

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.15 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Steve Harrod
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor David Bartholomew
Councillor Liam Walker
Councillor Mark Gray

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Sobia Afridi (Agenda 6)
Councillor Liz Brighthouse (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor Glynis Phillips (Agenda Item 7)
Councillor Laura Price (Agenda Item 8)
Councillor Gill Sanders (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor Richard Webber (Agenda Item 9)

Officers:

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

Part of meeting Item	Name
6	Rachel Pirie, Lead for Older People Commissioning Markets
9	Karen Kuehne, Strategic Commissioning Manager

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

12/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

Councillor Hudspeth declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 Youth Opportunity Fund as a Trustee of the Oxford United Community Trust.

13/20 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

14/20 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson had given written notice of the following question to Councillor Yvonne Constance:

‘I have been asked by the St. Johns Street Resident Association to put forward their case re: the exclusion zone.

These residents are among the worst and most directly affected by the congestion and poor air quality in Oxford city centre. As such, they welcome serious efforts by the City and County Councils to tackle both problems.

They are however concerned that the following aspects of the current proposals will have a disproportionately disadvantageous effect on their members:

1. The Worcester Street “bus gate” would mean that St John Street Area residents needing to travel west or south by car would have no option but to drive a long way north to join the southbound A34 at the Pear Tree interchange. To give one practical example: the Botley Road Retail Park and our nearest large supermarket are currently just over a mile away; that journey would become seven miles via the proposed detour. Adding 12 miles to the round trip would increase rather than decrease congestion and air pollution.

2. The Marston Ferry Road and South Parks Road “bus gates” would also lengthen our residents’ eastbound routes by forcing them north to join the ring road at Cutteslowe. The journey to the Headington roundabout for the southbound M40 would be about 20% longer, but of greater concern is the doubling of the distance to the hospitals, to which bus travel is not always appropriate

What appropriate help is being given to those residents living inside the exclusion zone?’

Councillor Constance replied:

'Connecting Oxford could deliver many benefits for residents and businesses including reduced congestion and improved public transport connectivity, better air quality and reduced carbon emissions, and more people participating in active and healthy travel.

It is however fully acknowledged that the proposals, including a further "bus gate" in the city centre and Oxford's Eastern Arc, will need to be carefully designed and assessed to ensure any adverse impacts are mitigated and those directly affected, whether residents, employers or businesses, also benefit.

Proposals are still at a relatively early stage with more detailed feasibility work and consultation required before any decisions to implement them can be made.

The feasibility work will however consider when the "bus gates" should operate (days of the week and times of day) and whether there should be exemptions and how these would be administered in practice, with the supporting transport improvements required to maintain accessibility and connectivity also being developed.'

And before carrying out any consultation, the above will be informed by engaging directly with those affected including St. Johns Street Residents Association, with details of this to be announced once plans for engagement have been sufficiently developed.

Supplementary question: When will the consultation process start and end?

The intention was that the consultation would take place in late Summer. This was to give time to analyse the findings of the first engagement at the end of 2019 where 300 replies had been received and to work on the business case.

Councillor Field-Johnson had also given written notice of the following question to Councillor Liam Walker:

'The County Council has some rising bollards installed in the highway at locations in Oxford City, where they are old, time-expired and hence unreliable or broken. This causes considerable nuisance to some businesses and residents. What has been holding up their replacement, and when will they be replaced by new and properly functioning bollards?'

Councillor Walker replied:

'The rising bollards in Oxford will be replaced and operational by 31 March 2020. We are working with our various suppliers to ensure that the new

ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system will be fully tested and operational so that the rising bollards can go back online and provide the road space protection authorised by the Traffic Regulation Orders.'

15/20 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The Chairman had agreed the following requests to speak:

Item	Speaker
Item 6 – Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council	Councillor Sobia Afridi – Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Item 7 – Business Management & Monitoring Report	Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Item 8 – Staffing Report	Councillor Laura Price, Opposition Deputy Leader
Item 9 – Youth Opportunity Fund	Councillor Gill Sanders, local councillor for Rose Hill & Littlemore Councillor Liz Brighouse, local councillor for Churchill & Ley Valley Councillor Richard Webber, local councillor for Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Mrs Atkinson, Trustee Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

16/20 BECOMING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COUNCIL

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report proposing that the council considers working towards becoming a dementia friendly organisation and helping to create and support dementia friendly communities. The report set out the stages recommended by Alzheimer's Society and the Local Government Association that the council needs to complete in order to become more dementia friendly.

Councillor Sobia Afridi, Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care spoke in support of the proposals, commenting that dementia was an umbrella term covering over 200 types of dementia. From personal experience of a family member Councillor Afridi highlighted the importance of raising awareness particularly in the BAME community as people often lived with the condition for some years before diagnosis. Councillor Afridi welcomed that there were

27 dementia friendly members of staff and queried whether there were any dementia friendly councillors, commenting that this would be helpful.

In response to a question from Councillor Afridi, Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health explained that in setting out measures of success it would be important to engage with people living with dementia, to identify their needs and to use these as a benchmark for measurement. Councillor Ian Corkin, Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Council Business referred to the ongoing significant redesign of communications that was in part to allow the Council to be more proactive in its messages. He would be happy to discuss with Councillor Afridi ways of improving the reach and content of messaging around this matter.

Councillor Stratford welcomed the proposals and moved the recommendations.

Rachel Pirie, Lead for Older People Commissioning Markets, responding to the comments from Councillor Afridi agreed that it was important to capture measures of success in the action plan and explained that a number of measures already existed such as NHS diagnostic rates and those available through the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board and Health Improvement Board.

Councillor Stratford highlighted that part of the challenge would be identifying people isolated in their own homes who may be unknown to the Council and the Council's partners. The work on awareness was not necessarily big changes– it could be about being patient and ensuring there were safe places in our buildings. He added that Witney was a dementia friendly town and could provide a role model for taking this work forward.

During discussion Cabinet unanimously supported the proposals making the following points:

- Young carers were a hidden group, often going unnoticed. It was important to highlight the plight of carers as well as sufferers from dementia.
- Acceptance of the need for a diagnosis was a challenge with family members often unwilling to recognise that a loved one had a problem.
- People were living longer but the average age to which people were living well rather than in ill health had not changed. This meant people were living with illnesses such as dementia for longer.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) approve the council working towards becoming a dementia friendly organisation and developing dementia friendly communities; and
- (b) endorse the funding for Dementia Friendly Community Coordinators to develop and deliver a programme for dementia friendly communities.

17/20 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MONITORING REPORT - DECEMBER 2019

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet had before them a report that set out Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC's) progress towards Corporate Plan priorities and that provided an update on the delivery of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, at 31 December 2019.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted the following areas which had moved from green to amber.:

- Funding secured through planning obligations which requires a minimum of 70% of S106 agreements are completed with 6 months of District Committee resolutions - Councillor Phillips was satisfied with the commentary so, this was not an area of concern for her.
- The amount of household waste which is recycled, composted and reused - Councillor Phillips noted that the commentary referred to the change in behaviour and asked what the change was.
- The level of educational attainment was also of concern (maths was at red) and Councillor Phillips asked for an explanation for this statistic?
- The percentage of completed Education, Health and Care Plans in December was referred to as an anomaly and Councillor Phillips questioned what the anomaly was and sought an explanation for the monthly variations.

Councillor Phillips noted that on page 63 under performance highlights it was acknowledged that the rate of conversion from existing street lights to LED lanterns was not enough to deliver the energy saving financial commitments required and a greater rate of conversion was now being planned. She asked for further information.

Councillor Phillips referred to the red indicator - the 'Number of people delayed leaving hospital awaiting social care' and queried when the promised improvement would be delivered. Linked to this issue Councillor Phillips queried why reablement was the preferred pathway out of hospital for people needing care when the service was performing below contract levels and other more successful areas had found more effective methods to address it.

Councillor Phillips commented on the financial aspects of the report noting that Children's Services continued to be a red indicator with a £2.8m overspend because of an increase in demand for higher cost placements impacting the Corporate Parenting budget this year. She noted the analysis taking place but thought it would be useful to see a Business Case as to whether the Council could provide in-house care for this small number of children with significant and specialised needs.

Finally, Councillor Phillips asked whether information about the Public Health Grant had been received?

Cabinet Members responded to the comments made:

- The changes in behaviour impacting on household waste recycling were explained. Weight was a determining factor and people were using much less paper and plastic and that affected weight. In addition, District Councils were responsible for collecting waste and for example West Oxfordshire was now charging for garden waste. She noted that the County was still a leader in recycling and outlined some of the current initiatives.
- Maths attainment was impacted by the chronic shortage of maths teachers. It was a priority area.
- The reason for the anomaly in the percentage of completed Education, Health and Care Plans was being investigated. The expectation was that the trend would be improving.
- Work continued on delayed transfers of care but there was no quick win and progress would be reported in a subsequent report.
- On the overspend in children's services due to increase in demand for higher cost placements impacting the Corporate Parenting budget the context was that a child with complex needs, including a 2:1 staff ratio and 24-hour care could cost up to £10,500/week. A few such cases could have a huge impact on budgets. Looking at this was high on the Council agenda but there were no easy answers. All aspects were being looked at in the round.
- Information on the Public Health grant was still awaited.

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Deputy Leader of the Council introduced the performance and risk elements of the report. She highlighted a number of successes including the large numbers of vulnerable adults and children that continued to be supported by a range of activities from electric blanket testing to Junior Friends of Scams (an initiative which aims to prevent people from becoming victims of scams). The Council was not complacent and understood the challenges faced. The report was somewhat retrospective, and she expected that many indicators would be green by the end of the last quarter.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the finance elements of the report.

During discussion Councillor Steve Harrod, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children & Family Services acknowledged the negative comments surrounding the CEF overspend but repeated Councillor Bartholomew's comments that there was a full review being carried out on children's placements. Councillor Harrod went on to highlight a number of positives in Children's Services including a reduction in the number of child protection cases and the positive impact likely from the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Plus model.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the contents of this report; and
- (b) note the virements set out in Annex C – 2b.

18/20 STAFFING REPORT - QUARTER 3 - OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report that gave a snapshot of the workforce profile including headcount and full-time equivalent comparison, equality, apprenticeships, sickness, turnover and agency spend for the quarter ending 31 December 2019. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff and a 4-year agency trend analysis.

Councillor Laura Price, Opposition Deputy Leader welcomed the way that the presentation and information provided was evolving.

Councillor Price thanked HR for their sensitive work on the service redesigns taking place. Their efforts were appreciated at a difficult time.

Referring to agency staff Councillor Phillips was pleased to see that the Comensura contract was saving money. There was an ongoing issue around CEF agency spend and she queried whether this was a sustainable solution in the longer term. Councillor Price noted the off contract spend and asked whether future reports could contain greater clarity about the specific posts concerned. Referring to the workforce profile information Councillor Price queried whether it would be possible to see pay analysis by BAME community as well as by gender.

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Deputy Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Price and understood the request for greater identification of posts but would not put anything in to the public domain that identified individuals.

Councillor Heathcoat introduced the report and in moving the recommendations thanked Karen Edwards and her team for the improved format.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

19/20 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND

(Agenda Item. 9)

The Youth Opportunity Fund was introduced by Cabinet in 2019 to increase opportunities for young people across Oxfordshire. Following the application process, as per the agreed cross-party decision-making process, the cross-party panel reviewed the applications and assessed them against grant criteria.

Cabinet had before them a report that set out the final cross-party panel recommendations for allocation of the Youth Opportunity Fund for decision by Cabinet.

Councillor Gill Sanders, local councillor for Rose Hill & Littlemore, thanked the cross-party panel for their work and for supporting the bid from the Rose Hill Junior Youth Club. The funding to this Group and other successful groups would be put to good use. She sympathised with the unsuccessful bidders and referred to the funding agreed at full Council in February to develop an up to date assessment of need and of the services young people in Oxfordshire want and need; to identify whether these services are currently being delivered and to investigate future service delivery options to meet that need. She hoped that this might be a start to replace those services lost as a result of cuts to local government funding.

Councillor Liz Brighouse, speaking as the Opposition Leader and local councillor for Churchill & Ley Valley thanked all those on the cross-party working panel for sifting through all the 95 applications. The volume of applications was an indication of the need to recognise that youth work in Oxfordshire needed to be funded. Organisations were struggling and the grant funding would make a difference.

Referring to her local project it was recommended for funding. In the past her area had had a full-time youth worker who had supported a number of volunteers in addition to young people on the street. There was a video available of the work done. She hoped that some of that legacy could be picked up again.

In thanking Cabinet for the money, she stressed that it was important to learn from how the money was used, with schemes being well evaluated.

Councillor Richard Webber, local councillor for Sutton Courtenay & Marcham, spoke as someone who had served on other panels and was fully aware of the difficult task they faced and the heavy time commitment. There were 71 unsuccessful bids, almost all doing wonderful work. Many of these groups did not understand why they were falling short. No one had heard why they were unsuccessful. In his area the DAMASCUS Youth Project was unsuccessful, but he was speaking for all those unsuccessful groups. Lack of funding could damage groups' further opportunities to attract funding as they would be unable to demonstrate council support.

Councillor Webber added that the fund seemed to be about innovation with no support for sustainability. He hoped that the Council budget decision referred to by Councillor Sanders would be carried out to understand sustainability issues.

Councillor Webber suggested that Cabinet was being asked to ratify the decisions without all the information in front of them. He also queried why the Fund had taken so long to get underway from the February 2019

decision. The scheme was not opened to bids until 8 October with a relatively narrow window to submit a bid to 22 November.

Councillor Ian Corkin, Cabinet Member for Partnership and Council Business responding commented that he had taken away from this process the sheer scale of volunteering that went on and thanked all involved. He agreed that council endorsement could be important in securing other funding and suggested that councillors could use the Councillor Priority Fund to help in a small way.

Councillor Mark Gray, Cabinet Member for Local Communities, explained that the funding was not available until April 2019 and that it took time to get the scheme in place. Referring to the comments around innovation and sustainability the aim had been to promote innovation and to galvanise the sector.

Mrs Atkinson, Trustee of Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project spoke as one of the bids not recommended for funding. The refusal sounded the death knell for the wholly registered charity. She outlined the valuable work undertaken by the Project and the close partnerships formed with agencies responsible for safeguarding children. She urged Cabinet to reconsider how the money was allocated suggesting that each of the bidders could receive a lesser amount enabling all groups to seek further outside funding.

Councillor Gray commented that youth clubs were a strong way to deliver services to young people and may provide the only positive adult experience for some young people. The reason for not splitting the funding further was that it would have made individual bids untenable.

Councillor Gray, in introducing the report and moving the recommendations thanked all involved in the work of the panel. He commented that the criteria had been kept deliberately wide to attract bids from across the County and. The panel had carried out an evaluation against set criteria in a fair way. The successful bids were distributed throughout the County area. Karen Kuehne added her thanks to James Fawcett, from Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth (VOXY). They had very much wanted to involve young people and had been lucky that James had been able to be involved.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) award a total of £999,800 (details can be found at the Annex to the Minutes); and
- (b) close the Youth Opportunity Fund.

20/20 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 10)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

Youth Opportunity Fund Awards

Ref	Organisation	Name of the Project	Location	District	Funds Awarded
1	South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP)	Second Step: South Oxford Community Youth Project	Hinksey Park and Carfax ward	City	£16,015.29
2	Rose Hill Junior Youth Club	RH&L Creative Connections	Rose Hill and Littlemore	City	£69,050.00
3	Barton Community Association	Barton Pathways	Barton	City	£58,839.25
4	Wood Farm Youth Centre	Wood Farm Outreach Project	Oxford	City	£35,620.00
5	EMBS Community College Ltd	Take2	East Oxford	City	£70,000.00
6	Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground	Growing Young Leaders	Blackbird Leys	City	£16,740.00
7	Leys Community Development Initiative	Glow-on Leys Youth Opportunities	Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook	City	£63,500.00
8	Asylum Welcome	Youth Support Programme	Oxford	City	£30,230.00
9	Tackley Youth Café	The YP Café Tackley	Tackley (Woodstock)	West Oxon	£5,500.00
10	Chipping Norton Town Council	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Project (YEPP!)	Chipping Norton	West Oxon	£25,620.00
11	Chipping Norton Town Council	Chipping Norton 12-18s Youth Club	Chipping Norton	West Oxon	£14,200.00
12	Got2B	Got2B Youth Work Witney	Witney	West Oxon	£42,369.94

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13	Sunrise Multicultural Project	Youthie	Banbury	Cherwell	£43,839.08
14	Kingsmere Community Centre (KCC)	Active Kingsmere Youth	Kingsmere (Bicester)	Cherwell	£44,416.00
15	The Sweatbox Youth Centre	The Out of the Box Project	Wantage, Grove and surrounding villages	Vale	£54,927.48
16	The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)	The Youth Intervention Programme	Abingdon	Vale	£69,569.00
17	Cholsey Youth Club	Drop-in Sessions and 1:1 Youth Support	Cholsey and surrounding villages	South Oxon	£22,000.00
18	Berry Youth Centre	Beat the Streets!	Berinsfield and surrounding wards	South Oxon	£33,500.00
19	Thame Youth Projects Group	Detached Community Youth Work for Thame and surrounding district	Thame and surrounding district	South Oxon	£35,000.00
20	Didcot TRAIN - Inspiring Young People	Didcot Youth Club	Didcot and its immediate surroundings	South Oxon	£44,048.00
21	Nomad Detached Youth and Community Project	NOMAD Targeted Activity Programme for 11-18 year olds	Henley and surrounding villages	South Oxon	£29,000.00
22	Oxfordshire Youth	Youth Work Apprentices	Across Oxfordshire	Across	£64,058.00
23	Yellow Submarine	BEAM	Across Oxfordshire	Across	£63,207.96
24	KEEN Oxford	Community Buddies	All Oxfordshire, from 'hubs' in Banbury, Oxford, Abingdon,	Across	£48,550.00

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			and Witney		
Total					£999,800.000