

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: (01865) 810262; E-Mail: sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

CABINET - TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2014

<i>List published 17 December 2014 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 4.00pm on 24 December 2014</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence	Councillor Hibbert Biles	HLC (A. Newman)
2. Declarations of Interest	None.	HLC (A. Newman)
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2014	Agreed and signed.	SW
4. Questions from County Councillors	See attached annex.	
5. Petitions and Public Address	Item 6 – Roger Bush Anthea Taylor Dr Jim Halliday Andy Cattermole, Taylor Wimpey Councillor Lovatt Councillor Fawcett Councillor Constance Item 7 – Councillor Nick Hards Item 8 – Councillor Nick Hards Anthony Simpson, CAG project Dan Betterton, CAG project Item 9 – Councillor Susanna Pressel Item 10 –Councillor Gill Sanders Councillor Liz Brighouse Item 11 – Councillor Gill Sanders	
6. Follow up to the Call in of a Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment: Proposed		

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Pelican Crossings - A415 Marcham Road and Ock Street, Abingdon</p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) approve implementation of proposals for two proposed Pelican crossings on A415 Marcham Road and Ock Street, Abingdon as advertised and</p> <p>(b) (if approved) ask officers to monitor closely the safety performance and traffic delays following the completion of the works.</p> <p>N.B This item is not subject to call in being the result of an earlier call in.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DEE (D.Tole) HLC (D. Mytton)</p>
<p>7. 2014/15 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report - October 2014</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2014/105</i> <i>Contact: Kathy Wilcox, Chief Accountant</i> <i>Tel: (01865) 323981</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note the report and annexes including the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 4 and changes set out in paragraphs 67 - 68;</p> <p>(b) recommend Council to approve the virement to reduce the in - year income and contribution to the Parking Account included in Annex 2a and paragraph 56;</p> <p>(c) approve the virement request relating to the Shared Lives budget set out in Annex 2a and paragraph 57;</p> <p>(d) approve the write off of rental</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>CFO (K. Wilcox)</p>

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<p>income totalling £16,453 and £15,212 relating to a Section 106 agreement as set out in paragraphs 65 and 66.</p> <p>(e) approve the changes to the Capital Programme set out in Annex 7c;</p> <p>(f) approve the removal of the capital scheme at Bicester Market Square from the capital programme as set out in paragraph 96; and</p> <p>(g) approve the allocation of £1.250m S106 funding as a contribution towards the construction of the A40/Downs Road Junction by the West Witney developer (paragraph 97).</p>		
<p>8. Service & Resource Planning Report 2015/16 - December 2014</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Finance</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2014/106</i> <i>Contact: Stephanie Skivington, Corporate Finance Manager Tel: (01865) 323995</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note the report and addenda (that will be produced following the announcement of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement);</p> <p>(b) consider the pressures and savings set out in Annex 1 in forming its budget proposals in January 2015; and</p> <p>(c) in relation to the review of charges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note those charges prescribed by legislation; (2) approve the charges where there is local discretion as set out in Annex 2. 	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p> <p>Cabinet also considered a supplementary report summarising the key announcements in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and noted the implications for the County Council.</p>	<p>CFO (S. Skivington)</p>

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<p>9. Flood Risk Management Consultation Responses</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Deputy Leader <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2014/107 <i>Contact:</i> Steve Smith, Service Manager – Network & Asset Management Tel: (01865) 810435</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>(a) note the feedback from the consultation contained in the consultation Annex 1 and the background document</p> <p>(b) approve the changes to the Strategy Action Plan identified in Annex 2; and</p> <p>(c) adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy with revisions to the action plan.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DEE (S. Smith)</p>
<p>10. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Update - OSCB Report and Report on CSE</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Children, Education & Families <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2014/181 <i>Contact:</i> Hannah Farncombe, Safeguarding Manager Tel: (01865) 815273</p> <p>The Cabinet is asked to consider the report and to:</p> <p>(a) consider whether they are satisfied with the work that has been undertaken in relation to combatting CSE; and</p> <p>(b) support the recommendation for briefings to be provided for elected</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed.</p>	<p>DCS (H. Farncombe)</p>

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<p>members to enable them to better recognise and respond to concerns about grooming and exploitation.</p>		
<p>11. Strategy for Special Educational Needs Infrastructure to 2030</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2014/155</i> <i>Contact: Janet Johnson, Children with SEN Manager Tel: (01865) 815129</i></p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note and endorse the Council's proposed strategy for meeting the demand for specialist provision for children and young people with SEN and Disabilities, aged 2 to 25 years, in the short term and until 2030.</p>	<p>Recommendation agreed.</p>	<p>DCS (J. Johnson)</p>
<p>12. Forward Plan and Future Business</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: All</i> <i>Contact Officer: Sue Whitehead, Committee Services Manager (01865 810262)</i></p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>SW</p>

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions received from the following Members:

From Councillor Howson to Councillor Tilley

"1. In the Resource briefing last week pressures of over £1 million were identified in the Home to School budget for this year. Can the Cabinet Member identify where these pressures have arisen since the budget was agreed in February."

Answer

"The pressure in Home to School Transport was identified through the Financial Monitoring Reports towards the end of the 2013/14 financial year. At this time the budget setting process had been substantially completed and it was not clear whether this would be an on-going pressure or a one off. At the end of 2013/14 there was an overspend of £1.35m and there is expected to be an on-going pressure in the near future which has now been included as part of the budget proposals for 2015/16. There are plans in place to deal with the pressure and also to make savings over the coming years which should result in a reduction in the budget over the medium term.

Analysis of the home to school budget across financial years 2011/12 to 2013/14 found that expenditure has been steadily rising over this period. In total, expenditure rose by £1.9m (14%) between 11/12 and 13/14 (N.B some areas of expenditure were excluded from the analysis – circa £600K).

The majority of this (£1.4m) is attributable to increased spend on four-seater taxis, which rose by 42% over the three years. £760,497 of this increase is attributable to SEN transport, £346,342 to mainstream transport, £158,745 to Meadowbrook transport (pupil referral units), and the remainder to others. Spend on 5-seater wheel chair accessible vehicles also increased substantially over this period – by £296,466 (42%).

Oxford City saw the highest increase in spend, at £849K (28%). This reflects the high concentration of Special Schools in the city, many of which cater to students from all over the county, and a temporary lack of primary school places which meant students had to travel further distances to get to school.

As a result of these findings, efforts are now focused on reducing spend in the categories / areas identified above. A programme of route assessment and rationalisation has already begun and has delivered substantial savings in 14/15, particularly to mainstream transport. From January onwards, work will focus largely on SEN transport and reducing usage of taxis through a combination of initiatives, including independent travel training, personal budgets and merging of multiple taxi routes into lower cost minibuss routes."

2. What has been the spend on taxis in the first six months of the current financial year compared with the same period last year on:

- a) taxi for SEN pupils
- b) taxis for pupils other than SEN pupils.

Answer

"The below two tables show expenditure for SEN and mainstream students on vehicles which could be classed as 'taxis', compared between the first six months of 2014/15 and the same period in 2013/14.

SEN Expenditure

Vehicle type	2013/14 (Apr - Sep)	2014/15 (Apr - Sep)	£ change	% change
4-seater Taxi	£ 1,260,882	£ 1,309,807	£ 48,925	3.88%
7-seater Taxi	£ 156,425	£ 176,756	£ 20,330	13.00%
5-seater Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle	£ 390,545	£ 468,382	£ 77,836	19.93%
8-seater Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle	£ 273,586	£ 267,671	-£ 5,915	-2.16%

TOTAL	£ 2,081,439	£ 2,222,615	£ 141,177	6.78%
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Mainstream Expenditure

Vehicle Type	2013/14(Apr - Sep)	2014/15 (Apr - Sep)	£ change	% change
4-seater Taxi	£ 338,930.01	£ 285,495.29	-£53,434.72	-15.77%
7-seater Taxi	£ 54,308.44	£ 75,127.66	£20,819.22	38.34%
6-seater Minibus	£ 23,516.28	£ 19,308.54	-£ 4,207.74	-17.89%
8-seater Minibus	£ 181,721.50	£ 146,272.51	-£35,448.99	-19.51%
TOTAL	£ 598,476.23	£ 526,204.00	-£72,272.23	-12.08%

Supplementary: Councillor Howson asked whether the County Council was contacting the transport providers with a view to sharing the windfall gains they were benefitting from due to the fall in the price of crude oil and associated fuel costs. Councillor Tilley replied that we were tied into contracts. The Leader added that there would be conversations but queried if contract prices went up we would expect to bear some of that. As contracts were renegotiated the current position would be considered. Councillor Howson commented that he was sure officers would look to see if similar conversations on either side had arisen in the past.

3. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Stratford

"I note in the September list for County Council invoices paid with a value of £500 or more the following and I am concerned about these two payments shown on the public website:

Line 822, Conservative Group Association paid £812.16 to Oxfordshire Labour Councillors Line 1914, Publicity & Advertising paid £10,000 to Venturefest Oxford Limited.

Could the cabinet member explain why the Conservative Group Association has paid an invoice to Oxfordshire Labour Councillors through the County Council's finance system?

Does the cabinet member believe £10,000 paid to Venturefest Oxford Limited for advertising and publicity is good value for money for Oxfordshire tax payers?"

Answers

"Reply to question 1 re Line 822: Conservative Group Association paid £812.16 to Oxfordshire Labour Councillors :

The Council's payroll initially posts deductions from Councillor allowances relating to payments to the relevant party association to balance sheet code B7123. This is narrated "Conservative Group Association" but is actually used for deductions for all parties. The Council then pay the deductions to either the Conservative, Labour, or other group associations on behalf of each Councillor as appropriate. In this case the deductions paid over on behalf of councillors related to the Labour Group.

Reply to question 2 re: Line 1914: Publicity & Advertising paid £10,000 to Venturefest Oxford Limited

The £10,000 was paid from the Local Enterprise Partnership cost centre which is fully funded by the Local Enterprise Partnership Core Funding grant of £0.500m noted in Annex 3 to the Financial Monitoring Report. The Council is acting as the accountable body for the LEP so the grant income and associated expenditure is included as part of the Council's accounts but has a net nil effect overall."

That explains the WHAT, but as to "Is it good value" I have to presume those that made the decision within the LEP gave appropriate consideration before making the decision.

Supplementary: In response to further questions Councillor Stratford confirmed that officers were looking to see if the labelling could be amended. He would provide a written answer on the suggestion that in future councillors make payments through personal cheques directly rather than using the County Council finance system. With regard to the money to Venturefest Oxford Limited Cabinet considered that this had provided good value. In supporting local businesses it also supported employment for local people. The event had been a showcase for innovation and excellence.