



County Council

11 December 2012

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 11 December 2012 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

November 2012

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 22)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. **Official Communications**

5. **Appointments**

- (a) to confirm Councillor Kieron Mallon as the Council's duly appointed representative on the Police and Crime Panel for the current Council year;
- (b) to make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. **Petitions and Public Address**

7. **Questions with Notice from Members of the Public**

8. **2012/13 Requests For Virements (Pages 23 - 24)**

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer (**CC8**).

As reported to Cabinet on 16 October 2012, expenditure on the Council element of the Physical Disabilities Pool is expected to exceed budget by +£1.842m. Council is recommended to approve a temporary virement to amend the Council contributions to the Pools with the effect of moving funding from the Learning Disabilities Pool, where there is a forecast underspend, to offset pressures in the Physical Disabilities Pool.

The on-going effect of the pressures on the Physical Disabilities Pool will be considered as part of the Service & Resource Planning Process.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve a temporary virement in 2012/13 to amend the Council contributions to the Pools with the effect of moving £1.842m funding from the Learning Disabilities Pool to the Physical Disabilities Pool.

9. **Treasury Management Mid Term Review (2012/13) (Pages 25 - 38)**

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer (**CC9**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2012/13 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

The Cabinet RECOMMEND Council to note the Council's Mid Term Treasury Management Review 2012/13.

10. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

11. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances (Pages 39 - 44)

Report by County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (**CC11**).

The Independent Remuneration Panel has considered:

- whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the County Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
- whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable for the County Council's representative as he had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
- the level of Special Responsibility Allowance(s).

The Council is RECOMMENDED that:

- special responsibility allowance of £1,500 be paid to the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;***
- a Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,000 be paid to the Council's representative as the Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;***
- the Independent Remuneration Panel review these arrangements within six months.***

12. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 45 - 48)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 18 September, 16 October and 27 November 2012 (**CC12**).

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

"Council welcomes a recent report to Adult Services scrutiny which sets out the rigorous independent contract monitoring and procedures that the directorate has had in place for some time to ensure the wellbeing of those using services throughout Oxfordshire. Council is further reassured that this is an evolving process that develops over time.

However, this Council is concerned to learn that the Care Quality Commission in this region is currently operating under resource and asks the Leader to write to CQC expressing Oxfordshire County Council's wishes that this situation be immediately addressed to the correct levels to further compliment the Council's own work."

14. Motion From Councillor Zoe Patrick

"Council recognises that young unemployed people are particularly disadvantaged by the current economic situation and that they deserve extra support to move onto the first steps to permanent employment.

Council notes and supports the £1 billion Youth Contract scheme – launched by the Coalition Government as a result of Lib Dem intervention – that opens up various opportunities for young people.

Council further acknowledges that the cost of transport to Job Centres, job interviews, work experience and apprenticeships can be a real barrier to young people.

Council therefore, requests the Chief Executive/Cabinet to examine the feasibility of extending the concessionary travel scheme to include 18 – 24 year olds in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or undertaking apprenticeships and to report back to Council within 3 months."

15. Motion From Councillor John Sanders

"This Council is concerned that two bus companies, running vital transport services for the Council, have gone into liquidation within a few days of each other. It calls into question whether the procurement policies of the Council are fit for the job.

At the moment, the Council looks for the "cheapest overall package" in choosing to subsidise bus services.

European procurement regulations admit either of two tendering criteria - (a) the lowest price or (b) the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT). The regulations state that suppliers can be assessed and excluded on the basis of their economic and financial capacity.

The Council now resolves to ask Cabinet to adopt the MEAT alternative for all bus service contracts and for all other Council services where failure would be likely to result in serious disadvantage to people who use the services or increased cost to the Council. This process will include a rigorous assessment of the commercial viability of tenderers as part of the Council's due diligence in assessing contracts."

16. Motion From Councillor Jenny Hannaby

"This Council notes that the report of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support chaired by Andrew Dilnot was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the then Secretary of State for Health on 4th July 2010. The report recommended, inter alia:

- a) that a cap should be set on an individual's contributions; and
- b) that the upper threshold for means-testing should be raised.

This Council calls upon Her Majesty's Government to:

- (i) bring forward legislation to implement these two proposals without any further delay; and
- (ii) ensure that the necessary funding provided to all local authorities is based upon the demographics of the eligible population rather than an arbitrary formula.

The Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health outlining these concerns."

17. Motion From Councillor Alan Armitage

"Council notes that:

The Living Wage movement started in the UK in 1999, following examples set in the United States;

Many commercial, industrial and government organisations have since adopted a policy of paying a Living Wage in place of the legally required National Minimum Wage;

Oxford City Council was one of the first Local Authorities to be formally accredited by the Living Wage Foundation, and Oxford University is gradually adopting the policy, college by college;

Support for the principle of a Living Wage has been shown by leading politicians including David Cameron (during the 2010 General Election campaign), London Mayor Boris Johnson, and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith;

Feedback from contractors implementing the Living Wage indicates that it provides many benefits including:

- Easier recruitment and retention of staff, reducing recruitment costs;
- Tougher competition for jobs producing higher quality staff;
- Better motivation and loyalty of all staff;
- Helping to combat child poverty and social deprivation;
- Closing the gap between the pay of men and women;

Council asks the Cabinet to initiate research to establish whether these benefits would be likely to apply if the County Council adopted a Living Wage policy for its own non-teaching staff and those of its principal subcontractors, how such a policy could be sensibly phased in, and what would be the net cost of such a change."

18. Motion From Councillor Larry Sanders

“The Government estimates that there will be 500,000 fewer disabled working-age people able to claim Personal Independence Payments than would have received Disability Living Allowance (DLA) which it is set to replace April 1, 2013. About 5000 disabled Oxfordshire residents will be affected, plus a significant number who receive Carers Allowance for looking after a people who receive DLA. This change follows a number of other benefit changes which also adversely impact disabled people.

The abolition of DLA has been opposed by over 50 respected national organisations, including Age UK, Carers UK, Citizens Advice, Macmillan Cancer Support, Mind, Mencap and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, as well as the UK Disabled Peoples Council, the umbrella grouping for over 300 organisations of people with disabilities.

A major objection is that there has been no ‘holistic’ assessment of the:

- combined effect on disabled people and their carers of these changes;
- costs to the Government of the loss of employment by the large number of people who rely on DLA to enable them to work;
- additional costs to the NHS and local Councils.

This Council:

- Asks the Leader to request that the Government postpone abolition of DLA until such an assessment has been conducted; and
- Asks the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee to form a working party to determine the likely increase in demand for this Council’s services which would be caused by the various changes in benefits (as has been done by Buckinghamshire County Council).”

19. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

“Council welcomes the recent publication of the White Paper on social care that embraced the principles of the Dilnot Commission and would make social care a much fairer proposition for everyone. Council also congratulates the Coalition Government for having the courage to tackle this difficult challenge which too many Governments have consistently delayed.

Council recognises the difficult financial situation facing Local and Central Government, as a result of the reckless spending of the last Labour government, however, having taken this first step, council asks the Leader to write to the Government expressing this organisation's wish to see the Dilnot commission recommendations implemented in full at the earliest possible opportunity.”

20. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

“This Council is surprised to learn that Oxford City Council is spending £450,000 on upgrading public conveniences throughout the City (Oxford Mail, 25th October 2012). Oxfordshire County Council recognises the importance of public conveniences for all but especially for older people, those with a disability, pregnant women, and families

with young children.

However, Council asks the Leader to write to the City Council to express concern about spending priorities, especially given the attitude that the City Councillors & County Councillors from Oxford City have adopted to issues such as the funding of the Dial-A-Ride service and to consider if all the spending is really necessary such as decorating the walls with comments.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 12 January 2009 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 September 2012 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Don Seale – in the Chair

Councillors:

Tim Hallchurch MBE	Patrick Greene	David Robertson
Alyas Ahmed	Pete Handley	Rodney Rose
M. Altaf-Khan	Jenny Hannaby	Gillian Sanders
Alan Armitage	Tony Harbour	John Sanders
Lynda Atkins	Steve Hayward	Larry Sanders
Marilyn Badcock	Mrs J. Heathcoat	Bill Service
Mike Badcock	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Dave Sexon
Maurice Billington	Ian Hudspeth	C.H. Shouler
Norman Bolster	Ray Jelf	Dr Peter Skolar
Ann Bonner	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Roz Smith
Liz Brighouse OBE	A.M. Lovatt	Val Smith
Iain Brown	Sajjad Hussain Malik	Richard Stevens
Nick Carter	Kieron Mallon	Keith Strangwood
Jim Couchman	Charles Mathew	John Tanner
Tony Crabbe	Keith R. Mitchell CBE	Alan Thompson
Roy Darke	Caroline Newton	Melinda Tilley
Arash Fatemian	David Nimmo-Smith	Nicholas P. Turner
Jean Fooks	Neil Owen	Carol Viney
Mrs C. Fulljames	Zoé Patrick	Michael Waine
Anthony Gearing	Susanna Pressel	David Wilmshurst
John Goddard	Anne Purse	
Janet Godden	G.A. Reynolds	

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.

196/12 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2012 were approved and signed.

197/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chapman, Fitzgerald O'Connor, Gibbard, Harvey, Jones, Lilly, Sherwood, Stratford and D. Turner.

198/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Fatemian declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 14 (Motion From Councillor Anne Purse) by virtue of family ownership of a Post Office.

199/12 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Council noted the changes to Cabinet Member portfolios set out on the face of the Agenda and the report of the County Returning Office on the outcome of the by-elections for the Cowley and Littlemore Division as set out in the Schedule of Business.

RESOLVED: to approve the following appointments:

- (a) Adult Services Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Mathew to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
- (b) Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Gearing to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
- (c) Audit & Governance Committee: Councillor Newton to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
- (d) replace Councillor Val Smith with Councillor Gill Sanders on the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

200/12 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman reported as follows:

- (1) The death of David Turner, who was the County Councillor for the Wroxton Division 1985 – 1997, died on 16 July 2012.

Councillors Mitchell, Brighthouse and Purse paid tribute to the former County Councillor. The Council then observed a Minute's silence in his memory.

- (2) Peter Jones was now making some progress in his recovery. The Council wished him well for a speedy recovery.
- (3) The Council thanked members of staff from County Hall and the Fire Service who had given up their time for the 'Oxford Open Doors' held on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of September, and in particular thanked Tim Stimpson, Facilities Manager for giving up his weekend to provide tours and organisation for this event.

201/12 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

Petitions:

Mrs Pill: ' A request asking the Council to investigate the reason for a six month delay in the Council repairing all of the potholes on the public thoroughfare adjacent to the local Co-operative Store on the A4260 in Kidlington. (28 Signatures)

Mr Graham Dixon-Brown: 'A request from the residents of Stanton Harcourt with Sutton asking the County Council with responsibility for the B4449 through Sutton urgently to adopt measures to improve the unacceptable HGV traffic:

- for safety reasons (school children crossing/exit visibility for residents/44 ton lorries being unable to pass each other;
- quality of life (residents being woke frequently at night by 24/7 HGV traffic);
- broken promises (a Sutton bypass first muted in the 1960s and promised in 1996 if any new gravel quarries received planning in the Lower Windrush – that happened in 2010 (Stonehenge Farm Northmoor)). (Signatures)

The Chairman received the petitions on behalf of the Council.

202/12 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12 OUTTURN

(Agenda Item 8)

The Council had before them a report by the Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer (CC8) which set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2011/12.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Shouler, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried nem con) to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2011/12.

203/12 PARTNERSHIP UPDATE REPORT

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council had before them a report by the Head of Strategy & Communications (CC11) which provided an update on all Oxfordshire-wide partnerships.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Rose and carried nem con) to note the report.

204/12 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council noted the report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 17 July 2012.

205/12 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 11)

12 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers, where asked and given, are set out in Annex 1 to the signed copy of the Minutes.

In relation to question 3 (Question from Councillor Roz Smith), Councillor Rose undertook to give consideration to funding a mitigation scheme for the local residents of Sandhills area from the Environment & Economy Budget in relation to the planned works at Thornhill Park & Ride.

206/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE PURSE

(Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Anne Purse seconded by Councillor Tilley and carried unanimously)

This Council was delighted to see the contribution made by local athletes in the recent London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is sure that their endeavours will be an inspiration to the present and following generations of school children.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to do all in its power to ensure that Oxfordshire schools retain their playing and sports facilities, so that all children have the opportunity to realise their own ambitions both in terms of health and enjoyment, as well as encouraging and developing the talents of those who could become future world class athletes.”

207/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Val Smith seconded the following motion as amended with Council's agreement by Councillor Roz Smith in strikethrough and bold italics:

“The County Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern at the arbitrary way in which the boundaries of grades in English Language GCSE were changed. This change will have the effect of damaging the life changes of many 16 year olds in Oxfordshire who took their exams this summer. It particularly affects those young people on the border of C/D and the young people aiming for Russell Group Universities who will not have realised the reward of their hard work by getting an A or A*.

In addition the Council asks ~~the Cabinet to set up a group to look~~ ***the Scrutiny committee for Children's services to consider looking*** at the level of the negative impact on schools across Oxfordshire so that schools can learn from this experience.”

Following debate The motion, as amended was lost by 41 votes to 19.

208/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH

(Agenda Item 14)

(Councillor Fatemian left the room for the duration of this item (please see minute 198/12)

Councillor Nimmo-Smith moved and Councillor Newton seconded the following motion as amended with Council's agreement by Councillor Nimmo-Smith in strikethrough and bold italics:

“This Council is pleased to be one of the 25 local pathfinder authorities building a more strategic relationship with the Post Office Limited. It notes that the DVLA contract with the Post Office is due for renewal.

This Council notes that this valuable service means that people in towns, our city and rural areas have the choice of being able to renew their car tax in person at the Post Office. This helps promote the many other services available at Post Offices ensuring they are viable concerns. Post Offices are an important and key aspect of our County's Communities.

This Council asks that the Leader writes to The Right Hon ~~Justine Greening~~ ***Patrick McLoughlin*** MP, copying in the local MPs, asking that the government renews the DVLA contract with the Post Office, to support and ensure the viability of Oxfordshire's Post Offices, both rural and urban, thereby promoting and improving the economic wellbeing of the area and supporting local businesses as most local Post Offices are run on a franchise basis.”

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

This Council is pleased to be one of the 25 local pathfinder authorities building a more strategic relationship with the Post Office Limited. It notes that the DVLA contract with the Post Office is due for renewal.

This Council notes that this valuable service means that people in towns, our city and rural areas have the choice of being able to renew their car tax in person at the Post Office. This helps promote the many other services available at Post Offices ensuring they are viable concerns. Post Offices are an important and key aspect of our County's Communities.

This Council asks that the Leader writes to The Right Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, copying in the local MPs, asking that the government renews the DVLA contract with the Post Office, to support and ensure the viability of Oxfordshire's Post Offices, both rural and urban, thereby promoting and improving the economic wellbeing of the area and supporting local businesses as most local Post Offices are run on a franchise basis.

209/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Larry Sanders moved and Councillor Atkins seconded the following motion as amended with Council's agreement by Councillor Larry Sanders in strikethrough and bold italics:

The Government's attempts to restore the economy are not **yet** working. One ~~of the most effective ways~~ **way** to increase employment and economic growth is increased expenditure by Local Government. There is a ~~reasonable chance~~ **possibility** that some ~~the~~ government will recognise this in the near future.

~~In addition to its effect on the general economy strengthened Local Government would increase people's ability to participate in their society and act as a bulwark against the excessive power of major banks and corporations.~~

Increased funding would make it possible for Local Authorities to ~~more~~ ~~adequately provide~~ **improve and/or extend** the services for which they are responsible.

If public spending were to increase, those Councils which are prepared to efficiently increase spending will have an advantage in applying for and spending increased funding.

This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to ~~require Directors to begin consultation with the people of the County~~ **to consider how increased public funding might be best used** so that they will have plans ready for ~~more~~ locally focussed and integrated use of the increased funding ~~when it becomes~~ **should it become** available.

Following debate the motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was lost by 43 votes to 10, with 3 abstentions.

210/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTAF-KHAN

(Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Altaf-Khan moved and Councillor Hannaby seconded the following motion as amended with Council's agreement by Councillor Brighouse in strikethrough and bold italics:

“Council continues to be concerned about the pressure on primary school places in the City and Vale of White Horse District Council areas and is still unable to understand why the problem was not better anticipated and planned for. The number of parents unable to gain a place at either their first or second choice of school is still too high and makes it hard for parents to have confidence in the system. Council also notes the knock-on effect that the problem is now having on schools outside the City area. It can be unsettling for all parties, as well as costly to the authority, to have children brought out from the City by taxi for the reception year only to return as soon as there are vacancies in the City schools, leaving the outer schools with empty places. It is also unsettling for small children outside the City who are being sent by bus to village schools due to insufficient places in their local home town or village.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to speed up its measures to create sufficient new places where needed in primary schools across the County ***and start planning for the additional capacity needed in the secondary schools for these children.***”

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was lost by 39 votes to 19.

211/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH

(Agenda Item 17)

Councillor Roz Smith moved and Councillor Purse seconded the following motion:

“Council is aware of the huge workload carried by all Environment & Economy officers, but is nevertheless concerned that the established principle that local members should be kept informed of highways work and planning issues in their division has sometimes slipped of late: for example, progress on the adoption of roads, and County responses on high profile planning consultations from district councils.

Keeping residents informed of progress on highways and planning schemes and having input themselves when appropriate is part of the role of local members. Council therefore asks the Cabinet to remind Environment & Economy of the importance of this principle and to ensure that it does not get overlooked, especially when the Directorate is working through contractors.”

During debate, Councillor Fatemian moved and Councillor Heathcoat seconded ‘that the question be now put’.

The motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

Accordingly, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was lost by 39 votes to 18.

212/12 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER

(Agenda Item 18)

The time being 3.30 pm, the Chairman sought the approval of Council to extend the Council meeting until 4.00 pm to allow for the consideration of item 18 of the Agenda (Motion from Councillor John Tanner).

RESOLVED: (by 36-19) not to extend the meeting.

The time being 3.30 pm the meeting closed and the motion from Councillor Tanner was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Education confirm whether it is true that four Oxfordshire schools feature in the top ten of the A-level UK national tables?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>This question is based on an article that was in the Oxford Mail a couple of weeks ago. The data was released by the DfE in July and relates to A-levels taken in 2011.</p> <p>Two Oxfordshire schools were in the top 4 schools nationally when comparing the proportion of A* grades for an individual subject. These comparisons are based on non-Independent schools with more than 10 pupils taking a subject. These two schools were Matthew Arnold School – maths and The Cherwell School – further maths.</p> <p>John Mason School was rated sixth in maths, Wallingford School were 5th for English literature and The Cherwell also were fifth for biology, chemistry and sixth for physics.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I wish to ask the Cabinet Member what steps have been taken to spread this very welcomed news to the rest of Oxfordshire schools?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, Oxfordshire schools already know because they have already had the information. We spend a lot of time challenging aspects of our education and performance with our statistical neighbours and it has always been the case that some of our schools have truly excelled. I think we should be celebrating that, and therefore we are asking schools, headteachers and Chairman of governors to a reception in County Hall to celebrate their successes too.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>Given the enthusiasm of the House of Commons Transport Select Committee for Oxfordshire's joint ticketing scheme when they visited the County Council earlier this</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I'm sure that Cllr Patrick can remember she put forward a motion when I was cabinet member for Transport regarding the expansion of an out dated paper based system. My reply then was that I wanted to see a 21st century system in place not an out dated paper based system.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>year, will the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council now agree with me that it is time to roll the scheme out beyond the city's boundaries so that other communities in Oxfordshire can benefit from the scheme?</p>	<p>I'm pleased to say that with the assistance from the major bus companies this administration has achieved a 21st century system within Oxford.</p> <p>I can state that my ambition for all of Oxfordshire would be to have an efficient, easy to use system that encompasses all forms of public transport buses, coaches, trains and all park & rides to enable users to have the minimum fuss when using the service. It may even be using smart phones as technology progresses. However I am conscious that the cost of the equipment in buses would fall upon the operators, the larger companies may be able to find the funds. During these difficult financial times caused by the profligate spending of the previous Labour government smaller companies who operate in predominately rural areas may not be able to afford the capital funding. This may cause them to cease providing valuable bus services in rural areas, I would not wish that to happen. I am sure that Cllr Patrick would agree with me that she would not wish to see the implementation of any scheme that could jeopardise rural bus services in the County.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Surely something can be worked out where there is just a discussion with the bus companies and they can accept a paper ticket?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The difficulty when you have paper based system, is that how does a different bus company actually get the money back from the original bus company that the ticket was purchased from. When you are using smart card technology that is always going to be easy because that's what the three companies now have agreed to. The cost I was referring to was actually for cost inside the cab and particularly small rural bus services that we must make sure survive. I wouldn't want to inflict upon them a system that they couldn't afford. However, as I clearly state my aim is to have a joint ticket with a smart card right across and get rid of paper because that makes it unnecessarily bureaucratic for everybody.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>The expansion of the Thornhill Park and Ride car park is to be welcomed by many residents. However would the cabinet</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>The Oxford Park and Ride system is very successful and popular, and makes a major contribution to reduction of traffic and parking volumes in Oxford city centre. In addition, a significant number of users of Thornhill specifically, are travelling to</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>member agree that the popularity of the site, it being full quite often by 9am, has led to problems of inconsiderate parking in the local residential roads?</p>	<p>places in Headington, thereby reducing traffic and parking in that area too. The Thornhill site is indeed currently at full capacity, on average from 9am on weekdays, which may well increase the likelihood of people seeking alternative parking places in surrounding streets. We currently try to minimise this by directing approaching motorists to alternative Park and Ride sites when Thornhill is full, using fixed and variable message signs. As Cllr Smith recognises, an expansion of this site to provide an extra 500 spaces is programmed to start this year, and when complete this will enable the site to make an even greater contribution to traffic relief in this area of Oxford.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Rose for your answer and agreeing with me I think, that there is a problem there. Given the strategic nature of this particular Park & Ride would the Cabinet Member consider funding a mitigation scheme for the local residents in the Sandhills area from the E&E budget rather than making local councillors have to take the mitigation scheme from our local member's budget, I would ask you just to consider it.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure please confirm when the Council-approved OCC Core Strategy for 2030- Minerals and Waste was submitted to Government for approval and when she expects a reply?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy has not yet been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a planning inspector. The Council received responses to the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document, May 2012 from about 100 organisations and individuals. These representations are currently being checked for any new issues concerning the soundness and legal compliance of the plan that may need to be considered before it is submitted for examination. The Core Strategy will be submitted when this process has been completed. The current aim is for this to be done in October. The examination would then be likely to be held in February 2013. Organisations and individuals who responded to the Proposed Submission Document will be notified when the Core Strategy is submitted.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Might I ask the Cabinet Member do you intend to talk to the consultation consultants?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, Consultees who have responded to this have been spoken to previously. Appeals are actually done by letter form and I don't think we will be speaking to consultees as the consultation is now closed.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The numbers of people killed or severely injured on Oxfordshire roads fell significantly between 2000 and 2005 (from 516 to 346). There has been virtually no change between 2005 and 2011, the numbers fluctuating in a narrow range. Nationally, between 2005 and 2011, there has been a reduction of about 23%. Oxfordshire has fallen seriously behind the rest of the country, costing lives, severe injuries and vast amounts of money.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>Between 2000 and 2005 reported KSIs on Oxfordshire's roads fell by 33%, as compared to a 22% reduction reported nationally. This rather larger than expected reduction in Oxfordshire prompted a joint review with Thames Valley Police (TVP) on the accuracy of the coding of injury severity on the accident report forms compiled by TVP, and identified for example that officers were coding some relatively minor injuries— though technically serious in accordance with Department for Transport definitions – as slight. Improved procedures addressing this and other sources of inaccuracy were progressively introduced from 2006, the net effect of which has been to add by around 15% to the number of recorded serious injuries than would have been the case prior to their introduction.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Has Councillor Rose any ideas as to why the good results of 2000 to 2005 have not been maintained from 2005 to 2011?</p> <p>What are the plans for decreasing deaths and serious injuries in the future?</p> <p>What targets have been set to reduce the terrible figures?</p>	<p>The effect of these progressive improvements since 2005 accounts for much of the apparent gap in the trends between Oxfordshire and the Great Britain as a whole. We continue to monitor road injuries very closely, and thankfully the number of KSIs reported in Oxfordshire between January to July 2012 is 18% lower than seen in the same period in 2011.</p> <p>The County Council takes road safety very seriously and considers that the majority of its highways related spend contributes to making Oxfordshire's roads as safe as possible. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and take focused action to target problem areas, but ensuring that we minimise risk through the maintenance of the highway network is a priority for us.</p> <p>As part of its last review of road safety strategy central government removed the targets that they had set over recent years. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and to do what we can to reduce risk on our network</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Councillor Rose answered that the failure of improvement in the death and serious injury rate on Oxfordshire's roads had to do with the change to statistics in 2005 and 2006. Unfortunately there has been no improvement in the period from 2006 to 2011. So the question is why after the statistical change, was there no improvement in 2007, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and really much more importantly, what are we going to do to resume the previous good record of improvement which has stalled?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you, I think we will continue doing schemes such as 365 Alive and all that we can do to make our highways safer. All we can do is carry-on with what we are doing at the moment.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The figures relating to deaths and serious injuries to cyclists are particularly frightening.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>Local targets to reduce by 2010 pedestrian and cyclist injuries of all severities by 50% were set in the previous Local Transport Plan. It is accepted now that these</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>The target for reductions set in 2000 has not been met. In fact, the number for 2011 was nearly four times the target.</p> <p>Why has this happened?</p> <p>What is being done to reduce the deaths and serious injuries to cyclists? What targets have been set?</p>	<p>were unrealistically ambitious, particularly in the context of generally increasing levels of cycle use. The number of reported cyclist KSI increased from 51 (in 2000) to 66 (in 2011) although there is typically significant variability from year to year</p> <p>The increase in reported KSI is likely to reflect both the improved accuracy of injury severity recording as referred to above, and a general increase in cycling activity. There is evidence that the actual risks to cyclists (per mile travelled) in Oxfordshire is appreciably less than in many other areas, reflecting in part the considerable investment in cycling facilities over many decades, that has supported the strong culture of cycling locally.</p> <p>Cycle schemes are being progressed and implemented (e.g. recent scheme in Old Road and The Slade in Oxford, jointly funded with Sustrans), improving conditions for cyclists. We are also applying for DfT funding to address junctions with cycle safety problems.</p> <p>As part of its last review of road safety strategy central government removed the targets that they had set over recent years. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and to do what we can to reduce risk on our network</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Yes, this question has to do with cycling deaths and serious injuries. Between 1996-2000 the Government created a base line. For Oxfordshire the average was 35 per year. They then made a target of 17 being half of that. It is not merely that the target was too onerous (which it may well have been but we are not at 17, we are not at 35) we are now at 66 and I think that we really have to take this more seriously. I don't feel the urgency in the response. I would like to know how</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Councillor Heathcoat – Chairman would you mind if I answered instead because both the questions actually impinge on my portfolio. A cycling road safety report was given to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny meeting by the Fire Service because the Road Safety Team is actually now within the Fire Service remit. They are further going into schools to carry out education programmes so I feel that that answers the Councillor's query.</p>

Questions	Answers
Councillor Rose will take that forward?	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR LYNDA ATKINS</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire has a number of detailed targets for achievement during 21012/13. One of these is that 75% of working age adults who use adult social care say that they find information very or fairly easy to understand (currently 74.2%). Both figures have increased by 20% since the consultation document was distributed.</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member for Adult Services agree firstly that an increase of 0.8% in this measure is hardly a challenging target, and secondly that accepting that nearly a quarter of users of adult social care will not find information even fairly easy to understand is a very sad comment on the way in which we communicate about services?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>Thank you for your query regarding the targets for information provision within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. As a point of clarification, the target included in the strategy is: 75% of working age adults who use adult social care say that they find information very or fairly easy to find. Your query related to finding information easy to understand, which is clearly different.</p> <p>The targets were taken from a national user survey which is distributed in February each year. The reported response is part of the adult social care outcome framework. The survey asks people who are already using services whether, in the past year, they have found it easy or difficult to find information and advice about support, services or benefits? People can answer very easy, fairly easy, fairly difficult, very difficult or I've never tried to find information or advice.</p> <p>The reason for the 20% increase in the baseline is that initially the Government included those who had not tried to find information in the denominator, but later removed this. The H&WB document was amended to reflect this.</p> <p>The targets were set by benchmarking performance in Oxfordshire against other areas of the country. National figures are not broken down by age-group. The national average for 2010/11 was 75%. The target of a 0.8% increase reflects the commitment to reach at least this average in the first year of the strategy. This figure only includes people who are already receiving services where their services are, at least in part, funded by the county council.</p> <p>The council is committed to improving information to all people who may need social care, both those groups of people we fund and those who will fund their own care. We are committed to providing information and advice to people to support them in retaining independence, choice and control in their lives. Information is</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>provided online (web based information); in writing (leaflets, directories, posters); by telephone and face to face.</p> <p>Specific services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new online support and signposting tool (Support Finder) which signposts people to a wide range of information about services and providers.• The Oxfordshire Guide, which is an online and hard copy directory of services.• The Big Plan 2012/15 for adults with learning difficulties• The council Website which provides information for, e.g. social care assessments, concessionary fares etc.• The Customer Service Centre is the first point of telephone and email access for Social and Health Care services for all adult social care enquiries. Approximately 75% of the contacts received by the Social & Health Care team result in the customer being provided with information, advice or signposting, rather than progressing to a social care assessment.• A Carers Information Service was set up in 2011 in partnership with Age UK Oxfordshire.• Eleven organisations are additionally commissioned by the council to provide generic or specialised information and advice, as part or all of their contractual arrangements, to people across Oxfordshire.

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his reply and ask if he agrees that there are times when this Council should aspire to achieve rather more than the national average and perhaps disseminating information in a really accessible form to our residents is one of them.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, through you I would agree with Councillor Atkins and hope it gets the agreement of all members in this Chamber that this Council should at all times certainly aspire to do better than the national average and we are trying our hardest to get there.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What progress has been made with designing a pedestrian crossing of Weirs Lane in my division and when is a decision on putting in the crossing likely to be made?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>An initial design has been completed and the next stage is to carry out formal consultation with local residents, emergency services, bus operators and other highway users; this will take place in the coming weeks and any objections reported to my Decisions Meeting on 22nd November</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the portfolio holder and ask him if he would join Councillor Chip Sherwood and me in walking safely across Weirs Lane if and when the pedestrian crossing is put in place?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member accept my congratulations on accepting the principle of charging at Thornhill and Water Eaton. Will he now introduce charges into line with the charges made by Oxford City Council at Redbridge, Seacourt and Peartree?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>The usage of Thornhill (and, to a lesser extent, Water Eaton) is different to the other three Park & Ride sites as there is significant use for journeys other than to Oxford and surroundings. The proposed charges are designed to protect the the prime purpose of Park & Ride which is to reduce congestion in Oxford by intercepting journeys that would otherwise continue by car to destinations in the City.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The Thornhill site is regularly full by 9am which means that many who wish to use it cannot do so. Approval has been given to expand the site and work is due to commence in the autumn. The site is in Green Belt and the extension was approved on condition that it was managed in such a way as to encourage sustainable travel into Oxford - rather than elsewhere - and that there was a limit on the maximum stay allowed for parking. Although the site at Water Eaton is not under the same pressure at present, this will change with the building of a new station by Chiltern Railways.</p> <p>The proposal is therefore to introduce charging only for those who stay beyond 11 hours, which is considered to be the number of hours expected for normal work, business or shopping purposes in Oxford, and to limit the maximum stay at the sites to 72 hours.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does the portfolio holder agree with me that to charge at what works out as less than 5p an hour for somebody to park for 72 hours at Thornhill is a ridiculously low amount of money?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This has gone through a lot of discussions so I would be forced to say that it is entirely appropriate but I haven't checked your mathematics yet.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member explain her thinking about the future of Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire? What does the future hold for Alkerton, Ardley, Dix Pit, Drayton, Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Stanford in the Vale?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>We are currently reviewing the responses to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. These responses will help inform the implementation plan for the Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to ask the portfolio holder when a new strategy for the waste recycling centres is likely to be in place?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It is on-going work as you are already aware. We are taking some soundings from the consultation that went on through the OWP that will help inform us. All I can say is that Vale number 1, South number 2, West Oxfordshire number 6 nationally recycling, not sure where the City is but we can give you some help there if you want to move up. We have also won the Green Apple Award nationally for our work with Agrevare. So OCC are actually doing extremely well and I wouldn't want us to see us lose the positions we have nationally for our recycling and that will inform what we do in the future.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Having recently assisted an elderly lady who had fallen and received a severe Trauma to her head, and had to wait a full hour before a suitable ambulance could be found to take her to hospital. I was not at all surprised that the Oxfordshire ambulance service is reported to have the worst cardiac survival rate compared to all other ambulance trusts, and is ranked bottom of all the trusts. By SCAS own admission in a report to HOSC, their response rates whilst good in both Oxford and Cherwell Districts, with progress being made in West Oxfordshire. Their performance in the Vale and South is failing. Does the cabinet member for Adult Services and Public Health share my concerns that these results suggest that people who live in Oxfordshire and especially in rural areas are not receiving the service they deserve. If so what steps will he be taking to encourage a</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>I am aware that similar concerns were raised at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Shadow Board meeting on 4th September. The response there was that the Ambulance Service were achieving the category A target in 3 Districts (the City, West and Cherwell), were just short of the target in the Vale and were significantly further away in South Oxfordshire. The Clinical Commissioning Group were working with the Ambulance Service to improve performance. I will also forward this to the Chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee so that he is aware of the concerns.</p>

Questions	Answers
better service?	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I have his insurance that he will robustly chase GAZ? as an hour is not acceptable when an elderly lady needs help.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This essentially falls outside of my remit but as I have highlighted in the answer, I will ensure that the Chairman of HOSC Councillor Dr Peter Skolar is pursuing it.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Following on from a successful motion at Full Council in May regarding Day Centre provision. Recent research by the WRVS suggest that the experience of aging in the UK is poor compared to EU countries, with older people in this country the loneliest, poorest and concerned about age discrimination. Whilst some of these issues can be tackled by Voluntary groups the financial support from Local Authorities is essential, along with Council support for the Voluntary organizations.</p> <p>In the Oxford Mail 23rd September the County Council Leader Cllr Ian Hudspeth states he could not rule out further cuts in the "challenging budget" process. Will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services give the elderly people of Oxfordshire, including rural areas, assurances that access to Day Centre provision will continue, and that all services that help to prevent loneliness such as the Internal Transport service and</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>I agree with Councillor Hannaby that we must consider carefully all the factors that help people to age successfully. This was the whole point of the Ageing Successfully strategy that we developed with health colleagues and Age UK Oxfordshire. This strategy underpins the joint commissioning strategy for older people which is in the process of being developed and will be subject to public consultation in the next few months. Tackling loneliness is an important part of that strategy.</p> <p>As Councillor Hannaby is aware we have spent a great deal of time considering the role of day services within our overall support for older people. This has been discussed on several occasions at Adult Services Scrutiny Committee. We are in the middle of a consultation about increasing the charges for centres which aims to bring the charges closer to the real cost of providing those services and thus make the centres more financially sustainable.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Health and Wellbeing Centres will be supported, and that he will work towards alleviating pressure on the poorest, and calm any fears regarding age discrimination within Oxfordshire.</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you very much for the day centre one. I think the consultation comes back if you don't like the consultation result could we please make sure that we have your assurances they will still keep them?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am not going to pass comment on any outcome of a consultation before knowing what that consultation says. I am not going to begin to pre-judge the results of a consultation.</p>

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL- 10 DECEMBER 2012

2012/13 REQUEST FOR VIREMENTS

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. Under the Council's Financial Regulations, Council approval is required for temporary budget virements larger than £0.5m and where they represent a change in policy.

Pooled Budgets

2. As reported to Cabinet on 16 October 2012, expenditure on the Council element of the Physical Disabilities Pool is expected to exceed budget by +£1.842m. In February 2012 Council approved additional funding of £0.800m from 2012/13 to move the base budget to a level to fund current clients and the needs of future clients. Based on more recent information this is insufficient to fund the current year activity and significantly increased demand.
3. The Council element of the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget is forecast to underspend by -£2.509m. This underspend has arisen as the provision for additional client numbers of £1.3m in 2012/13 is not required and the cost of de-registration of the Home Farm Trust is forecast to be £0.5m less than anticipated. Furthermore, efficiency savings have been achieved earlier than expected.
4. Council is recommended to approve a temporary virement to amend the Council contributions to the Pools with the effect of moving funding from the Learning Disabilities Pool to offset pressures in the Physical Disabilities Pool. The on-going effect of the pressures on the Physical Disabilities Pool will be considered as part of the Service & Resource Planning Process.
5. The critical and substantial needs of all Learning Disability Service Users who have been assessed are being met from the remaining resources within the Learning Disabilities Pool. The Learning Disability Pool Joint Management Group approved the release of the funding from the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget on 11 October 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. Council is **RECOMMENDED** to approve a temporary virement in 2012/13 to amend the Council contributions to the Pools with the effect of moving £1.842m funding from the Learning Disabilities Pool to the Physical Disabilities Pool.

SUE SCANE

Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Contact Officers: Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager
Tel: (01865) 323981

Lorna Baxter, Head of Corporate Finance
Tel: (01865) 323971

December 2012

Division(s): N/A

COPY

CABINET – 27 NOVEMBER 2012

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID TERM REVIEW 2012/13

Report by Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised) 2011 recommends that members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This report ensures this authority is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.
2. The following annexes are attached
 - Annex 1 Lending List Changes
 - Annex 2 Debt Financing 2012/13
 - Annex 3 PWLB Debt Maturing
 - Annex 4 Prudential Indicator Monitoring
 - Annex 5 Arlingclose Quarter 2 Benchmarking

Strategy 2012/13

3. The approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13 was based on an average base rate forecast of 0.50%.
4. The Strategy for Long Term Borrowing was to use internal balances up the value of 25% of the investment portfolio.
5. The Strategy included the continued use of the services of external fund managers, Investec and Scottish Widows Investment Partnership.

Economic Background

6. The world economy has continued to struggle over the first six months of the financial year to September 2012. The Eurozone, with the exception of Germany, failed to show discernable growth while the US economy grew slowly.
7. The UK GDP estimates for Q2 (April to June) were disappointing and showed the economy contracting by 0.4%, not helped by an extra bank holiday due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In contrast, early estimates for Q3 GDP (July to September) show that the economy grew by 1% and indicate that the UK economy had moved out of recession. The current early estimate is based on around 45% of data and is likely to be subject to future revision. Some analysts have sounded a note of caution that much of the growth may be attributable to the Olympics rather than a true turn-around in the fortunes of the economy and reflecting the Bank of England's statement that this will be a 'zig-zag' year for UK growth. Concerns also remain about the construction industry which continued to contract by 3% in Q2 and 2.5% in Q3 based on initial estimates.

8. Inflation slowly began to fall and CPI dipped below 3% in May 2012 for the first time in two and a half years. The CPI data for September 2012 revealed that inflation had fallen to 2.2%, slightly above the Bank of England's target of 2%. The greatest downward pressure came from the fall out of significant increases in fuel and energy costs in September 2011.
9. In July, against the back drop of weak growth forecasts but improving inflation, the Bank of England announced a further £50bn of asset purchases taking the total amount of quantitative easing (QE) to £375bn. There was also speculation about a potential 0.25% reduction in base rate after minutes of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee revealed that this was discussed at the meetings in June and July. This has not been realised and The Bank of England's base rate has remained fixed at 0.5%.
10. The UK Labour market statistics released in October showed that, at the end of the quarter June to August 2012, employment was at 71.3%, up 0.5% on the previous quarter for March to May. For the same period, the unemployment rate was down 0.2% to 7.9%.
11. In the US, the Federal Reserve extended QE through 'Operation Twist', in which it buys longer dated bonds with the proceeds of shorter dated US Treasuries. In addition to this, poor employment data released in August prompted a commitment from the Federal Reserve to purchase \$40 billion of agency backed mortgage securities each month until the outlook for the labour market substantially improves. The Federal Reserve has also pledged to keep interest rates low until mid-2015.
12. The Eurozone has continued to worry the markets with Spanish and Italian borrowing costs hitting concerning levels in June 2012. The Spanish Government was forced to officially seek a bailout for its domestic banks.
13. In September the European Central Bank (ECB) responded to the continuing turbulence by announcing the Outright Monetary Transactions Facility (OMT). This allows the ECB to buy unlimited amounts of 1-3 year sovereign bonds provided that the sovereign first asks for assistance and adheres to strict conditionality attached to the assistance.
14. Against the backdrop of continuing concern about the Eurozone, the UK has retained its 'safe haven' status. Partly as a result of this UK gilt yields continued to fall sharply, raising the prospect that very short-dated yields could turn negative. Lows of 0.48% and 1.45% were achieved for 5 and 10 year gilts respectively. Other supportive factors included the large scale purchases by banks to comply with the FSA's liquidity requirements and the Bank of England's continued purchases of gilts under the extended QE programme.
15. Money market rates fell over the six month period by between 0.2% and 0.6% for one to 12 month maturities.

Treasury Management Activity

Debt Financing

16. Oxfordshire County Council's (the Council) debt financing to date for 2012/13 is analysed in Annex 2.

17. The 2012/13 borrowing strategy is to use internal balances to fund new or replacement borrowing up to the value of 25% of the portfolio. This is intended to reduce the cost of carry (the difference between borrowing rates and investment returns) in the low interest rate environment and reduce counterparty risk by minimising the level of cash balances.
18. There has been no change to this strategy.
19. The Council's cumulative total external debt has decreased from £420.73m on 1 April 2012 to £417.38m by 30 September 2012, a net decrease of £3.35m. No new debt financing has been arranged during the year. The total forecast external debt for 31 March 2013, after repayment of loans maturing during the year is £412.38m. The forecast debt financing position for 31 March 2013 is shown in Annex 2.
20. At 30 September 2012, the authority had 69 PWLB¹ loans totalling £367.38m and 10 LOBO² loans totalling £50m. The combined weighted average interest rate for external debt as at 30 September 2012 was 4.52%.

Maturing Debt

21. The Council repaid £3.346m of maturing PWLB loans during the first half of the year. The details are set out in Annex 3.

Debt Restructuring

22. There has been no restructuring of Long Term Debt during the year to date.

Investment Strategy

23. The security and liquidity of cash was prioritised above the requirement to maximise returns. The Council continued to adopt a cautious approach to lending to financial institutions and continuously monitored credit quality information relating to counterparties.
24. A mixture of short term fixed deposits of up to 12 months and longer term fixed deposits of greater than 12 months have been arranged throughout the first half of the financial year. All deposits with banks have been restricted to a maximum duration of twelve months. Deposits over twelve months have been made exclusively with other Local Authorities. The majority of these deposits have been made for the maximum duration of three years to tie in to high credit quality counterparties over the longer term and to maximise the return available. This was also intended to take advantage of the relatively buoyant local to local market before the introduction of the PWLB certainty rate on 1 November which gives local authorities the opportunity to borrow at a lower rate from the PWLB. This is expected to reduce the number of local authorities looking to borrow from other local authorities and the rate at which they will be willing to borrow.
25. The approved Treasury Management Lending List has remained constrained by the poor credit quality of financial institutions. The policy of lending longer term to other Local Authorities has continued to help limit the impact of this. Exposure to a more diverse cross

¹ PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) is a Government agency operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office and is responsible for lending money to Local Authorities.

² LOBO (Lender's Option/Borrower's Option) Loans are long-term loans which include a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined intervals.

section of financial institutions has been achieved through the use of AAA rated money market funds which provide relatively good security and liquidity for overnight deposits.

26. In addition to fixed deposits with Local Authorities and banks, call accounts and Money Market Funds, the Council also used structured and callable products to deposit its in-house temporary cash surpluses during the first half of 2012/13.
27. The Council received a third distribution from the Landsbanki winding up board on 9 October 2012. A total of £2.312m has now been received. The latest CIPFA guidance assumes that the full amount may be recovered by 2018, although the timings and amounts of future distributions remain unknown.

The Council's Lending List

28. The Council's in-house cash balances were deposited with institutions that meet the Council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved Lending List was regularly updated during the period to reflect changes in bank and building society credit ratings. Changes were reported to Cabinet each month. Annex 1 shows the amendments incorporated into the Lending List during the first half of 2012/13, in accordance with the approved credit rating criteria and additional temporary restrictions.
29. In August 2012, the authorised lending limit of £10m for Lloyds TSB was breached by £6.8m as a result of a training issue relating to the checking of primary records. This was identified during a routine reconciliation and the excess funds, which were held in an overnight deposit facility, were withdrawn immediately. The Council has not incurred any loss as a result of the breach and the training requirement has been addressed.

Investment Performance

30. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house in the six months to 30 September was £296.9m. The Council achieved an average in-house return for that period of 1.03%, producing gross interest receivable of £1.528million (excluding interest accrued on Landsbanki deposits). Temporary surplus cash includes; developer contributions; SAP school balances; council reserves and balances; trust fund balances; and various other funds to which the Council pays interest at each financial year end, based on the average earned on all balances.
31. The Council uses the three month inter-bank sterling bid rate as its benchmark to measure its own in-house investment performance. During the first half of 2012/13 the average three month inter-bank sterling rate was 0.73%. The Council's average in-house return of 1.03% exceeded the benchmark by 0.30%. The Council operates a number of call accounts and instant access Money Market Funds to deposit short-term cash surpluses. The average balance held on overnight deposit in money market funds or call accounts in the 6 months to 30 September was £68.0million or 23% of the total in house portfolio.

External Fund Managers and Pooled Funds

32. The Council has continued to use the services of one external fund manager: Investec Asset Management Limited. Proportions of the £12.1m portfolio are invested in three different types of investment fund. The Council has invested in the 'Dynamic Model' where 5% of the portfolio is invested in a Liquidity Fund, 65% is invested in a Short Dated Bond Fund and the

remaining 30% is invested in a Target Return Fund. The Target Return fund is the most volatile aspect of the portfolio, carrying greater risk but also the most opportunity for significant returns.

33. Investec's annualised return for the first six months of the year (net of management charges) was 1.19%, compared with a benchmark of 1.65%. Although the return for the period has failed to achieve the benchmark it has achieved a higher return than the in-house deposits. Failure to achieve the benchmark has primarily been due to the underperformance of the Target Return element of the portfolio.
34. At the end of 2011/12, and as reported in the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2011/12, the decision was made to end the segregated mandate with Scottish Widows Investment Partnership (SWIP) and to invest £12.0m of the balance directly in the SWIP Short dated bond fund. This transaction was completed on 30 March 2012 and has allowed the Council to save the minimum annual management fee of £20,000 for 2012/13 while maintaining the same portfolio diversification and return.
35. SWIP's annualised return for the first six months of the year was 1.51% (net of management charges) compared to their annualised benchmark of 0.47%.

Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management

36. During the first six months of the financial year the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Report. The outturn for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 4.

External Performance Indicators and Statistics

37. The County Council is a member of the CIPFA Treasury and Debt Management benchmarking club and receives annual reports comparing returns and interest payable against other authorities. The benchmarking results for 2011/12 showed that Oxfordshire County Council had achieved an average return of 1.14% compared with an average of 1.13% for their comparative group of County Councils and an average of 1.19% for all 84 members. Through conversation with a sample of authorities with higher than average interest rates it was established that in general they had benefitted from high interest rate long term deposits which had been placed in early 2008/09 and matured during 2011/12.
38. The average interest rate paid for all debt during 2011/12 was 4.54%, lower than the 4.73% average for the comparative group of 19 County Councils but marginally higher than the all member average of 4.49%. Oxfordshire County Council had a higher than average proportion of its debt portfolio in PWLB loans. Oxfordshire County council had 12% of its debt in LOBO loans at 31/3/2012 compared with an all member average of 19% and a comparative group average of 18%.
39. Arlingclose also benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 2 benchmarking to 30 September 2012 for 2012/13 are included at Annex 5.
40. The benchmarking results show that the Council has achieved higher than average interest on deposits at 30 September 2012. This has been achieved by placing deposits over a longer than average duration with institutions that are of better than average credit quality.

This reflects the current investment strategy to place long term deposits with other local authorities to maximise the security of cash.

Training

41. On 17 October 2012 members and officers were invited to attend a three hour Treasury Management training seminar. The Council's Treasury Management advisors Arlingclose explained the risk and return of in house deposits. The Council's external fund managers, Investec Asset Management, reported on the performance and management of the Council's fund. This was an opportunity for members and officers to challenge Investec on the volatile performance of the fund.

Reporting

42. Due to changes to the frequency of the Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery Report, updates regarding changes to the lending list, current Treasury Management performance and breaches will now be reported to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis.

Financial and Legal Implications

43. Interest payable and receivable in relation to Treasury Management activities are only two parts of the overall Strategic Measures budget.
44. The 2012/13 budget for interest receivable is £2.449m. The forecast outturn for interest receivable is £2.963m giving net forecast excess income of £0.514m. The increased forecast in interest receivable is due to higher average cash balances due in part to the front loading of government grants and the timings of capital and revenue expenditure.
45. The 2012/13 budget for interest payable is £18.806m. The forecast outturn for interest payable is £18.843m giving a net forecast overspend of £0.037m.

RECOMMENDATION

46. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the report, and to RECOMMEND Council to note the Council's Mid Term Treasury Management Review 2012/13.**

SUE SCANE

Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Contact officer: Hannah Doney, Financial Manager – Treasury Management; Tel: 01865 323988

November 2012

Lending List Changes during 2012/13**Counterparties added/reinstated**

Nationwide Building Society
Svenska Handelsbanken

Counterparties removed

No Counterparties have been removed from the Lending List between 1 April 2012 and 30 September 2012.

Lending limits & Maturity limits increased

Counterparty	New Lending limit	New Maximum Maturity
HSBC Bank plc	no change	12 months
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	£25m	12 months
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	no change	12 months
National Australia Bank	no change	12 months
Bank of Montreal	no change	12 months
Bank of Nova Scotia	no change	12 months
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	no change	12 months
Toronto-Dominion Bank	no change	12 months

Lending limits & Maturity limits decreased

Counterparty	New Lending limit	New Maximum Maturity
Royal Bank of Scotland	no change	Overnight
JP Morgan Chase	£15m	no change

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT FINANCING 2012/13

<u>Debt Profile</u>		£m
1. PWLB	88%	370.73
2. Money Market LOBO loans	12%	50.00
3. Sub-total External Debt		420.73
4. Internal Balances	-0%	-0.28
5. Actual Debt at 31 March 2012	100%	420.45
6. Government Supported Borrowing		0.00
7. Unsupported Borrowing		2.15
8. Borrowing in Advance		0.00
9. Minimum Revenue Provision		-18.20
10. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2013		404.40
<u>Maturing Debt</u>		
11. PWLB loans maturing during the year		-8.35
12. PWLB loans repaid prematurely in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
13. Total Maturing Debt		-8.35
<u>New External Borrowing</u>		
14. PWLB Normal		0.00
15. PWLB loans raised in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
16. Money Market LOBO loans		0.00
17. Total New External Borrowing		0.00
<u>Debt Profile Year End</u>		
18. PWLB	90%	362.38
19. Money Market LOBO loans	12%	50.00
20. Sub-total External Debt		412.38
21. Internal Balances	-2%	-7.98
22. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2013	100%	404.40

Line

- 1 – 5 This is a breakdown of the Council's debt at the beginning of the financial year (1 April 2012). The PWLB is a government agency operating within the Debt Management Office. LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option) loans are long-term loans, with a maturity of up to 60 years, which includes a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined time intervals. Internal balances include provisions, reserves, revenue balances, capital receipts unapplied, and excess of creditors over debtors.
- 6 'Government Supported Borrowing' is the amount that the Council can borrow in any one year to finance the capital programme. This is determined by Central Government, and in theory supported through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) system.
- 7 'Unsupported Borrowing' reflects Prudential Borrowing taken by the authority whereby the associated borrowing costs are met by savings in the revenue budget.
- 8 'Borrowing in Advance' is the amount the Council borrowed in advance to fund future capital finance costs.
- 9 The amount of debt to be repaid from revenue. The sum to be repaid annually is laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which stipulates that the repayments must equate to at least 4% of the debt outstanding at 1 April each year.
- 10 The Council's forecast total debt by the end of the financial year, after taking into account new borrowing, debt repayment and movement in funding by internal balances.
- 11 The Council's normal maturing PWLB debt.
- 12 PWLB debt repaid early during the year.
- 13 Total debt repayable during the year.
- 14 The normal PWLB borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2012/13.
- 15 New PWLB loans to replace debt repaid early.
- 16 The Money Market borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2012/13.
- 17 The total external borrowing undertaken.
- 18-22 The Council's forecast debt profile at the end of the year.

Long-Term Debt Maturing 2012/13**Public Works Loan Board: Loans Matured during first half of 2012/13**

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
01/04/2012	2.000	9.00%
13/07/2012	0.500	2.35%
31/07/2012	0.500	2.35%
31/08/2012	0.346	1.12%
Total	3.346	

Public Works Loan Board: Loans Due to Mature during second half of 2012/13

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
13/01/2013	0.500	2.35%
31/01/2013	0.500	2.35%
01/03/2013	4.000	4.40%
Total	5.000	

Prudential Indicators Monitoring at 30 September 2012**Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt**

External Debt	Operational Limit £m	Authorised Limit £m	Actual 30/09/12 £m	Forecast 31/03/13 £m
Borrowing	466	476	417	412
Other Long-Term Liabilities	6	6	6	6
TOTAL External Debt	472	482	423	418

Capital Financing Requirement for year £434,625,000.00

Fixed Interest Rate Exposure

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit 150.00%
Actual at 30 September 2012 140.34%

Variable Interest Rate Exposure

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit 25.00%
Actual at 30 September 2012 -40.34%

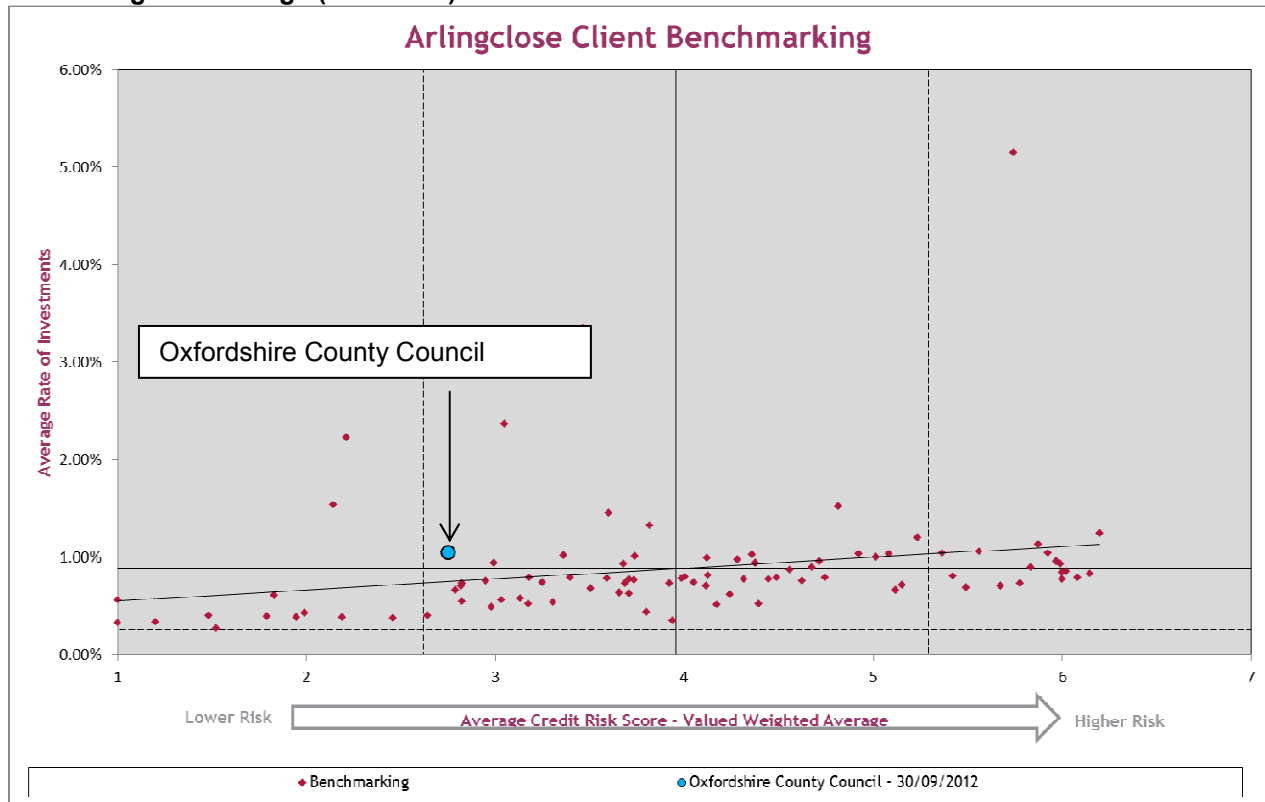
Sums Invested over 365 days

Total sums invested for more than 364 days limit £100,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days £ 82,617,010

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

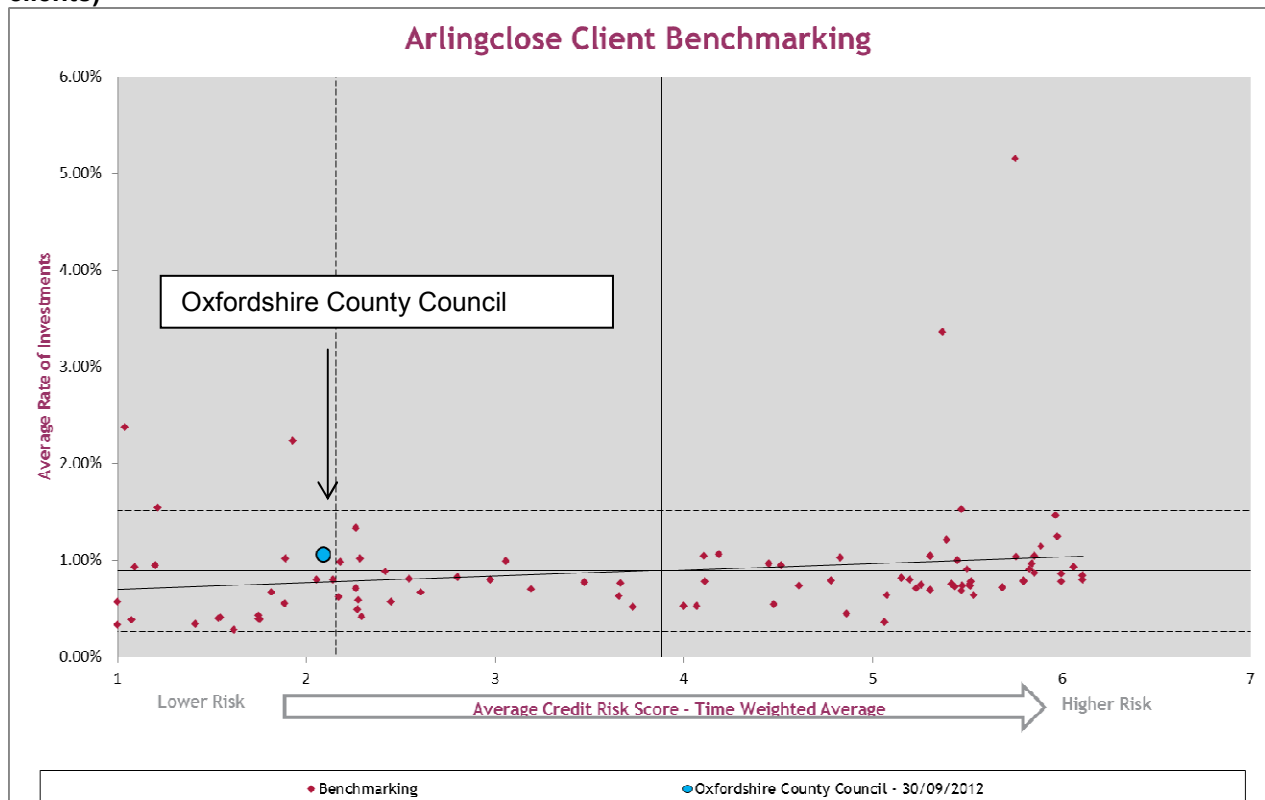
	Limit %	Actual %
Under 12 months	0 - 20	5.99
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	3.83
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	8.63
5 years to 10 years	5 - 40	18.45
10 years +	50 - 95	63.10

Value weighted average (all clients)



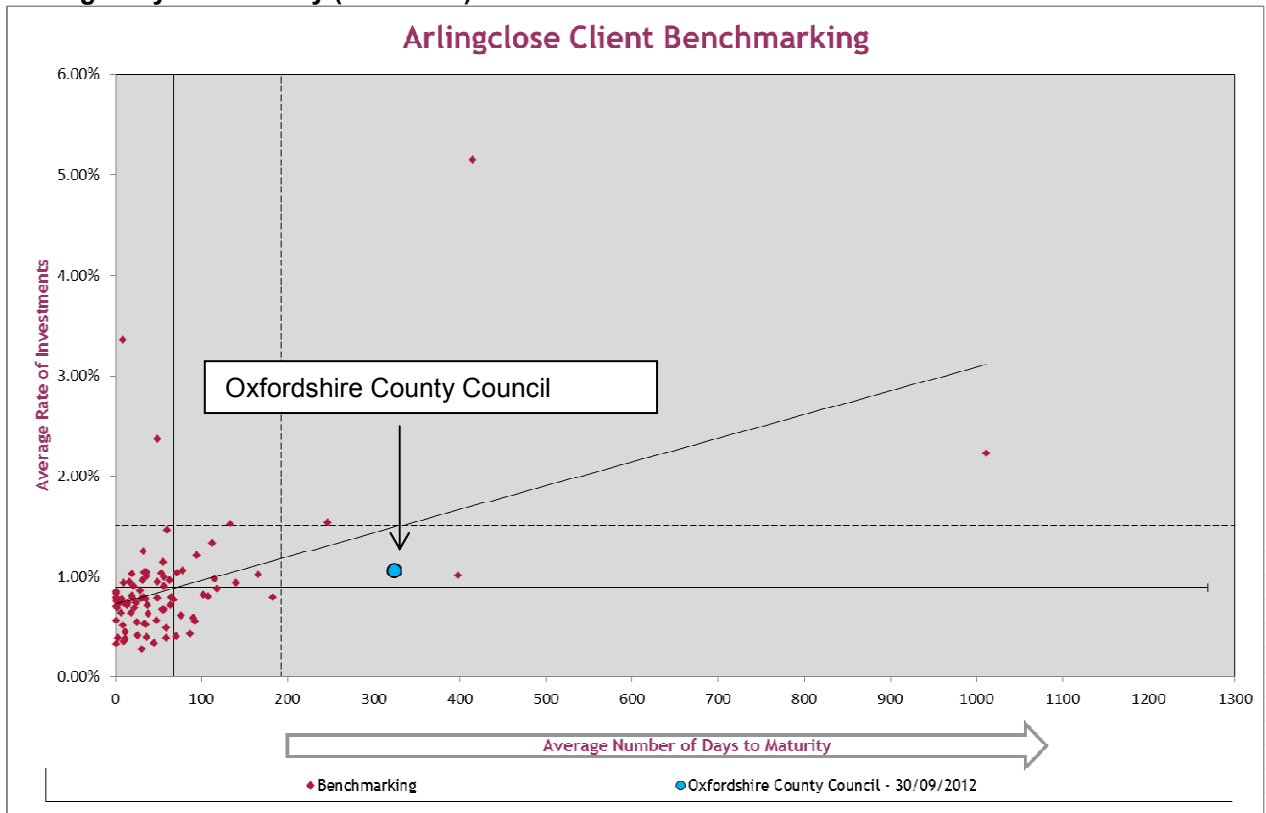
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2012, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average credit risk weighted by deposit size.

Time weighted Average (all clients)



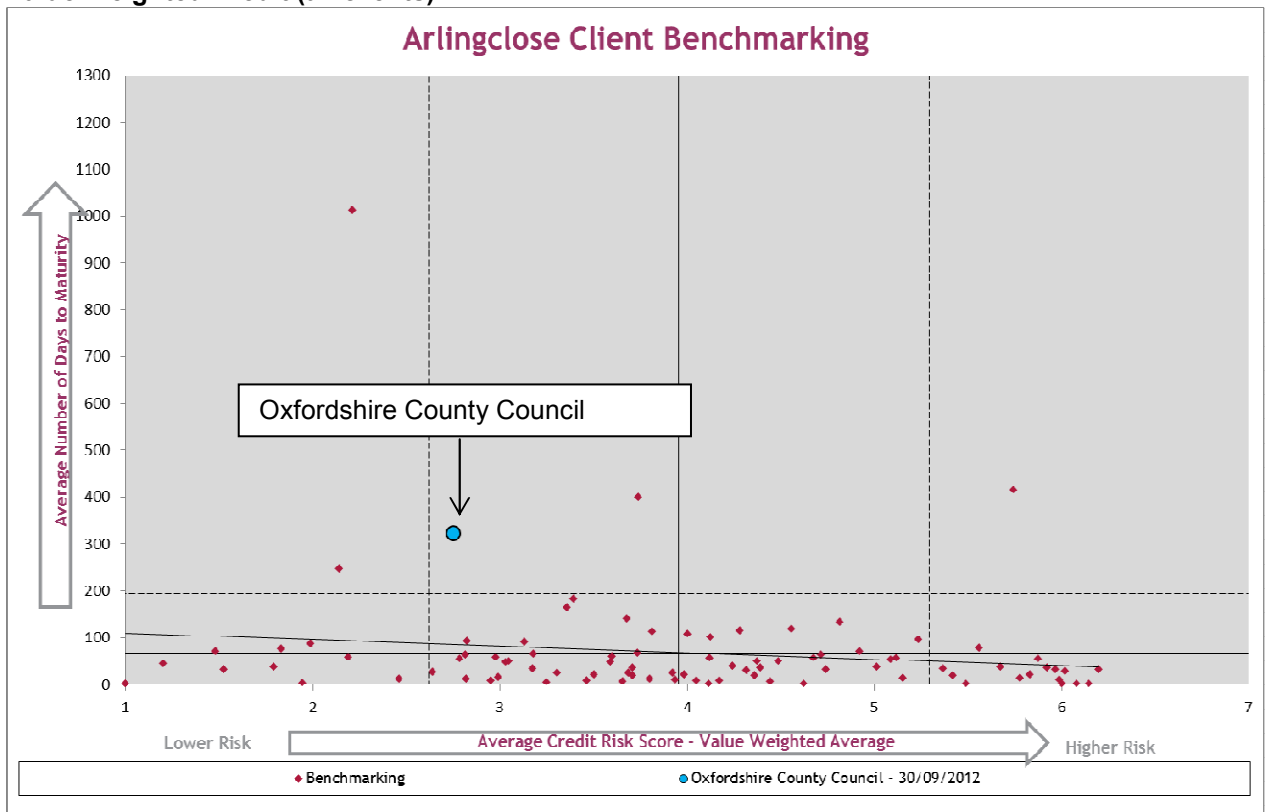
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2012, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average credit risk weighted by duration.

Average Days to Maturity (all clients)



This graph shows that, at 30 September 2012, Oxfordshire achieved a higher than average return by placing deposits for longer than average duration.

Value Weighted Credit (all clients)



This graph shows that, at 30 September 2012, Oxfordshire had a higher than average duration for deposits and that these deposits are made with institutions with lower than average credit risk when weighted by deposit size.

Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 11 DECEMBER 2012

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Report by County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Introduction

1. The Independent Remuneration Panel has considered:
 - whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the County Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable for the County Council's representative as he had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - the level of Special Responsibility Allowance(s).

Panel Report

2. The Panel's recommendations, together with the reasons for the recommendations are set out in Annex 1.

Financial and Staff Implications

3. The allowance recommended by the Panel will require financial provision of £4,500 per annum, which can be met from within the existing budget due to the reduction in the number of Cabinet member and Shadow Cabinet Member special responsibility allowances being paid during 2012/13.
4. There are no staff implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. **The Council is RECOMMENDED that:**
 - (a) a special responsibility allowance of £1,500 be paid to the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - (b) a Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,000 be paid to the Council's representative as the Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - (c) the Independent Remuneration Panel review these arrangements within six months.

PETER G CLARK

County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Rachel Dunn Tel: (01865) 815279

November 2012

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES
Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
to Oxfordshire County Council, November 2012

Introduction

1. The Local Government Act 2000 provides that before the Council makes or amends its scheme of allowances, the Council is required to take into account the advice of its duly appointed Independent Remuneration Panel on the levels and types of allowances to be paid under that scheme.
2. The Panel were requested to consider:
 - whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable to the County Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - whether a Special Responsibility Allowance should be payable for the County Council's representative as he had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel;
 - the level of Special Responsibility Allowance(s)
3. Our conclusions (set out in more detail below) are:
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance of £1,500 should be paid to the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
 - A Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,000 should be paid to the Council's representative as the Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
 - These arrangements to be reviewed within six months once the new Police & Crime Commissioner and Panel arrangements have been in operation for several months

The Panel's proceedings

4. The Independent Remuneration Panel:
 - Ms Jenny Armitstead – the Voluntary Sector
 - Mr Ian Barry – the Not-for-Profit Sector
 - Mrs Olga Senior – the Public Sector
5. Sources of information used were:
 - Information on the role, responsibilities, powers and funding of a Police & Crime Panel
 - Questionnaire response provided by the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
 - The Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure documents of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
 - Agenda and minutes of the Joint Committee which set-up the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel and the first meetings of the Panel
 - Report of Buckinghamshire County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

6. All principal authorities in the Thames Valley have a new statutory responsibility to establish a Police and Crime Panel under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. In the Thames Valley an agreement has been reached by the 18 local authorities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire on the set-up arrangements for the joint committee – the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel.
7. The statutory responsibilities of a Police & Crime Panel:
 - Reviewing and making recommendations on the draft Police and Crime Plan
 - Scrutinising the Police & Crime Commissioner, inviting the Chief Constable to attend before the Police & Crime Panel where appropriate
 - Reviewing the Police & Crime Commissioner's appointment of Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner where one is appointed
 - Making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the Police & Crime Commissioner
 - Monitoring all complaints against the Police & Crime Commissioner and the informal resolution of such complaints where necessary
 - Questioning the Police & Crime Commissioner on the annual report in a public meeting; and review and make recommendations on the annual report
 - Exercising veto powers on the Police & Crime Commissioner's proposed annual council tax precept and appointment of Chief Constable.
8. The Police & Crime Panel's role is to review and scrutinise and to act as an influencer. However, it does have teeth to hold the Commissioner to account and has powers to veto. The influencing role is crucial in terms of developing relationships with the Commissioner and key partners.
9. As the Panel has a scrutiny function its purpose is to:
 - Provide a check and balance on the work of the Commissioner
 - To enhance public accountability and transparency.
10. The process for setting up the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel was overseen by a Joint Committee of one councillor from each of the 18 local authorities in the Thames Valley, with Buckinghamshire County Council coordinating as the "host authority".
11. On 19 July 2012 the first formal meeting of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel was held. The first item of business was to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel: the Buckinghamshire County Council representative was elected as Chairman, and the Oxfordshire County Council representative was appointed Vice-Chairman. These appointments will be made annually.
12. The joint committee setting up the Panel agreed that no allowances should be paid to members of the Panel from the funding provided by the Home Office. It was up to each Authority whether they gave a Special Responsibility Allowance for their representative on the Panel.

Special Responsibility Allowance: Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

13. We consider that the Police & Crime Panel has a crucial role under the new policing arrangements in scrutinising the new Commissioner for the Thames Valley area. It will have a significant workload in carrying out its responsibilities. Therefore we consider that a Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid to the Council's representative on the Panel.
14. When considering the level of allowance, we note that Buckinghamshire County Council has agreed to set an allowance of £1,500 which corresponds with the allowance paid to Buckinghamshire's scrutiny members serving on the Buckinghamshire County Council's Overview and Commissioning Committee. We agree that there is a clear rationale for linking the allowances payable for the Police and Crime Panel to those payable to scrutiny committees of the Oxfordshire County Council, while acknowledging that the functions and scope are different.
15. However, under Oxfordshire's Members' Allowances Scheme, there is no equivalent role. So we have considered the responsibilities and likely time commitments involved in representing Oxfordshire County Council on the Police and Crime Panel and recommend that an allowance of £1,500 is appropriate to remunerate the Council's representative.

Special Responsibility Allowance: the Council's representative appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

16. As the County Council's representative has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel, we have looked at the likely role and responsibilities of being Vice-Chairman. We acknowledge that this role covers the Thames Valley area and so there is a need for the Vice-Chairman to be briefed and aware of the matters for the whole of the Thames Valley and not just Oxfordshire. Therefore we consider that a special responsibility allowance should be paid to the Council's representative in their role as Vice-Chairman of the Panel.
17. We note that Buckinghamshire has set an allowance of £10,092 for its representative who has been appointed Chairman of the Panel, which corresponds with the allowance paid to Buckinghamshire's Chairman of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
18. Under Oxfordshire County Council's allowances scheme, there is no allowance for a deputy chairman of a scrutiny committee. We acknowledge that the Vice-Chairman of the Panel will need to be able to act on behalf of the Chairman in his absence but we do not consider that the Vice-Chairman has the same level of responsibility as the Chairman of the Panel. In considering the level of allowance we have taken into account the allowance set for a Scrutiny Committee Chairman under the Council's Scheme, which is £5,000. While this is a useful benchmark it is not a direct parallel especially in these early days in the life of the Panel.

Therefore, taking account of the role, responsibilities and likely time commitments for this Vice-Chairman role we recommend an allowance of £3,000 which is double our recommended allowance as a member of the Police & Crime Panel.

Review of these allowances

19. As the Police & Crime Commissioner has just been appointed and the Police & Crime Panel has only met twice we would wish to review these special responsibilities within six months, once the new arrangements have been in operation for a few months and further evidence is available as to the role and responsibility considered by this report.

Recommendations

20. We therefore recommend that:

- A Special Responsibility Allowance of £1,500 be paid to the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
- A Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,000 be paid to the Council's representative as the Vice-Chairman of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
- We review these arrangements within six months.

Mrs Olga Senior

Chairman

Independent Remuneration Panel for Oxfordshire County Council

Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 11 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Business Strategy and Service & Resource Planning Report for 2013/14 - 2017/18 - September 2012

(Cabinet, 18 September 2012)

Cabinet received the first in a series of reports on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2013/14 to 2016/17. The report provided councillors with information on budget issues for 2013/14 and the medium term and presented the known and potential financial issues for 2013/14 and beyond.

Cabinet approved the Service and Resource Planning process for 2013/14 which included a timetable of events.

2. 2011/12 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report July 2012 and August 2012

(Cabinet, 18 September 2012 and 16 October 2012)

Cabinet considered two reports that focused 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 July 2012. The Capital monitoring was included at Part 3.

Cabinet approved virements; agreed the transfer of the LACSEG refund to the Efficiency Reserve and the creation of new reserves; agreed the change of use of the Learning Disabilities underspend from 2011/12; agreed the bad debt write off; noted the updated Treasury Management lending list and approved the changes to the Capital Programme.

3. Treasury Management Mid Term Review 2012/13

(Cabinet, 27 November 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2012/13 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year. Cabinet noted the report, and **RECOMMENDED** Council to note the Council's Mid Term Treasury Management Review 2012/13. The report appears elsewhere on this agenda.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

4. Staffing Reports Quarters 1 and 2

(Cabinet 18 September and 27 November 2012)

Cabinet received reports that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the periods 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 and 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012. They detailed the agreed staffing numbers and establishment at the end of each period in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the reports provided information on vacancies and the cost of posts being covered by agency staff. The report also tracked progress on staffing numbers since 1 April 2010.

5. Oxford Park & Ride: Thornhill & Water Eaton Introduction Of Charging

(Cabinet, 16 October 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that detailed a requirement to fund an identified revenue gap of £150,000 a year as set out in the Environment & Economy Business Strategy 2011-15 and agreed a system of charging for long stay parking at Thornhill and Water Eaton sites to achieve at least this. Cabinet further agreed a review between 6 – 12 months of commencement of charging.

6. Corporate Plan Performance And Risk Management Report For The 1st Quarter 2012

(Cabinet 16 October 2012)

Cabinet noted the quarterly performance monitoring report against the Corporate Plan priorities for Quarter 1, 2012/13 and asked that the Strategy & Partnership Scrutiny Committee consider the changes taking place in Customer Services.

Cabinet Member: Adult Services

7. Oxford University Hospitals Trust Application To Become A Foundation Trust

(Cabinet, 16 October 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the possible issues relevant to the application by Oxford University Hospital Trust (OUHT) to become a Foundation Trust and expressed support for the application on the basis that it is committed to principles including: commitment to the highest standards of medical and nursing services and to working in partnership to deliver the most effective and efficient ways of meeting the care needs of the people of Oxfordshire; actively supporting the move to providing more care within the community as part of a broader commitment to the local delivery of services and to developments which prevent people from needing care or limiting the extent to which they might need care; commitment to the continued existence of the Horton hospital and commitment to continued support for services in Community Hospitals such as peripheral clinics, minor injuries units (MIU) nurses, radiographers and midwifery units.

Cabinet Member: Children & the Voluntary Sector

8. Progress Report on Children Looked After and Leaving Care (Cabinet 27 November 2012)

Cabinet noted a report that reviewed the performance and outcomes of Looked After Children and Care Leavers (LAC) over the last twelve months. The report including information on: the impact and outcomes of all key services supporting children in and on the edge of care; key challenges and pressures on the service; actions taken in response to the All Party Parliamentary Working Group on Children Missing from Care; recent changes in adoption legislation and the timetable for the Corporate Parenting Service Review.

Cabinet Member: Education

9. Proposal to Expand Botley School (Cabinet, 18 September and 27 November 2012)

Cabinet considered two reports concerning a proposal to expand Botley School to 2 forms of entry as one part of the county council's strategy to meet the need for primary school places in Oxford and its immediate surrounds.

In September Cabinet agreed to the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Botley School, Oxford. In November following consideration of the representations made Cabinet agreed the permanent expansion of Botley School to 2 forms of entry.

N.B. As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the decision at November Cabinet was exempt from Call-In as it was deemed urgent and any delay would have seriously prejudiced the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decision was not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notice, in this case being 30 May 2012.

10. New Academies And Free Schools In Oxfordshire - Creating New Schools To Meet Housing Growth Post Education Act 2011 (Cabinet, 18 September 2012)

Cabinet approved the process to identify academy and free school providers for new schools in Oxfordshire.

11. Oxford Spires Academy New Buildings And Alterations (Cabinet, 16 October 2012)

Cabinet approved the Final Business Case and authorised that the contract be let to provide new and refurbished accommodation funded by a capital grant from the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

12. Expansion of St Ebbes CE Aided Primary School

(Cabinet, 27 November 2012)

Cabinet approved the permanent expansion of ST Ebbes CE (A) Primary School, Bicester with effect from 1 September 2014.

N.B. As set out under Rule 17(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it was deemed urgent and any delay would have seriously prejudiced the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decision was not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notice, in this case being 30 May 2012.

13. Expansion of Windmill Primary School, Oxford to 3 form entry

(Cabinet, 27 November 2012)

Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice for the permanent expansion of Windmill Primary School, Oxford to increase the school admission number (at F1 entry) from 60 to 90.

14. Expansion of Five Acres Primary School to 2 form entry

(Cabinet, 27 November 2012)

Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice for the permanent expansion of Five Acres Primary School, Oxford to increase the school admission number (at F1 entry) from 45 to 60.

15. Conversion to Sponsored Academies – Financial Liabilities

(Cabinet 27 November 2012)

Cabinet agreed the stance that officers should adopt in negotiating binding agreements about past liabilities and future restructuring costs in relation to sponsored academies.

Cabinet Member: Growth & Infrastructure

16. OCC Response to the Consultation on the Cherwell Local Plan

(Cabinet, 16 October 2012)

Cabinet was advised that Cherwell District Council had published the Cherwell Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft for consultation ahead of its submission to Government towards the end of the year. Cabinet agreed the County Council's response to the consultation as set out in the report which highlighted the key issues for this authority over the next 20 years in Cherwell.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

November 2012