

Divisions-N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 13 December 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Members: Climate Change Delivery & Environment, Highway Management and Travel & Development Strategy

1. Core Schemes – Traffic Filters ETRO Approach

(Extraordinary Cabinet, 29 November 2022)

Cabinet was asked to approve an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to introduce six new traffic filters which the report stated would:

- make walking and cycling safer and more attractive
- make bus journeys quicker and more reliable
- enable new and improved bus routes
- support investment in modern buses (including the ZEBRA project to fund up to 159 electric buses)
- help tackle climate change, reduce local air pollution and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

The meeting heard from around 50 speakers, for, against and in some cases asking for specific changes. The recommendations were amended to authorise the Corporate Director Environment & Place to make minor amendments and include any recommendations from the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee's report and for Cabinet to be informed of any changes. The amended recommendations were agreed.

Cabinet Member: Climate Change Delivery & Environment

2. Climate and Natural Environment Policy Statement

(Cabinet, 15 November 2022)

A new Climate and Natural Environment Policy Statement was proposed to include a policy focus on environmental resilience and nature recovery. This would support and strengthen the ambitions in the Council's Corporate Plan to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier County.

The recommendations were approved including an amendment to delegate authority to make amendments to the strategy to the Corporate Director Environment & Place.

Cabinet Member: Finance

3. Business Management & Monitoring Report – August/September 2022

(Cabinet, 15 November 2022)

Cabinet considered the report which presented the September 2022 performance, risk and finance position for the Council. As noted in the last report there were significant and persistent challenges around demand for children's social care and the availability of care placements and front-line social work staff. Issues and volatility in the wider economy, including inflation and workforce shortages, also continue to increase the risk to the financial position for the council and the overall landscape looks much more challenging than when the budget was set in February 2022.

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

4. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (2022/23)

(Cabinet, 15 November 2022)

Cabinet had before it a report covering the treasury management activity for the first half of 2022/23. 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.

Treasury Management activity was predicted to contribute a £1.6m improvement over what was initially forecast. Cabinet noted the report and recommended to Council to note the council's treasury management activity the first half of 2022/23.

5. Property Strategy

(Cabinet, 15 November 2022)

Cabinet received a paper presenting a property strategy for Oxfordshire County Council which set out the long-term strategic framework for the development and delivery of economic, social and environmental objectives that relate to the council's property and assets portfolios. The proposed strategy sets out long-term objectives covering the council's three main portfolios – operational accommodation, community assets and investment assets.

The recommendations were approved including the establishment of a cross party Cabinet Advisory Group to oversee the development of the options and business cases for the city centre accommodation review, part of the operational assets portfolio.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management

6. HIF2 Update

(Extraordinary Cabinet, 20 November 2022)

Cabinet received an update report which emphasised that the Council remained committed to delivering the HIF2 Scheme. As part of the ongoing delivery of the HIF2 A40 Programme and in light of the global inflationary pressures being experienced in all sectors, a detailed review had been undertaken of the HIF2 Scheme. As a result of this review, cost pressures had been identified that result in the HIF2 Scheme exceeding its current budget. This had made it

necessary to obtain Cabinet approval to withdraw the current CPO and SRO from the ongoing statutory process to allow further time to review the scheme in detail and consider mitigations to these cost pressures.

Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

Cabinet Member: Travel & Development Strategy

7. Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan

(Extraordinary Cabinet, 29 November 2022)

The Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan (COTP) is the first area travel plan to have been produced. The report before Cabinet set out the results of a public consultation on the draft COTP document and recommended approval of the plan. The report also set out a number of recommended amendments to be made to the plan following public consultation.

Cabinet agreed a number of amendments including removing paragraphs headed “Wider commitment to/ a better balance on 20mph speed limits” from the report. Another amendment authorised the relevant Corporate Director and Cabinet Member to agree amendments to bring the document in line with any Scrutiny recommendations subsequently agreed to by the Cabinet. It was also decided to bring a report to January Cabinet on a programme for the other measures mentioned in COTP.

Scrutiny Reports

8. Cabinet responses to reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 15 November 2022)

The Cabinet papers included for information the formal response to the report from the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Citizens’ Jury. Cabinet accepted the recommendation that the Council develops a clear plan as to how any future Citizens’ Juries would best be incorporated within the wider policy-development and decision-making processes of Council.

9. Reports received from scrutiny committees

(Extraordinary Cabinet, 29 November 2022)

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

Reports of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan
- Traffic Filters