

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 June 2019 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.38 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor David Bartholomew
Councillor Eddie Reeves

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Glynis Phillips (Agenda Items 6,7 and 8)
Councillor John Sanders (Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Yvonne Rees (Chief Executive); Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance; Nick Graham, Director of Law & Governance

Part of meeting

Item

Name

9

Rachel Burns, Waste Strategy Manager

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Peter Day, Minerals Principal Officer

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Joanne Fellowes, Infrastructure Locality Lead Oxford

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Owen Jenkins, Director of Community Operations'

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.

50/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Gray and Harrod.

51/19 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

As a point of information, the following substitutes were added to the Annex:

Thames Valley Collaboration Group – Cabinet Member for Local Communities as substitute for Deputy leader

Didcot Garden Town Board – Councillor Judith Heathcoat substitute for Councillor Ian Hudspeth

Oxfordshire Partnership Board – Deputy Leader substitute for Leader of the Council

52/19 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Emily Smith had given notice of the following question to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

‘In light of reports by the BBC that the DfE are paying the extra travel costs for pupils at an academy in Hertfordshire where the building work has been delayed, will the Cabinet Member confirm that the DfE will also pay any additional travel costs incurred by Oxfordshire due to delays in the opening of the Swan School on its permanent site?’

Councillor Lindsay-Gale replied:

‘I have been in contact with Hertfordshire and I have been told that the DfE will be paying for the cost of transport for around 100 children from the Harpenden area for 2.5 weeks at the start of the September term until the new secondary school in Harpenden, Katherine Warington, is available. Transport will be provided from close to the new school site to and from temporary accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield.

Hertfordshire will be paying the costs of transporting entitled children to and from the permanent school site in Harpenden.

I have also been told that the building work has not actually been delayed – I understand that mid/late September was always the planned completion date which means there was always a need for contingency arrangements of some kind.

I will be seeking further information from Hertfordshire.

The Swan School is in temporary accommodation on the Cherwell School lower site playing fields adjacent to the future location of the permanent buildings and so there is no requirement for transport to another site. Only 1 child is eligible for free home to school travel to the Swan School.’

Councillor Roz Smith had given notice of the following question to Councillor Constance

“Why has the council not installed an electric vehicle charging point at the front of County Hall?”

Councillor Constance replied:

'Workplace electric vehicle (EV) charging points (dual 22kW - wall mount unit) are installed at County Hall to enable the upgrade of the County Council's pool car fleet to EVs. A detailed site survey carried out by the approved contractor Swarco UK Ltd identified the rear of County Hall as the easiest and most cost-effective location for installing the EV charge points. This was because the rear of County Hall already had a dedicated power supply from old, outdated EV charge points installed many years ago from an earlier trial, we just needed to upgrade the electric cable to support the new points. To install an EV charging point at the front of County Hall we would need to overcome the following issues, identified in the site survey as follows:

- **Listed Status** of County Hall including the low boundary wall at the front – restricting us from installing certain types of charge points.
- **Power Supply:** A longer cable run was required to get 3-phase supply from the mains meter room to the front, resulting in high installation cost
- **Site security overnight:** Not as secure to park pool cars at the front of the building for overnight charging.

However, we are still considering the possibility of installing an electric vehicle (EV) charging point at the front of County Hall, not least because this would provide an opportunity to publicly showcase the work the County Council is doing towards electrifying our fleet. We are actively working with the installers to look at cost-effective options and hope to install an EV charging point at the front of County Hall in the near future.

Councillor Roz Smith had given notice of the following question to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

'What concerns does the cabinet member have regarding the request for parents to pay a regular £10 a month by an Oxfordshire Secondary School Head teacher to fund school budgets?'

Councillor Lindsay-Gale replied:

'School budgets are under considerable pressure in many parts of the country and within Oxfordshire. Schools are being asked to do more and continue to raise standards of achievement and attainment. We want to recognise the commitment of Headteachers, staff, governors and parents in supporting schools and ultimately children and young people. In some case schools are asking parents on a voluntary basis to provide additional financial support for the school. This is not just a recent phenomenon.

In April 2019 the Deputy Director for the Department for Education's Funding Policy Unit told school leaders that budgets for 2019-20 will leave schools 'with real pressures to face' as he acknowledged some schools would face 'tighter finances'. The Department is seeking to secure more money from the Treasury for future years on the need to improve outcomes and social mobility. Nick Gibb, the Schools Minister, told the Parliamentary Education Committee on 3 April 2019 that there is a case for more funding in education, and that post 16 and high needs funding is the priority. We are pleased that the needs of schools are documented in that statement and that the pressure schools and Councils are facing on the high needs block for special educational needs is recognised.

This may refer to Lord Williams's School Annual Fund Appeal. This school is an academy (and not an Oxfordshire County Council maintained school); thus, it is regulated by the Regional Schools Commissioner and ultimately the Secretary of State for Education.

The school is asking for direct and regular contributions 'Regular gifts can be made monthly, quarterly or annually for as many years as you choose, and this helps the school plan ahead and make good use of donation income.' This request is to support the school budget.

The Council is aware that budgets are tighter in some academies and schools than in others.'

Councillor Tim Bearder had given notice of the following question to Councillor Hudspeth

'In light of the fact that the official timetable from Highways England is that they will produce a short-list of 6 or 7 expressway routes this Autumn for a non-statutory public consultation, can you press The Secretary of State for an answer to your previous letter with a follow up asking whether we are likely to get any indication of his plans before the events unfold anyway in the official timetable.

Could you also send a copy of the letter to new Transport Minister responsible for the Expressway, which is Michael Ellis, so that he is also able to respond in his capacity as the minister responsible for the expressway scheme.'

Councillor Hudspeth replied:

'I am still awaiting a reply and as soon as I receive one I will pass on to all councillors.

I am sure that the new Minister for Transport has been briefed on the Expressway and has had sight of my letter however given the current situation in Westminster it may be wiser to wait in case there are changes within the Department.

I can assure Cllr Bearder that once the team at the Department of Transport is known I will press the Government so that Highways England stand by their own words in the stage 3 report on page 17:

3.4.6 Reduced congestion along the A34 corridor would improve the quality of life for local residents. There are residential properties located along the A34 corridor including the section through Botley which is subject to an Air Quality Action Area, which would directly benefit from reduced congestion and delays.

I am sure Cllr Bearder will work with me to ensure that the residents of Westminster Way and Stanley Close along with nearby roads do not suffer their current inequalities enabling them to have a better lifestyle with improved air and noise quality along with reduced congestion.'

53/19 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The Leader of the Council had agreed the following requests to address the meeting: -

Item	Speaker
Item 6 – Provisional Revenue Outturn Report	Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Item 7 Provisional Capital Outturn Report	Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Item 8 – Business Management & Monitoring Report	Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Item 9 – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Oxfordshire	Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment
Item 10 – Review of Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement	Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment
Item 11 – Oxford Euro 6 Low Emission Zone for Buses	Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment

54/19 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report that provided commentary on the provisional revenue outturn position for 2018/19 prior to the formal closure of the accounts.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance referred to the overspend in Children's Social Care and commented that this highlighted the need to get better at predicting need.

Councillor Phillips highlighted the use of grant funds as an inefficient means of funding provision. There had been no quantifying of the officer time spent on managing and monitoring these funds. Organisations were grateful for the one-off funding, but she queried whether it met the County Council's outcome-based approach. She suggested that a better use might be to mitigate the overspend.

Councillor Phillips welcomed the improved presentation of the information.

Councillor Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance responded to the points raised. The position on children's services was a recurring theme and although the budget had grown the likely overspend was known and would be managed through contingency. On the use of grants he highlighted the Councillor Priority Fund which gave councillors real local power to help local communities where they were best placed to identify local need individually or together.

Councillor Constance responding to a specific question on the use of the on and off-street parking surplus stated that it could be used only for very specific purposes as set out in the regulations.

Councillor Bartholomew introduced the report and moved the recommendations.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the provisional revenue outturn for 2018/19 along with the year-end position on general balances and earmarked reserves as set out in the report;
- (b) approve the transfer of over and under spends to general balances as set out in paragraph 5;
- (c) agree that the surplus on the On-Street Parking Account at the end of the 2018/19 financial year, so far as not applied to particular eligible purposes in accordance with Section 55(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, be carried forward in the account to the 2019/20 financial year as set out in Annex 3;
- (d) approve the transfer of the £0.4m underspend relating to the replacement for the Oxfordshire Strategic Model to the Budget Priorities Reserve for use in 2019/20 as set out in the Communities Section below;
- (e) approve the revised 2019/20 Earmarked Reserve forecast as set out in Annex 5.

55/19 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet received the report presenting the provisional capital outturn for the Council and identifying variations of actual outturn against budgets in 2018/19. Figures shown in the report reflect those included in the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2018/19.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance, highlighted: the Carillion legacy and whether the enormous amount of work was now subsumed into the main programme; whether the salt barns at Drayton and Deddington were necessary; whether as accountable body for the Growth Board there was any financial risk if local plan decisions were challenged and possibly changed.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance, referring to the last point agreed that there was uncertainty because it was a situation the County Council did not control. As a dual hatter he found this provided useful information. He was able to take soundings at a local level. The situation would be monitored, and the County Council was aware of the risk that projects not proceed. Councillor Hudspeth added that financially they were spending money from government. The risk was to the success of the Growth Deal rather than to the County Council as the accountable body.

Councillor Constance spoke on the need for the salt barns.

Councillor Bartholomew introduced the contents of the report and moved the recommendations. Councillor Constance highlighted the increase in the highways budget and flagged up all that had been achieved as a result.

RESOLVED: to note the provisional capital outturn for 2018/19 as set out in the report.

56/19 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MONITORING REPORT - APRIL 2019

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report on Oxfordshire County Council's progress towards Corporate Plan priorities that provided an update on the delivery of the Medium-Term Financial Plan at the end of April 2019.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance commented on the wealth of information provided but queried whether there was enough change month on month to need a monthly report. Councillor Phillips commented on the rag ratings for public health that were based on both data and officers' judgement. It was important that outcomes be based on data.

Councillor Phillips referred to Annex 3 and the rise in staffing numbers. She asked about the use of the Vacancy Management System. She also queried the inclusion of the virement request in this report rather than the Revenue Outturn report at Agenda Item 6

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the contents of the report in relation to performance, risk and human resources. Councillor Heathcoat commented that the report would continue to evolve. There were many positives in the report including the number of people helped to live “safe and well”; the response time of the OFRS to respond to incidents; public health checks and recycling rates. On agency staff going forward she would ask that historic information be included to give a clearer idea of the trend.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance responded to points raised by Councillor Phillips in relation to finance. He had shared similar concerns about a monthly report and it was inevitable that there would be repetition. The method of production was being fine-tuned and he would like to see a summary of key changes included in the report. It was better to start from a position of having it all and refining from there. Responding to the query on the virement Councillor Bartholomew explained that the outturn report was about the 2018/19 financial year but that the virement in the report at recommendation (b) was a new virement relating to 2019/20.

Councillor Bartholomew introduced the contents of the report in relation to finance and moved the recommendations.

During discussion Cabinet welcomed the format, finding it transparent and robust. It was acknowledged that it was early days, but they welcomed keeping up to date monthly.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the contents of this report;
- (b) approve a temporary virement of £2.2m from the corporate contingency budget to the SEN Home to School Transport budget for 2019/20 as set out in paragraph 21.

57/19 JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Oxfordshire Environment Partnership (OEP) is a partnership of County, City and District Councils working together on waste management and environmental matters. Our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) is a statutory document that details how we will work together to provide waste and recycling services in the county.

The first JMWMS was agreed in 2007, and it was reviewed in 2012. In 2018/19 OEP carried out a second review of the JMWMS, incorporating the newly published national Resources and Waste Strategy.

Cabinet had before them the Strategy that was being presented to all partner authorities for adoption. The Cabinet received a presentation on the Strategy from Rachel Burns, Waste Strategy Manager.

Cabinet welcomed the report and Strategy and during discussion Cabinet:

- Welcomed the suggestion of consistency of colour coding across the County and nationally.
- Highlighted the difficulty of targeting people who were not recycling and noted the work that was undertaken on the communications strategy and looking at demographics to have targeted campaigns.
- Commended the collaborative nature of the work. It was suggested that it would be helpful to receive information setting out what was done in different areas.
- Highlighted the waste from supermarkets and the need to address the packaging to achieve a reduction.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the contents and challenges of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Oxfordshire
- (b) adopt the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Oxfordshire.

58/19 REVIEW OF OXFORDSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(Agenda Item. 10)

The County Council is required to prepare, and keep up to date, a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is a statutory planning document that sets out how the Council will involve the community (consultees, stakeholders and other interested parties) in:

- preparing and reviewing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan;
- making decisions on planning applications.

Cabinet considered a report on a draft revised SCI, with a view to carrying out public consultation on it in the summer, leading to adoption of a revised SCI in December 2019.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment referred to the possibility of developers taking advantage of there being no Plan in place during the submission process. He queried whether the Plan could be agreed as a protocol in advance of the formal approval. Peter Day explained the process that had to be followed in terms of site allocations and that in advance of that process the amount of weight that could be given to it in planning applications was limited.

Councillor Constance, Cabinet Member for Environment moved the recommendations.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) approve the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement at Annex 1, subject to final detailed amendment and editing, as a draft for public consultation;
- (b) authorise the Director for Planning & Place to:
 - (i) carry out final detailed amendment and editing of the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment;
 - (ii) publish the draft revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation.

59/19 OXFORD EURO 6 LOW EMISSION ZONE FOR BUSES

(Agenda Item. 11)

Cabinet considered a report on emissions controls for buses in Oxford and submission of a request to the Traffic Commissioner to introduce a Traffic Regulation Condition (TRC) to enforce these controls.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, expressed some concern that the 2-stage phasing would not apply to many deprived areas in the City and that this may mean a loss of services. Councillor Sanders queried how advanced the technology to retro-fit was and how ready the industry was to do it.

Responding to the query Joanne Fellowes, Infrastructure Locality Lead Oxford explained that the technology was new and that many operators already operated at Euro 6.

Councillor Constance, Cabinet Member for Environment in moving the recommendations noted that this next step was being done in consultation with the bus companies. She added that as 78% of buses went out to other towns it would be of benefit to other areas.

Responding to questions from cabinet Joanne Fellowes confirmed that it impacted on national buses and coaches as well as local buses.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) approve the proposed emissions requirements for buses outlined in the report;

- (b) authorise officers to make minor changes to the draft Traffic Regulation Condition at Annex 1 if required; and
- (c) instruct officers to submit a request to the Traffic Commissioner for a Traffic Regulation Condition (TRC) based on the draft at Annex 1.

**60/19 CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL AGENCY AGREEMENT (S101) -
MANAGEMENT OF TEMPORARY SIGNS ON THE HIGHWAY**

(Agenda Item. 12)

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval to delegate the management of temporary signs on the highway to Cherwell District Council. A separate proposal was included giving the required authorisation to Cherwell to manage and enable the sponsorship of roundabouts in the CDC area (already in progress) and to share any surplus income from the activity.

Councillor Ian Corkin, Cabinet Member for Cherwell Partnership in moving the recommendations welcomed the proposals as an encouraging sign of the culture change being brought about by the Partnership. This was a vexatious issue and was something that could be expanded across the County.

Cabinet in welcoming the proposals hoped that there would be engagement with town and parish councils. A member suggested that a report back on the Civil Parking Enforcement referred to in paragraph 7 of the report would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the progress being made regarding partnership opportunities between Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council Operational Teams
- (b) to delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, the Leader and the Strategic Director of Communities to agree appropriate terms of the agreement.

61/19 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 13)

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.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing