

Divisions-N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 28 March 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Pan Regional Partnership for the Oxford-Cambridge Area *(Cabinet, 21 February 2023)*

Cabinet was asked to consider County Council membership of a new pan-regional partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge area being proposed by local authorities and other regional partners and supported by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The recommendations were amended to mandate the Leader and Chief Executive to engage positively and proactively with the shadow board of the partnership and to bring back the agreed objectives and governance of the proposed body to Cabinet before making a final decision to join.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader and Children, Education & Young People's Services

2. Report from Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman *(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)*

Cabinet was invited to consider the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGO) report which upheld a resident's complaint against the Council regarding alternative provision for her son.

Cabinet endorsed the actions completed and undertaken in response by this Council.

3. Formal Approval of Early Years Funding Formula 2023/24 *(Cabinet, 21 February 2023)*

Cabinet was recommended to set a funding formula for 2-year-old and for 3 and 4-year-old provision in 2023-24 and to pass on the increase in hourly rate in full to providers. Early Years Providers and the Schools Forum were consulted on the Early Years Funding Formula before the Cabinet report was compiled. The recommendations were agreed.

Cabinet Member: Climate Change Delivery & Environment

4. Annual Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report & Climate Action Programme - Biannual Update *(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)*

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2021/2022 report is an annual report on the Council's own operational greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards the

target of net zero by 2030 for the council's own operations. This report covered the financial year 2021/2022 and updated Cabinet on the delivery of the 2022/23 Climate Action Programme delivery plan as approved at Cabinet in June 2022.

Cabinet approved the report and noted the success of the Carbon Literacy Training programme and ambition to achieve bronze accreditation by March 2023 and develop a business case to move to silver accreditation.

5. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Process

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

Cabinet was asked to approve the annual Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) setting out the Council's programme for preparing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Cabinet approved the scheme which brought the timescale down to the minimum. The plans had been peer reviewed by Northamptonshire.

6. Home Upgrade Grant-delegated authority to agree

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report regarding a funding application to the Home Upgrade Grant fund to retrofit homes in fuel poverty. This supported the council's climate action and healthy place shaping agendas.

Cabinet approved the submission of the £6.4m funding bid though noted that 310 homes was a small number to benefit from the scheme and the Council should continue to bid for further funding to help meet climate and emissions targets across the County.

7. Consultation plans for water supply – Oxfordshire County Council response

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report proposing responses to regional water resources plans. The meeting approved the responses to

- the draft Water Resources South East (WRSE) regional plan, and
- the Water Resources West (WRW), Water Resources East (WRE) and Affinity Water draft plans

Cabinet also approved responding to the Thames Water draft plan, which was only released on 13 December 2022.

8. Local Aggregate Assessment

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report on the annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA). which was required by Mineral Planning Authorities under the National Planning Policy Framework, July 2021 (NPPF).

Cabinet approved the Assessment and authorised the Corporate Director of Environment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to make any revisions and publish the Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment for the calendar year 2021 on the Council website.

9. Verge and Vegetation Policy

(Cabinet, 21 February 2023)

Cabinet considered amendment of the verge maintenance policy to improve alignment with the current Council's key priorities and to include improved references to the management of roadside nature reserves and support for areas of local community managed biodiversity.

Cabinet approved the new policy and noted that the one-pager entitled "Urban Meadow and Verge Guidelines" would be very useful to Town and Parish Councils.

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services

10. Workforce Report and Staffing Data - Quarter 2 - July to September 2022

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

Cabinet noted the report providing an update on the key strategic workforce priority areas for Quarter 2 and a refreshed workforce profile at Appendix 1.

The report showed improved workforce planning, including work to increase diversity, more development of our own staff and increased agile working. The report also explained the need to extricate the Council from Hampshire's Integrated Business Centre which has proven to be insufficiently adaptable to meet our needs.

11. Local Government Association Communications Peer Review: feedback report

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

Cabinet considered the report of the Local Government Association peer review of the Council's communications, marketing and engagement function which was undertaken from 6 to 8 July 2022.

The report stressed that communications need to be embedded in the policy forming process from the outset. This observation was reinforced by the scrutiny committee in its discussion of the report. Cabinet noted the action plan had been developed to implement the recommendations and that the scrutiny committee had asked for an update on progress in April.

Cabinet Member: Finance

12. Financial Monitoring Update – October 2022

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

Cabinet considered the fourth financial monitoring update for the 2022/23 financial year, based on information to the end of October 2022. Key issues, as well as risks relating to inflation, demand and other factors, plus areas of emerging pressure were explained in the report.

The report highlighted the impact of inflation and the overspend in Children's Services and outlined the actions in response. Cabinet agreed the recommendations including the use of a further £1.0m from the COVID-19 reserve to offset pressures in Children's Services

13. Capital Programme Monitoring Report – October 2022

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of October 2022 - the third update for 2022/23. It also included an update to the Capital Programme approved by Cabinet in October 2022 taking into account additional funding and new and/or changes to schemes.

The report noted the successes in obtaining £32.8m in government grants for zero-emission buses and £5.2m matched funding for new children's homes. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

14. Proposal from Oxford United Football Club to Oxfordshire County Council as Landowner

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report regarding a proposal from Oxford United Football Club for a lease to develop a new football stadium on land to the east of Frieze way / south of Kidlington roundabout.

Having listened to the views of over 20 speakers on the item, Cabinet authorised Officers to enter into negotiations regarding Heads of Terms with Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) to agree the commercial terms on which Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) would lease land to OUFC. Cabinet also resolved that any final agreement to lease or dispose of land to OUFC for the purposes of a stadium will be a Cabinet decision

15. Budget & Business Planning Report 2023-24 - January 2023

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it proposals for the Strategic Plan and related revenue budget for 2023/24, medium term financial strategy to 2025/26 capital programme to 2032/33 plus supporting policies, strategies and information.

Before considering the item, Cabinet agreed to accept the recommendations in the reports from the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Scrutiny of the Post-Consultation Budget Proposals and Scrutiny of the Council's Proposed Strategic Plan.

Cabinet recommended that Council adopt the proposed strategies and financial measures detailed in the report and annexes.

**16. Business Management & Monitoring Report-
October/November 2022**

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet considered a report presenting the November 2022 performance, risk and finance position for the Council.

Cabinet approved a number of financial measures including a £0.7m increase in the contribution from the County Council to the Children's Integrated Therapy Service and the transfer of £1.8m from the Budget Equalisation Reserve to the Transformation Reserve.

17. Capital Programme Approvals - January 2023

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet approved a budget increase of £2.911m towards the capital project for St Edburg's CE Primary School and a variation in the timetabling.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management

18. Network Management Plan

(Cabinet, 21 February 2023)

Cabinet had before it a proposed Network Management Plan to assist those working on the network, developers, utilities and the highway service, to plan, coordinate and implement works. Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

Cabinet Member: Travel & Development Strategy

19. Infrastructure Funding Statement

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022)

The Infrastructure Funding Statement is a statutory statement of fact to be reported annually, by 31 December 2022 on developer contributions secured, spent or received during the previous financial year. This report covered 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.

Cabinet noted that 20% of the funds currently held by the Council had been allocated to projects and that no funds had had to be repaid in the three most recent financial years thanks to the close monitoring of the funds by officers. Cabinet approved the publication of the statement.

20. Parking Standards for New Developments: review of issues raised by the scrutiny committee and addendum of evidence review

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report on the review of issues raised by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 'Parking Standards for New Developments' document agreed by the Cabinet meeting held on 18th October 2022.

Cabinet accepted minor amendments to the adopted 'Parking Standards for New Developments' and noted the findings of the update to the research overview report which concluded that the available literature provided support to the general approach to parking provision as set out in the adopted standards.

21. Response to the recommendations of the Citizens' Jury

(Cabinet, 21 February 2023)

Cabinet was requested to agree its response to the Citizens' Jury called Street Voice, convened by Oxford University and held over several weekends in June and July 2022, to explore issues related to transport, health and climate change in Oxford.

Overall, the Council had been able to respond positively to 25 of the 41 priority recommendations. A further five priority recommendations were identified as possible for the council to consider in due course.

Cabinet supported the development of a policy on the future use of juries and their place within the Council's decision-making process, as resolved by the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Reports

22. Cabinet responses to reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 24 January 2023)

The Cabinet papers included for information the formal response to the following reports:

- LTCP4 Review
- Traffic Filters
- Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan

23. Reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 20 December 2022 & 24 January 2023)

Cabinet received reports on, and committed to respond formally to, the following:

- Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of Lessons Learnt from LTCP4 (December)
- Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Consultation Budget Proposals (December)
- Performance and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of Post-Consultation Budget Proposals 2023/24 – 2025/26 (January)
- Performance and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of the Council's Proposed Strategic Plan 2023-25 (January)

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- Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Primary Care
- People Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of SEND Finances

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

February 2023