

COUNTY COUNCIL – 9 SEPTEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

1. Externalisation of Back/Office School Facing Services Update
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

This report provided an update and next steps in the externalisation of corporate facing HR and Finance back office services and the joint venture proposal to cover school back office and schools learning and foundation years.

Cabinet agreed to join the Hampshire partnership as an operational partner for the provision of back office support services with an expected go-live date of 1st July 2015.

2. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report for Quarter 4
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

Cabinet noted a report that provided details of performance for quarter four that enabled Cabinet to monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas and be assured that progress is being made to improve areas where performance is below the expected level.

Cabinet Member: Business and Customer Services

3. Didcot Great Western Park - Primary School
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

As a consequence of a new 3,300 unit housing development at Great Western Park, Didcot, there is an immediate need to provide a 420 pupil Primary school within the development for September 2015. Outline Planning consent has been gained for the 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. Cabinet received and endorsed a report on progress to date and gave delegated authority to officers in consultation with the Leader and the local councillor to approve the Stage 2 Full Business Case and the award of the construction contract.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

4. SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) Reforms
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

The Children and Families Act (March, 2014) introduced significant changes affecting children and young people, aged 0 - 25, with special educational

needs (SEN) and disabilities. These, in turn, have implications for a number of public bodies, including the Council. Cabinet agreed to be aware of the significant changes to SEN and disabilities and the challenges facing the Council over the coming years.

5. Modification to Approved Alteration of Age Range at St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School, Bicester
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

In July 2012, Cabinet approved the proposal for St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School in Bicester to alter its age range in order to establish a Nursery class. The alteration is linked to the future relocation and expansion of the school to a new building in the Kingsmere housing development. Cabinet considered and agreed a report seeking a modification to the implementation date of the approved alteration of age range.

Cabinet also agreed that future alteration of age ranges and similar proposals on school organisation be determined by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families at delegated decision making sessions rather than Cabinet unless there are exceptional circumstances

6. Recommended Sponsor for the New Primary School for Barton, Oxford - report on the selection process for approved providers and approval of Preferred Option
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

Cabinet approved the Cheney School Academy Trust as the preferred provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

7. Recommended Sponsor for the First New Primary School for NW Bicester - report on selection process for potential providers and approval of Preferred Option
(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

Cabinet approved the White Horse Federation as the recommended provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

Cabinet also agreed that in future the preferred provider for a new school should be approved by the Lead Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Education & Families in a delegated decision meeting rather than Cabinet, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

8. Final Report on the Proposed Extension of Age Range at Carterton College

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 14 July 2014)

The Cabinet Member approved the extension of the age range at Carterton Community College to include post-16 provision.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision is exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 21 July 2014.

Cabinet Member: Environment

9. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Review of Statement of Community Involvement

(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Cabinet considered and agreed a report that set out how the Council will involve the community (consultees, stakeholders and other interested parties) in: preparing and reviewing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan; and making decisions on planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council developments.

Cabinet Member: Finance

10. 2014/15 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report - May 2014

(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

Cabinet had before them a report that focussed on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2014/15 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of May 2014. Capital Programme monitoring and update is included at Part 3 and Part 4 sets out a change to un-ringfenced grant funding in 2014/15. Changes to Fees and Charges are included at Part 5.

Cabinet approved virement requests and changes related to unringfenced grants; approve a supplementary estimate request; noted the Treasury Management lending list; approved the updated Capital Programme and the contribution of £1.7m of developer contributions funding to the Cheney Academy to expand the school by an additional class in each year; approved the use of the £1.120m grant to implement the Universal Infant Free School Meal programme and the addition of the scheme to the Capital Programme and approved fees and charges.

11. Treasury Management Outturn

(Cabinet, 15 July 2014)

Cabinet considered the report setting out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2013/14 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, changes in Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year. Cabinet RECOMMENDED Council to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2013/14 and a separate report on this matter is elsewhere on the agenda;

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

August 2014