

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 December 2012 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.50 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Rodney Rose
Councillor Arash Fatemian
Councillor Nick Carter
Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles
Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Jean Fooks (Agenda Item)
Councillor Jenny Hannaby (Agenda Item)
Councillor alan Armitage (Agenda Item)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Joanna Simons (Chief Executive); Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of Meeting Item	Name
6	Kathy Wilcox (Corporate Finance)
7	Lorna Baxter, Deputy Chief Finance Officer; Stephanie Skivington (Corporate Finance)
9	Alison Partridge (Joint Commissioning)
10	Alexandra Bailey, Research & Major Programmes, Unit Manager
12	Huw Jones, Director for Environment & Economy; Andre Pau (Sustainable Development)

The Committee 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.

133/12APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Chapman and Councillor Mallon.

134/12MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2012 were approved and signed.

135/12QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Jean Fooks had given notice of the following question to Councillor Rodney Rose:

“Councillor Rose has been quoted recently as saying he would not introduce any more 20mph limits until the police started to enforce them. Nevertheless, people have noticed reductions in speed in residential roads and there is evidence that accidents are down. Were the 20mph limits to be enforced, which is still not happening despite an apparent change of mind by the police, speed would certainly be further reduced and this is almost certain to be accompanied by a reduction in accidents of all kinds. When the 20mph limit was introduced in almost all residential roads in Oxford, the County Council said that if the signs were insufficient on their own to reduce speeds, physical measures would be considered. As many residents, not only in the city but across the county, are keen to have the benefits of lower speeds, would the Cabinet member consider

- encouraging the police to do more enforcement
- consulting with members and residents where new 20mph limits might be introduced when funds are available from whatever source?”

Councillor Rose replied:

“Monitoring at 60 sites in Oxford show that the average reduction in speed following the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in September 2009 was 1mph. Some roads however have seen appreciably greater reductions, of up to 4mph; as would be expected, on minor roads where the speeds were on average already lower than 20mph before the limit was reduced, there has been little change.

We are planning to carry out further surveys in the summer of 2013 to see if there have been any further change - as with other speed limits, it can take time for drivers to adjust their behaviour when a limit is introduced. We very much hope to see increasing compliance which can only help to improve safety especially for pedestrians and cyclists, but until we have more positive evidence of their effectiveness, we are not proposing to introduce any new 20mph limits.

Enforcement of 20mph limits has been a resource and prioritisation issue for the Police but I am aware they are reviewing their approach on a national basis.

I await more certainty on our coming Budget position before supporting use of any funding on anything but Highway maintenance, and would expect this to be on the assumption that all of the County had the same opportunity to gain from any change in focus, not just in our more wealthy areas.”

Supplementary: Councillor Fooks referring to the final sentence of the response pointed out that Summertown and Wolvercote were not entirely wealthy areas. Councillor Rose in response indicated that he would want to see an equality of opportunity. In response to a request from Councillor Fooks for recent accident statistics in areas where the speed limit had been introduced to see the impact of the reduction Councillor Rose undertook to get that information sent to her.

136/12 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed

Item 6 – Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance

Item 7 – Councillor Roz Smith, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance

Item 9 – Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Item 10 – Councillor Alan Armitage, Opposition Deputy Leader

Item 12 – Councillor Anne Purse, Shadow Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure

Apologies were received from Councillor Anne Purse who was unwell and Councillor Roz Smith.

137/12 2012/13 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - OCTOBER 2012

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report that focused on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies which were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2012/13 – 2016/17. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of October 2012. The Capital monitoring was included at Part 3.

The Leader in introducing the report commended the funding of the work to Littlemore Early Intervention Hub; the additional room created would make a difference.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) approve the use of £0.100m revenue funding towards the capital project at the Littlemore Early Intervention Hub as set out in paragraph 8;
- (c) approve the virement requests over £0.250m set out in Annex 2a;
- (d) agree the creation of new reserves as set out in paragraph 43 and 47 and the proposed changes to reserves set out in paragraph 45 and 46; and
- (e) note the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 7;

138/12SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING REPORT 2013/14 - 2017/18 - DECEMBER 2012

(Agenda Item. 7)

Recommendations agreed taking into account the additional report set out in the Addenda.

Cabinet considered the report, which is the second in a series on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2013/14 to 2016/17. It provided councillors with information on budget issues for 2013/14 and the medium term; on budgetary pressures faced by the Council and it gave an update on the changes to the local government funding system. The report also provided an update on government consultations and initiatives and set out the review of charges. Cabinet further considered an addenda that summarised the key announcements in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 5 December Statement and set out the implications for the County Council.

Cabinet noted that the provisional local government finance settlement was still awaited and that it was likely that there would be continued uncertainty even after it was announced.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report and addenda;
- (b) consider, in forming their budget proposals, the council tax referendum threshold announced by the Chancellor;
- (c) consider, in forming their budget proposals, the implications in future years of accepting the Council Tax Freeze Grant in 2013/14;
- (d) consider, in forming their budget proposals, the revised inflation assumptions set out in paragraph 29; and
- (e) in relation to the review of charges:
 - (1) note those charges prescribed by legislation;

- (2) approve those charges where there is local discretion as set out in Annex 3 noting that some of these charges will commence before April 2013.

139/12 WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the County Council's proposed response to the West Oxfordshire Local Plan. The Local Plan sets the framework for development across West Oxfordshire for the period to 2029. Growth is focused primarily at Witney and Carterton and to a lesser extent at Chipping Norton, with more modest growth at Eynsham, Woodstock, Burford, Charlbury and the larger villages.

RESOLVED: to agree the County Council's response to the West Oxfordshire Draft Local Plan for consultation, as specifically outlined in paragraph 1 and described throughout this report.

140/12 PROCUREMENT OF HEALTHWATCH OXFORDSHIRE

(Agenda Item. 9)

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, all (top tier) Local Authorities are responsible for commissioning a Local Healthwatch by April 2013. Local Healthwatch will be the new independent consumer champion for people of all ages using social care, and patients using health services. It replaces the Local Involvement Network (LINKs) and will have a number of extended and statutory functions. A member of Healthwatch Oxfordshire will have a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Cabinet considered a report that set out the procurement and commissioning process for approval.

Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Services commented that it was essential that Healthwatch be in place by April 2013. She would welcome the input they could provide the Health & Wellbeing Board, which currently often seemed to be a repetition of Scrutiny discussions. She thanked officers for the excellent work undertaken. She raised the issue of funding which was a concern as it would not be ring fenced. Councillor Hannaby suggested that the final decision should be taken by Cabinet.

During discussion Cabinet commented on the extensive consultation and engagement process that had taken place. They noted that the scoring process for the contract was weighted for various factors and not just based on price.

RESOLVED: to delegate decision-making for the contract award and funding allocation John Jackson, Director for Social and Community Services in consultation with Councillor Arash Fatemian, Cabinet Member for Adult Services

141/12 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER 2012

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered a quarterly performance monitoring report against the Corporate Plan priorities for Quarter 2.

Councillor Alan Armitage, Opposition Deputy Leader, commented that there was still little in the report on risk management and it would be better to take the wording out of the heading if information was not provided. He queried why a reported decrease in participation by 16-19 year olds in education, employment in training or training from 40.8% in September 2011 to 26.9% in September 2012 had not triggered a red warning. He further queried the reported figures in relation to the Customer Service Centre.

Cabinet noted that risk management was considered primarily by the Audit & Governance Committee and that this report contained exception reporting only. It was explained that each RAG rating covered a number of targets and it was necessary to look behind the rating to the detail. Often an amber rating indicated that most targets within a group were on track or that remedial action was in place.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

142/12 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 11)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

143/12 EXEMPT ITEM

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded for the duration of item 12 in the Agenda since it is likely that if they were present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified in relation to that item in the Agenda and it is considered that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

144/12 OXFORDSHIRE RESIDUAL MUNICIPAL WASTE BULKING AND HAULAGE PROCUREMENT

(Agenda Item. 12)

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The information contained in Annex 1 is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed category:

3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

It is considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would distort the proper process of the transaction and the Council's standing generally in relation to such transactions in future, to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to discharge its fiduciary and other duties as a public authority.

Oxfordshire County Council as a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) has a responsibility to dispose of residual waste collected by the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and residual waste delivered to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The Council currently manages approximately 300,000 tonnes of municipal waste per year.

Cabinet considered a report that sought authorisation to award contracts for municipal waste bulking and haulage services.

RESOLVED: to note the outcome of the evaluation and endorse the award of contracts for the provision of residual municipal waste bulking and haulage services as follows;

- (a) Lot 1 northern part of Cherwell to Tenderer 2 on the basis of their variant 2 tender ;
- (b) Lot 2 South Oxfordshire and Lot 3 Vale of White Horse to Tenderer 1 on the basis of their variant 2 tender; and
- (c) Lot 4 West Oxfordshire to Tenderer 1 on the basis of their compliant tender.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing