

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.50 pm.

### **Present:**

Councillor Les Sibley – in the Chair

### Councillors:

John Howson	Mike Fox-Davies	Charles Mathew
Sobia Afridi	Stefan Gawrysiak	Glynis Phillips
Jamila Begum Azad	Mark Gray	Susanna Pressel
Hannah Banfield	Carmen Griffiths	Laura Price
David Bartholomew	Pete Handley	Eddie Reeves
Dr Suzanne Bartington	Jane Hanna OBE	G.A. Reynolds
Tim Bearder	Jenny Hannaby	Judy Roberts
Maurice Billington	Neville F. Harris	Alison Rooke
Liz Brighouse OBE	Steve Harrod	Dan Sames
Paul Buckley	Damian Haywood	Gill Sanders
Kevin Bulmer	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	John Sanders
Nick Carter	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Emily Smith
Mark Cherry	Ian Hudspeth	Roz Smith
Dr Simon Clarke	Tony Ilott	Lawrie Stratford
Yvonne Constance OBE	Bob Johnston	Dr Pete Sudbury
Ian Corkin	Liz Leffman	Alan Thompson
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Emma Turnbull
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	Michael Waine
Ted Fenton	D. McIlveen	Liam Walker
Nicholas Field-Johnson	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber
Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Jeannette Matelot	

*The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **85/21 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 December 2020 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

## **86/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Laura Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8, by virtue of her position as Chief Executive at Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action (OCVA).

Councillor Jenny Hannaby declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8, by virtue of her position as trustee of a local Nursing home in Wantage.

## **87/21 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

(Agenda Item 4)

Council welcomed Anita Bradley, newly appointed Director for Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer.

Council paid tribute and held a minute's silence in memory of former County Councillor and Honorary Alderman Margaret Ferriman.

Council expressed its gratitude to staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment in the face of difficulties during the pandemic. Special thanks was given to the firefighters, emergency planners, highways staff, social care teams and many others whom had responded to the flooding while continuing to manage the local response to the pandemic and their business as usual duties.

## **88/21 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item 6)

Council received the following Petition and Public Address:

Ms Jean Conway, Campaign Leader 20's Plenty for Oxfordshire presented a Petition requesting that Oxfordshire County Council take the 20 mph initiative forward and create a coherent strategic plan that rolled out 20mph in groups of defined areas with one TRO per area so as to minimise costs. They further sought that OCC fund the initiative so that facilitation was not based on the wealth of an area.

### **Public Address**

Mr Chris Hancock, Appleford-on-Thames Parish Council addressed the Council in relation to a section of the proposed relief road, part of the HIF1 scheme approved by Cabinet on 21 July 2020. The section ran north of Didcot Power Station to a new bridge crossing over the River Thames.

The Parish Council had surveyed the views of all residents in Appleford and were instructed to speak for them. He explained that Appleford did not object to the principle of a road between Didcot to Culham, they accepted that traffic and future development will require this. However, they were concerned that the current alignment for that section of the road presented serious consequences for residents living adjacent to this road. The

proposed route required the road, cycleway, and footway to bridge over Appleford Sidings. This was a private freight railway siding used by Hanson and others and would require that the total highway would have to be raised on embankments, higher than the roofline of adjacent properties, for a considerable distance either side of the bridge.

Subsequent to the OCC consultation exercise in April last, Hanson secured planning approval, to triple the size of the sidings by building extra tracks. These would be built this year. This was not included in the road proposal and considerably increased the cost, size, and complexity of a road bridge. The Three major impacts of this high-level road would be felt as noise, traffic pollution and visual intrusion.

They anticipated noise from four sources, road traffic over the bridge, train movements below the bridge, interaction of the train movements and the bridge (reflected noise) and the vibration of the bridge structure. They felt that the cumulative effect of noise would be most severely felt for residents of Main Road in Appleford, facing the sidings.

It was recognised that dealing with vehicle noise from an elevated road was twice as difficult as dealing with noise from a road at ground level. Attenuation by the ground surface is lost. Secondly, dealing with the vehicle emissions, and particulates from an elevated road was considerably more difficult than for a road at ground level. Appleford was upwind of the proposed road, they expressed concern about the health effects.

Thirdly, they felt that a raised road would dominate the skyline to the west of Appleford and increase the prominence in the landscape. Noise and pollution screens would add considerably more to the height. The possible construction costs were large. Similar road bridges elsewhere in the county had cost between £15M and £25M. The costs and environmental consequences however were not inevitable. They believed an adjusted alignment of the road within the same land corridor north of Didcot Power Station could allow the road to be constructed with less damage to adjacent communities.

They requested that OCC investigate the alternatives that would avoid the need to bridge over the railway sidings and permit the road to be routed at ground level. The Parish Council had met with OCC transport planners and they wished to work with them to find a solution to avoid the cost and environmental impacts of a high-level road. The current alignment was not acceptable to the Parish of Appleford. We know this view is shared within Sutton Courtenay and Culham communities. The Council's approval recognised that variations to alignments may be required. They urged the Council for a review of the railway bridge proposal.

## 89/21 PAY POLICY STATEMENT - REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 7)

In 2012, a stand-alone Remuneration Committee was set up to report each year directly to full Council and to make recommendations regarding the Council's Pay Policy Statement. The Council had before it a report of the Remuneration Committee which updated the Council's Pay Policy Statement and set out future proposals of the Remuneration Committee in relation to this area, the report further included an Annex updating members on the Gender Pay Gap.

**RESOLVED:** (on a Motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Brighouse and carried nem con) to:

- (a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;
- (b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 1 to this report;
- (c) approve the Gender Pay Gap Report at Annex 2 to this report.

## 90/21 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLANNING 2021/22 - 2025/26 - CORPORATE PLAN

(Agenda Item 8)

Before the Council was the report and annexes, an Addenda setting out the changes to the Cabinet's proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26 arising from information received after the publication of Council papers on 1 February 2021; the Labour Group's Amendment; the Leader of the Council's Overview and the Schedule of Business.

Councillor Hudspeth moved and Councillor Bartholomew seconded the Cabinet's recommendations in relation to the revenue budget for 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26. In moving and seconding the motion, Councillor Hudspeth and Councillor Bartholomew paid tribute to Lorna Baxter, Hannah Doney and the finance team for all their work in preparing the budget.

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Phillips seconded an amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out below. Councillor Brighouse thanked the Director of Finance and her team for their work on the Budget.

The Council is RECOMMENDED (in respect of the budget and medium term financial strategy – at Section 4) to approve a budget for 2021/22 set out in Section 4.4 and a medium term financial strategy for 2021/22 – 2025/26 set out in Section 4.1 as amended in Labour Group Annex 1 below:

Labour Group Budget Amendments 2021/22 - 2025/26						
Revenue						
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total

CC1

	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Cabinet Position as per Council report</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>7.047</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>7.047</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>						
<u>Amend</u> : Youth Offer - Core Funding (22CS7)	-0.500					<b>-0.500</b>
Target part of Youth Offer to improve emotional & wellbeing support for young people.	0.500					<b>0.500</b>
<b>Adult Services</b>						
<u>Temporary Reduction to</u> : Adult Social Care Risk Budget (22AS9)	-0.225	0.225				<b>0.000</b>
Apprenticeship Infrastructure Post - to lead and strengthen the use of the apprenticeship levy across the care sector in Oxfordshire (temporary post for one year)	0.075	-0.075				<b>0.000</b>
Temporary funding to explore options to strengthen the range of care models in Oxfordshire including social enterprises and microproviders	0.150	-0.150				<b>0.000</b>
<b>Environment and Place</b>						
<u>Remove</u> : increase in charge for COMET service (22EP13)	0.010					<b>0.010</b>
One off use of Contingency Budget	-0.010	0.010				<b>0.000</b>
Increase in other discretionary charges from 2022/23		-0.010				<b>-0.010</b>
<b>Revised Overall Position</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>7.047</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>7.047</b>
<b>Difference to Cabinet Position as per Council report</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Having heard the proposal, with the consent of Council, Councillor Hudspeth accepted the Amendment from the Labour Group.

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and carried by 48 to 15.

Voting was as follows:

Councillors voting for the motion (60)

Afridi, Banfield, Bartholomew, Bartington, Azad, Billington, Brighouse, Bulmer, Carter, Cherry, Clarke, Constance, Corkin, Fatemian, Fenton, Field-Johnson, Fitzgerald O'Connor, Fox-Davies, Gawrysiak, Gray, Griffiths, Handley, Harrod, Haywood, Heathcoat, Hibbert-Biles, Hudspeth, Ilot, Lindsay-Gale, Lygo, Mallon, Matelot, Mathew, McIlveen, Phillips, Pressel, Price, Reeves, Reynolds, Sames, Gill Sanders, John Sanders, Sibley, Stratford, Thompson, Turnbull, Waine and Walker.

Councillors voting against the motion (15)

Bearder, Buckley, Fawcett, Hanna, Hannaby, Harris, Howson, Johnston, Leffman, Roberts, Rooke, Emily Smith, Roz Smith, Sudbury and Webber.

Councillors abstaining on the motion (0)

It was accordingly:"

**RESOLVED:** (48 votes to 15) to:

- (a) approve the Corporate Plan as set out in Section 2;
- (b) have regard to the statutory report of the Director of Finance (at Section 3) in approving recommendations c to e below;
- (c) (in respect of the budget and medium term financial strategy – at Section 4) approve:
  - (1) the council tax and precept calculations for 2021/22 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:
    - (i) a precept of £407,954,238.76;
    - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,573.11;
  - (2) a budget for 2021/22 as set out in Section 4.4;
  - (3) a medium term financial strategy for 2021/22 to 2025/26 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial strategy as set out in Section 4.2);
  - (4) the Financial Strategy for 2021/22 at Section 4.5;
  - (5) the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2021/22 at Section 4.6 including:
    - (i) the Chief Finance Officer's recommended level of General Balances for 2021/22 (Section 4.6), and
    - (ii) the planned level of Earmarked Reserves for 2021/22 to 2025/26 (Section 4.6)
- (d) (in respect of capital – at Section 5) approve:
  - (1) the Capital & Investment Strategy for 2021/22 to 2030/31 including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Section 5.1;
  - (2) a Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2030/31 as set out in Section 5.5 which includes new capital proposals set out in Section 5.6 and the Property Strategy set out in Section 5.4; and
  - (3) the Investment Strategy for 2021/22 set out in Section 5.3.
- (e) (in respect of treasury management) approve:
  - (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 at Section 5.2 including the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and the Specified Investment and Non-Specified Investment Instruments.
  - (2) that any further changes required to the 2021/22 strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance.
- (f) to approve a budget for 2021/22 set out in Section 4.4 and a medium term financial strategy for 2021/22 – 2025/26 set out in Section 4.1 as amended in Labour Group Annex 1 (above).

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....