

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

The decisions take effect at the time and date specified, unless before that time written notice is given in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules requiring the decision to be called in for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

If you have a query please contact Sue Whitehead (Tel: 07393 001213; E-Mail: sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

CABINET - TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2018

<i>List published 19 December 2018 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 28 December 2018</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence	None	DLG (A. Newman)
2. Declarations of Interest - guidance note opposite	None	DLG (A. Newman)
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 (CA3) and to receive information arising from them.	Agreed and signed	
4. Questions from County Councillors	See attached annex.	
5. Petitions and Public Address	Item 6 Cllr Glynis Phillips Item 7 Cllr Glynis Phillips Item 8 Cllr Glynis Phillips, Cllr Liz Brighthouse Cllr Jamila Begum Azad Item 9 Cllr John Sanders Item 10 Cllr Jamila Begum Azad Item 12 Cllr Mark Lygo	
6. Financial Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Plan Delivery Report - October 2018 <i>Cabinet Member: Finance Forward Plan Ref: 2018/116</i>		

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<p><i>Contact: Katy Jurczyszyn, Strategic Finance Manager (Finance, Strategy & Monitoring) Tel: 07584 909518</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note the report; (b) approve the virements set out in Annex 2a and note the virements set out in Annex 2b; and (c) approve the bad debt write-offs as set out in paragraphs 67 and 68.</p>	Recommendations agreed	DF (K. Jurczyszyn)
<p>7. Capital Programme Monitoring Report - October 2018</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2018/116</i> <i>Contact: Katy Jurczyszyn, Strategic Finance Manager (Finance, Strategy & Monitoring) Tel: 07584 909518</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note the report; (b) approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 2 and the associated changes to the programme in Annex 1c; and (c) approve the budget requirement of £6.3m towards the extension of Broadband for Business in Rural Oxfordshire.</p>	Recommendations agreed	DF (K. Jurczyszyn)
<p>8. Service & Resource Planning Report - 2019/20 - December 2018</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2018/115</i> <i>Contact: Katy Jurczyszyn, Strategic Finance Manager (Finance, Strategy & Monitoring) Tel: 07584 909518</i></p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to take the issues set out in the report into</p>	Recommendation agreed	DF (K. Jurczyszyn)

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<p>consideration in forming their proposed budget for 2019/20, Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23 and Capital Programme to 2028/29.</p>		
<p>9. Compulsory Purchase Powers for Acquisition of Land Required for Delivery of Schemes</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Environment <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2018/177 <i>Contact:</i> Hugo Terry, Group Manager – Project Sponsorship Tel: 07785 453288</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) Approve delegation of the exercising of Compulsory Purchase Powers to the Director of Capital Investment and Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Transport, for the purchase of land required for the delivery of the major infrastructure schemes outlined in paragraphs 7 and 9 of this report, in the event that the land cannot be acquired by negotiation; and</p> <p>(b) Note that should the whole or any part of lands required are not acquired by negotiation, the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order under provisions contained in Part XII of the Highways Act 1980 for the acquisition of the land, will be progressed. This could include providing the necessary attendance, expert witness provision, etc. at a Public Enquiry if required.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed</p>	<p>SDC(HT)</p>

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<p>10. SEND Sufficiency Strategy and Northfield School</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Education & Cultural Services <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2018/151 <i>Contact:</i> David Clarke, Deputy Director for Education Tel: 07741 607594</p> <p>To agree the principles of the Strategy and consider recommendations as part of this for the future of Northfield School.</p>	Recommendations agreed	DE(DC)
<p>10a. Special Educational Needs & Disability Sufficiency of Places Strategy</p> <p>Report by Director of Children's Services (CA10a).</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note and approve the special educational needs sufficiency of places strategy.</p>	Recommendations agreed	DCS
<p>10b. Proposal to Agree to Re-Build and Expand Northfield School Through The Special Educational Needs and Disability Sufficiency of Places Strategy</p> <p>Report by Director for Children's Services (CA10b)</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) Note the outcome of the informal consultation and capacity reviews and agree not to issue a statutory notice for closure.</p> <p>(b) Approve the proposed re-build of Northfield School in-line with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2027 for circa 100 students.</p>	Recommendations agreed	DC

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<p>(c) Support allocation of £9.52m capital budget within the capital programme for the delivery of re-provision of Northfield Special School, the funding for which will be agreed through the annual service and resource planning process and the Capital Programme to be approved by Council in February 2019; and</p> <p>(d) Approve admission of Year 7 pupils for the academic year 2019/20 in to Northfield Special school and for in year transfers from January 2019.</p>		
<p>11. Daytime Support Sustainability Grant Awards</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2018/155 <i>Contact:</i> Rebecca Lanchbury, Commissioning Officer Tel: 07584 481255</p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) Congratulate the voluntary sector for its dedication and commitment to continuing to provide much valued services, and their work towards self-sustainability</p> <p>(b) Approve for funding the bids listed under 31 (a) above.</p> <p>(c) Approve the recommendations for funding the bids listed under 31 (b) above.</p> <p>(d) Approve the recommendations for funding the bids listed under 31 (c) above, subject to conditions as set</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed</p>	<p>DDJC (RL)</p>

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<p>out in the cross-party panel recommendations (Annex 2).</p> <p>(e) Approve for funding the combined bids listed under 31 (d) above.</p> <p>(f) Approve the recommendation to reject the bids listed under 31 (e) above.</p> <p>(g) Approve transferring the remaining amount, as set out under 31 (f) above, to the Innovation Fund 2018</p> <p>(h) Approve the recommendations set out under 37 (1-5) above.</p>		
<p>12. The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Transformation</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2018/175</i> <i>Contact: Claire Phillips, Asset & Investment Team Manager Tel: 07785 453260</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to,</p> <p>(a) To declare The Mill surplus to the county council's requirements.</p> <p>(b) To approve the principle of transferring The Mill to Cherwell District Council, as a named purchaser for £1 which is less than best consideration subject to the necessary legal safeguards being in place.</p> <p>(c) To delegate to the Director of Law & Governance in conjunction with the Director of Capital Investment and Delivery to conclude the necessary</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed</p>	<p>DCID (CP)</p>

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<p>legal agreement; and</p> <p>(d) To request that officers review the procedure for the disposal of surplus land at less than market value and bring an updated approach back to Cabinet at the appropriate time (once the current government consultation on this issue has concluded).</p>		
<p>13. Forward Plan and Future Business</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: All</i> <i>Contact Officer: Sue Whitehead,</i> <i>Committee Services Manager Tel: 07393 001213</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed</p>	<p>HoLG (SW)</p>

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Constance

“Leaving aside East West Rail and the GWR electrification project, what progress on other rail projects has there been in Oxfordshire during 2018?”

Answer

1. Network Rail has completed the £97 million Oxford area signalling scheme, replacing the 1960s signalling with a state-of-the-art system controlled from the Thames Valley Signalling Centre in Didcot. Signals have been replaced and extra signals provided to increase capacity.
2. Network Rail has completed Oxford Corridor Phase 1, a £163 million scheme to upgrade and remodel the track layout around Oxford station to remove conflicting movements, provide greater operational flexibility, improve train speeds and increase capacity.
3. Network Rail is finalising the business case for Oxford Corridor Phase 2, and this is due to be submitted to Government in spring 2019. This phase of work comprises a new northbound island platform, replacement of the Botley Road bridge, realignment of Roger Dudman Way and Cripsey Road, level crossing closures north of Oxford and upgraded track to and from East West Rail. It is estimated at around £160 million and will be delivered by 2023. Officers are working with Network Rail to define our future highway requirements.
4. The North Cotswold Line Taskforce has met regularly throughout the year and is developing a Strategic Outline Business Case for investing in extra capacity between Oxford and Hanborough to enable a more frequent train service that can support new housing and employment in West Oxfordshire.
5. Platform extension work is underway at stations on the North Cotswold Line to enable longer InterCity Express Trains to be introduced in 2019.
6. A new £20 million multi-storey car park has opened at Didcot Parkway partly funded from the Local Growth Fund. This has provided an extra 910 spaces, and increases car parking to 1800 spaces. Network Rail has built a step-free pedestrian link between the new car park and the station building.
7. Electrification of the Great Western Mainline through Oxfordshire is complete and electric trains can now operate between London Paddington and Swindon (and from next year, Cardiff), albeit not through Steventon, where the ongoing objection to replacing the

bridge means trains cannot use electric power and have to use their on-board diesel engines.

8. We have agreed that Network Rail will review the economic and operating case for completing electrification between Didcot and Oxford. If it were to go ahead, it would be designed with passive provision for future four-tracking.
9. The County Council jointly commissioned initial site assessment work for the proposed Wantage & Grove station with Vale of White Horse District Council to ensure appropriate land is safeguarded in their Local Plan. As a result, two potential sites have been identified.
10. Informal discussions have been held with Oxford University about a proposal for a new station near Begbroke. This will serve the expanding Science Park and the strategic housing site being proposed in the Cherwell Local Plan. We await further information from the University.
11. Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study – this is a vital project and an investment priority for Oxfordshire as it will establish the priorities for rail investment in Oxfordshire for the next 30 years. Officers have, and continue to be, heavily involved in working with Network Rail and the Department for Transport in drafting and agreeing key documents and defining the scope of the study. The first stage strategic study will demonstrate how prioritised rail investment can support the economy and wider growth development in Oxfordshire, including delivering the Housing & Growth deal (and the new housing it includes), and the emerging Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.

The strategic study will identify a number of interventions, some of which will then be developed further in the second stage. However, the importance of the Cowley Branch Line means that further development work will be done in parallel with the strategic study.

Supplementary: Responding to a further question Councillor Constance agreed that she would have expected to see a statement on the Cowley branch line and she undertook to provide a response.

Questions from Councillor Turnbull to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

2. A key part of the SEND sufficiency of places strategy is ensuring that all mainstream schools support an inclusive approach to education. How confident are you that schools will be receptive to this approach, and what steps are being taken to ensure that academies, and not just maintained schools, adopt this inclusive approach?

Answer

The code of practice states that where possible all children should be educated in a mainstream school, but especially when this is requested by the parent.

In many cases schools can sometimes feel that they lack the experience and expertise to meet some children's needs in a mainstream environment. We have a high level of special educational needs expertise across the schools in Oxfordshire and by using this expertise to

upskill our schools, where we/they have identified they require support, it will empower them to be able to meet more children with SEN in their local school.

In the autumn term 2018 a series of briefings were conducted in the North, Centre and South of the county where this was shared with Headteacher's, Governors Inclusion leaders and SENCOs of both Academy and Maintained schools. The feedback from those that attended was very positive and agreed that this was the right direction to be taking. We work in the same way with academies and maintained schools in relation to special educational needs and will continue to foster and further develop our relationship with all schools in relation to an inclusive approach.

Oxfordshire LA have already identified that it needs to review the funding that is paid to schools to support children with special educational needs. We are hoping that with the above and a clear funding model this will also help to further support schools to meet all children's needs.

In addition to the above, Ofsted have announced a change to the inspection framework from September 2019, which ensures that schools remain responsible for children who are on roll and have accessed alternative provision. Therefore the journey of a child's progress and provision be it at the school or at an alternative placement will be more closely tracked, this greater focus in the inspection framework can only improve the provision provided for all children in all types of schools.

"3. The decision of the Cabinet in June to support a consultation to close Northfield School was extremely stressful for everyone involved with the school - a school that was already having to operate out of temporary classrooms across two sites because the main school building had been allowed to deteriorate. As Cabinet is now being asked to agree to rebuild and expand Northfield School (which when suggested by the Labour Group we were told was not an option) I would like to ask what lessons have been learned from this process about the way that the County Council manages its maintained schools, and special schools in particular?"

Answer

"As stated in the question, the decision to look at closing Northfield was a stressful and difficult time for all. In April of 2018 due to a temporary school closure it became clear that the school building was not fit for purpose and this resulted in the need for the temporary provision across the two sites. It was at this time that the need for options to be explored was required as the situation was totally unprecedented. As a result, the consultation paper was presented to enable the Council to gather the necessary information to inform any future proposal.

The consultation took place to determine views on

- Close the Northfield School, placing current students in alternate and more suitable provision, pending the outcome of the SEND Review
- Continue to operate Northfield School as is, pending the outcome of the SEND Review

The clear feedback from a range of stakeholders including parents of children at the school, students, staff, Unions, MPs and presentations made to Cabinet by members of the public was that they were not supportive of the proposal to close the school and were very keen to consider all other options rather than closure.

A further consideration was that at the time of the decision the school had over 50 pupils on roll and when looking at the local market it was clear that to place these children in alternative school placements would not be possible. All maintained special schools in neighbouring

authorities who take children with special needs such as those at Northfield, advised that they did not have any available places, and those schools in the independent sector, where places might have been available, could not accommodate the number of children who we would have needed to place at short notice.

Therefore, all these factors were taken into consideration in the decision to bring the proposal to Cabinet to rebuild Northfields as the best option for the children and young people with such complex needs.

There have been a number of valuable lessons learnt from this process: -

- The clear need for a Council SEND Sufficiency of Places Strategy. The timing of this strategy was driven by the need for more places and this was clearly exemplified by the Northfield's situation.
- A survey of all Special Schools has been conducted to build the Council's knowledge of the condition of schools and working in partnership with Property services to develop a capital works programme for our schools.
- Review the delegation of repair and maintenance responsibility and budget with our schools
- Establish clearly defined and approved governance process to expediate decision making should an emergency situation arise and that key senior managers are pre identified to lead on the operations and decision making needed.
- Review our business continuity plan and budget for emergency school closure"