

COUNTY COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

1. Future Direction of Oxfordshire Customer Services and School Facing Services

(Cabinet 16 July 2013)

Cabinet had before them two reports on the future direction of Oxfordshire Customer Services and school facing services.

The first report referred to work undertaken since October 2012 to develop a strategic direction for the future of school related support and school improvement services generally, including those in Children, Education & Families (CEF) which have been prepared for an internally commissioned specification model for delivery of service functions 2013/14.

The second report referred to proposals for the externalisation of corporate and school back-office support services currently delivered from Oxfordshire Customer Services (OCS).

Cabinet agreed that subject to any changes following soft market testing:

- back office and schools support services should be prepared for externalisation;
- externalisation proposals should be prepared with a view to procuring and implementing the solutions necessary by 31 March 2015;
- externalisation proposals should include consideration of future options for service delivery, including outsourcing and joint venture;
- a report and recommendations on externalisation should be prepared in September for decisions by Cabinet.

Cabinet also agreed to the further exploratory work needed to develop a full business case for the future merger of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Local Government Pension Scheme Funds, including detailed discussions with the Department of Communities and Local Government.

2. Corporate Plan Performance Report for the 4th Quarter 2012

Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a quarterly performance monitoring report against the Corporate Plan priorities - Quarter 4 that also introduced proposals for performance monitoring for 2013-14, as discussed by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 27th June 2013.

Cabinet noted the report and approved the performance indicators for 2013/14.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

3. Joint Carers Strategy

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet agreed the Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy 2013 - 2016. This replaced the previous Carers' Strategy which ran from 2009 - 2012. It detailed Oxfordshire's commitment to the support of unpaid carers who support relatives, neighbours and friends across Oxfordshire.

4. Care Home Fees

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a report that provided feedback on the consultation on Care Home Fees that ended on 18 June 2013. Cabinet agreed the proposed new arrangements for Care Home Fees in Oxfordshire in 2013/14.

5. Adult Social Care Management System

(Cabinet 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered an exempt report and agreed an approach to the procurement of a new Adult Social Care Management System.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

6. Home to School Transport Policy

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet had before them a report that contained an analysis of the responses to a consultation with the public, head teachers and other interested parties upon a number of proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy. Cabinet further had a note from the Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee containing recommendations following consideration of the proposals at their meeting on 4 July 2013. Cabinet also had before them a supplementary report advising that the new Guidance which had been the basis of consultation had now been withdrawn by the Department for Education and the previous 2007 Guidance reinstated making it inappropriate to come to a decision. Cabinet agreed to defer the proposals and to restart consultation in September.

7. Expansion of Queensway Primary School, Banbury to 2 form of entry

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a proposal to permanently increase the school admission number at Queensway Primary School to 60 from 30 from September 2014 and approved the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Queensway Primary School.

8. Expansion of St Joseph's Catholic (VA) School, Oxford to 2 form of entry

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet gave approval to permanently increase the school admission number at St Joseph's Catholic (VA) Primary School, Oxford to 60 from 45 from September 2014. This means that each year group would consist of up to 60 places, taught in two classes of 30, making a maximum total of 420 pupils.

9. Expansion of Watchfield Primary School to 2 form of entry

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to permanently increase the school admission number at Queensway Primary School to 60 from 45 from September 2014 and approved the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Watchfield Primary School.

10. Expansion of Wolvercote Primary School, Oxford to 1.5 form of entry

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet agreed a proposal to permanently increase the school admission number at Wolvercote Primary School to 45 from 30 from September 2014. This means that each year group would consist of up to 45 places, taught in mixed-age classes, making a maximum total of 315 pupils.

11. Placement Strategy for Children in and on the Edge of Care

(Cabinet 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a report that outlined the vision, approach and scope of the Placement Strategy for Children in and on the edge of care.

Cabinet approved the placement strategy and endorsed the initial approach to increase in-county residential capacity and gave approval for a detailed survey of potential sites to be undertaken followed by more detailed costings and return to Cabinet for consideration.

Cabinet Member: Environment

12. Highways Contract – Buy out of the Atkins Highways by Skanska

(Cabinet 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered the implications to the County Council of Atkins decision to restructure its business and its proposal to sell the operational services part of the UK Highways & Transport business to Skanska. Cabinet approved in principle to the transfer of the performance of the Highways Contract from Atkins to Skanska subject to the agreement on detailed matters. Cabinet further agreed to delegate the decision on the proposed transfer of the performance of the Highways Contract from Atkins to Skanska to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director for Environment & Economy along with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the County Solicitor.

Cabinet Member: Finance

13. 2012/13 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet noted a report that focussed 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 February 2013. Capital monitoring was included at Part 3. Fees and Charges are included in Part 4.

Cabinet approved virement requests noted the updated Treasury Management lending list, approved the updated Capital, the associated changes to the programme and the proposed programme of works for the additional £3.551m of highways maintenance funding. Cabinet also approved the changes to charges for Trading Standards and noted the change in charges at Hill End Outdoor Education Centre.

14. Treasury Management 2012/13 Outturn

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet considered a report reviewing Treasury Management activity in 2012/13 in accordance with the CIPFA code of practice.

Cabinet RECOMMENDED Council to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2012/13 and a separate report on this matter is elsewhere on the agenda;

15. Impact of the 2015/15 Central Government Spending Round

(Cabinet, 16 July 2013)

Cabinet noted a report that outlined the key features and implications of the 2013 Spending Round announced on 26 June 2013, which sets out public spending totals for the financial year 2015/16.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

August 2013