance of involving staff at all levels of the organisation in the process and ensuring a sequential approach to the project were noted.

Cabinet approved the recommendations to develop a full business case and funding for programme resources and noted that a decision on capital funding would be required in due course.

Cabinet Member: Finance

6. Business Management and Monitoring Report – December 22-January 23

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet received a report presenting the January 2023 performance, risk, and finance position for the council.

There were significant and persistent challenges around demand for children's social care and the availability of care placements and frontline social work staff.

Inflation and workforce shortages in the wider economy had also impacted on the financial position for the council during 2022/23

Cabinet noted the report and the virements, supplementary estimate and bad debt write-off listed in the report.

7. Capital Programme Monitoring Report – January 2023

(Cabinet – 21 March 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of January 2023 - the fourth update for 2022/23. It also included an update to the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2023 taking into account additional funding and new and/or changes to schemes. There had been reduced forecast expenditure of £14.9m on the capital programme for 2022/23 due to projects starting later than expected.

Cabinet noted the current position, the approval of the Leader of the Council, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations for the revised budget provision of £5.4m for the Ploughley Road/A41 Junction Improvement scheme in Bicester and agreed the in-year profiling.

8. Treasury Management – 3rd quarterly report

(Cabinet – 21 March 2023)

Cabinet considered a report covering the treasury management activity for the third quarter of 2022/23 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021. It provided an update on the anticipated position and prudential indicators set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 agreed as part of the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2022.

Higher interest rates had resulted in higher than expected interest receivable on the surplus cash held. Some investments have been more challenged, but none have materially damaged the overall Treasury position. The Cabinet were assured that no investments or funds were held with financial institutions that were currently under threat.

Cabinet noted the current position on treasury management activity and referred the report to the Council.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management

9. Highways Contract Procurement – Preferred Model for Approval

(Cabinet:21 March 2023)

Cabinet considered the outcome of work by highway maintenance contract specialists, DMSqd, to determine the most appropriate procurement model for Oxfordshire.

Cabinet agreed the recommendations to approve the preferred model (single provider with greater level of in-house responsibilities and use of frameworks for some activities) for the future highway maintenance contract for Oxfordshire and supported the progression to the next stage of developing and drafting the specification, contract, and other tender documents required for procurement.

Cabinet Member: Travel & Development Strategy

11. Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Update

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet considered a report updating the existing financial governance arrangements for the Housing and Growth Deal following the receipt of updated requirements for the release of the remaining £30m grant funding from the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Cabinet agreed the recommendations to accept the terms of the letter, that the Council would take responsibility for decisions necessary to manage the programme in accordance with the updated conditions set out by DLUHC, and noted that it would be necessary to agree revised Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to reflect the change in responsibility.

Cabinet Member: Public Health and Equalities

12. Cost of Living Support Measures

(Cabinet: 21 March 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update on delivery of cost of living support in 2022/23 and making recommendations for the disbursement of cost of living resources in 2023/24.

The proposals were targeted at those most vulnerable and those who fell through the gaps between the national schemes. There were proposals to ensure that the increases in Council Tax would not fall on those in the lowest income households and support for discretionary housing payments was being doubled.

Cabinet noted the cost of living support measures delivered during 2022/23, agreed to vary the match funding requirements for Council Tax support agreed in September 2022, and approved the support package for 2023/24.

Scrutiny Reports

13. Reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 21 March & 18 April 2023)

Cabinet received reports on, and committed to respond formally to, the following:

- Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Water Resources and the South East Regional Plan (25 January 2023)
- Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cost of Living Performance (19 January 2023)
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Transitions to Adult Social Care (10 November 2022)
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children and Adults' Social Care Workforce (10 November 2022)
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Home to School Transport Policy Working Group (12 January 2023)

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

May 2023