

oxfordshire county council

18 July 2000

A Meeting of the Council will be held at **County Hall, Oxford, on Tuesday 18 July 2000 at 10.00 am** and all members are summoned to attend.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2000.
2. Matters arising from the Minutes.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.
5. Official Communications.
6. Appointments to Committees
 - (a) Oxfordshire Forum

To appoint Councillor Margaret Godden in place of Councillor Roaf.
 - (b) Oxford Transport Strategy Working Party

To appoint City Councillor Michael Woodin of 28 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LP in place of City Councillor Maureen Christian.
 - (c) To make any further changes in committee membership on the nomination of the political groups.
7. Petitions and Public Address.

Minutes of Committees and Questions under Standing Order 7(3)&(4)
8. Strategy & Resources Committee – 27 June 2000;
9. Public Protection Committee – 5 June 2000;
10. Social Services Committee – 23 May 2000;
11. Education Committee –6 June 2000;
12. Environmental Committee – 31 May 2000; and

13. Cultural Services Committee –12 June 2000.

Notices of Motion

14. by Councillor David Buckle:

"This Council:

1. notes that the 2-year pilot project 'Better Government for Older People' ended in July 2000;
2. congratulates councillors and council officers for effectively co-ordinating the project in Oxfordshire, particularly:
 - (a) the national conference "It's in our Hands" – Participation, Politics and Older People" held at Ruskin College;
 - (b) Local Networks;
 - (c) The formation of the County Panel;
3. notes the contribution the project has made to the "Oxfordshire Plan" and in particular the following objectives:
 - (a) making Oxfordshire a better place to live and work in;
 - (b) being a responsive and responsible organisation;
 - (c) protect and support vulnerable people;
 - (d) promote the cultural life of the County;
4. welcomes the publication of the project's final report and, in order to take the work and partnership forward, resolves to:-
 - (a) request the Social Inclusion Working Party and the Health Improvement Partnership Board to consider how they wish to use the outcomes of the project;
 - (b) instruct chief officers to report to their programme committees and to the Strategy & Resources Committee on the incorporation of their action plans that were drawn up under the Better Government for Older People project into their departments' Medium Term Plans;
5. instructs chief officers to report annually to their programme committees and to the Strategy & Resources Committee on progress on meeting the Council's objectives and priorities for services for older people."

15. by Councillor Margaret Godden:

"This Council acknowledges that it could and should improve the quality of its consultation with the public on specific issues and the level of information it provides on policies in general. It therefore requests a report from the Chief Executive, which should include:

- (a) the possible launch of a countywide newspaper; and
- (b) a corporate unit to advise on consultations by all departments whether through questionnaires, public meetings or otherwise."

16. by Councillor Colin Lamont:

"This Council welcomes SERPLAN's decision to reject the Government's increased housebuilding targets for the South-East Region, as contained in the draft Regional Planning Guidance, and supports SERPLAN in its efforts to restrain housing growth in Oxfordshire."

17. by Councillor Brenda Churchill:

"Considering the importance of Cultural Services to the quality of life for the residents of Oxfordshire, this Council believes that this should be reflected in a distinct funding mechanism. The Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions requesting that Cultural Services be given a separate Standard Spending Assessment."

18. by Councillor Brian Hodgson:

"This Council:

1. notes that the recent crisis at the car manufacturer Rover highlighted the fact that UK employees have fewer rights to information about their employer's plans than most European workers; and
2. resolves to:
 - (a) encourage the annual publication by major companies in Oxfordshire of a local 'social audit' stating policies towards the workforce, community, customers and the environment;
 - (b) instruct officers to explore the feasibility of agreements with major Oxfordshire companies on procedures concerning plant closures or substantial changes that would affect the community adversely; and
 - (c) write to the Government outlining the above and calling for it to support the information and consultation directive, agreed by the European Commission in November 1998. [Businesses covered by the directive would be required to provide employee representatives with information on 'recent as well as the foreseeable development of the undertaking's activities and its economic and financial situation'.]"

19. by Councillor Mrs Dee Bulley:

"that this Council discuss again the provision of a sixth form at Carterton Community College,

because of the overwhelming pressure from the people of Carterton and the full support of Carterton Town Council, so that our children do not have to continue with a three tier Education system."

20. by Councillor Sam Segaran:

"This Council:

1. has endorsed the Improvement & Development Agency's 'Charter for Member Development', which strives to ensure that 'elected members are representative of the local communities they serve';
2. notes that Bristol City Council, along with the Further Education Funding Council, funds a 10 week course that aims to encourage local people from ethnic minorities to participate in public life – the course leads to an Open College qualification;
3. instructs officers to report on the Bristol initiative and suggest practical steps the Council could take to implement a similar scheme in Oxfordshire."

21. by Councillor Dhall:

"Council notes the great success of the opening of the old prison, and more particularly the Castle Mound on 1 July 2000, when hundreds of people enjoyed the climb up the hill and the ensuing view of Oxford. Council resolves, bearing in mind the tenets of social inclusion, to negotiate further with the prison site developers to ensure free public access to the Mound, as a park in Central Oxford under the auspices of Oxford City Council's Leisure Department."

22. by Councillor Dhall:

"Bearing in mind:

1. the overall aim of the Oxford Transport Strategy, which was to reduce car-dependency in Oxford City and improve the environment for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users;
2. that Oxford Centre has improved for the above groups but just beyond the centre (The Plain, Abingdon Road, the Station Site and St Giles) is as bad as ever – dangerous, polluted and with priority and most of the space given to motorised vehicles;
3. that the JCR of St Johns College recently passed a motion expressing urgent concern at the speed of cars on St Giles, the majority of which exceed the 30 mph speed limit and drive at nearer 50 mph;
4. the absence of pedestrian crossings across St Giles; and
5. that St Giles is a beautiful area mostly given over to wide roads and car parks, with pedestrians on relatively narrow pavements on either edge;

Council resolves to hold an advertised Design Competition for the redesign of St Giles, in the manner of the Great Squares Project, to make it more accessible to the more vulnerable users of public space, more environmentally and people friendly and more socially useful to residents of and visitors to Oxford."

23. by Councillor Dhall:

"In light of the fact that:

- (a) the noise of traffic on the A34 carries several miles and pollutes every quiet area in Oxford, such as Binsey Church, Port Meadow, etc; and
- (b) people living close to the A34 suffer continuous stress from traffic noise;

Council resolves to urge the Highways Agency to include a scheme of noise buffering to mute the traffic sound, either artificially or by a programme of planting, taking into account the DETR's Guidance on Full Local Transport Plans, which cites the necessity to include 'information on proposed action to reduce exposure levels based on an assessment of the impact on ambient noise of those living and working in the area' (Annex D 20: Co-ordination with air quality action plan and action on noise)."

24. by Councillor Craig Simmons:

"In light of the amendment to the Pensions Act 1995, in force from 3 July 2000, which states that trustees must declare 'the extent to which social, ethical or environmental considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments', this Council agrees to review its investment policy with the aim of adopting a more socially and environmentally responsible approach."

25. by Councillor Craig Simmons:

"The Council notes that from April 2001 it will be liable for the payment of the Climate Change Levy – a 'green' tax on energy. According to the Government, the Levy will be revenue neutral, being offset by reductions in Employers National Insurance contributions.

The Council supports the principle of a tax on non-renewable energy sources and the switch of taxation from labour to consumption but notes that, in the case of this and many other councils, the savings in NI contributions are insufficient to offset the Levy, resulting in a net cost to the Council.

The Council therefore:

- (a) instructs the appropriate officers to continue exploring ways in which the Council can reduce its CCL liability by reducing its use of non-renewable energy sources;
- (b) resolves to write to Oxfordshire MPs and the relevant Minister(s) asking them to address the imbalance in the application of the Levy whereby relatively labour-intensive organisations, such as this Council, will lose out when the tax is introduced;
- (c) resolves to also ask the Government to address the anomaly in the tax rules whereby some renewable sources, such as large scale hydro, are still to be taxed."

26. by Councillor Mrs C Fulljames:

"that the Council makes urgent representations to the MoD, DETR and GOSE to ensure that recycled aggregate from RAF Upper Heyford is available for use in the construction of the A43

dualling."

County Hall
Oxford

10 July 2000

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 1

MINUTES of the meeting of the County Council held at County Hall on Tuesday 9 May 2000 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor HARRY WYATT – in the chair for Item 1

Councillor DAVE GREEN – in the chair from Item 2 onwards

Councillors

NILS R. BARTLEET	MRS DIANA LUDLOW
BILL BRADSHAW	MACKENZIE
DAVID BUCKLE	SIOBHAN McSORLEY
MRS DEE BULLEY	KIERON MALLON
BRENDA CHURCHILL	RICHARD MARCHANT
TED COOPER	NORMAN MATTHEWS
A.D. CRABBE	JULIE MAYHEW-ARCHER
JILL DAVIES	KEITH MITCHELL
MRS ANN DAVIS	SANDRA MOLD
DICKIE DAWES	JIM MOLEY
JERRY DEMPSEY	JANET MORGAN
JOHN DENNIS	MRS JAN MORGAN
DHALL	DAVID NICHOLSON
DR M. EVANS	JOHN POWER
ROBERT EVANS	ANNE PURSE
NEIL FAWCETT	G.A. REYNOLDS
MARGARET FERRIMAN	TOM RICHARDSON
MRS ANDA FITZGERALD-O'CONNOR	DERMOT ROAF
MRS C. FULLJAMES	RODNEY ROSE
JANET GODDEN	GEORGE SANDERS
MARGARET GODDEN	DON SEALE
NEVILLE F. HARRIS	SAM SEGARAN
STEVE HAYWARD	C.H. SHOULER
MRS J. HEATHCOAT	CRAIG SIMMONS
BRIAN HODGSON	TOM SNOW
BRIAN L. HOOK	D.L.B. SPENCER
TIM HORTON	OLIVE STEDMAN
MRS HUMPHRIES	TONY STOCKFORD
BOB JOHNSTON	KEITH STRANGWOOD
TERRY JOSLIN	SYLVIA TOMPKINS
SHEREEN KARMALI	ROY TUDOR HUGHES
COLIN LAMONT	DAVID TURNER
BOB LANGRIDGE	BARRY WOOD

BRIAN LAW

27/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR
(Agenda Item 1)

Before inviting nominations for the office of Chair of the Council, Councillor Wyatt, the retiring Chair, addressed the meeting, thanking members and officers for their support during his term of office. He then called for nominations.

Councillor Hodgson proposed and Councillor Mackenzie seconded Councillor Green. There being no other nominations, Councillor Green was declared elected to chair the Council for the ensuing year and he made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Green took the chair.

28/00 APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR
(Agenda Item 2)

The Chair called for nominations for the election of the Vice-Chair. Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Spencer seconded Councillor Shouler.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Shouler was declared appointed and he made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

29/00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 February 2000 be approved and signed as a correct record.

30/00 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
(Agenda Item 4)

Minute 24/00 – Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill

Councillor Hodgson advised the Council of the latest position. An amended Bill would be considered on 9 June and had also been referred to an inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty. He was happy to see progress being made.

31/00 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS
(Agenda Item 6)

Interests were declared as follows:-

Cultural Services Committee Minute 7/00 – Revenue Policy & Budget Plans 2000/01 – 2002/03 and Medium Term Plan

Councillor Moley – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Cultural Services Committee Minute 8/00 – Capital Programme 2000/2001 – 2001/2002

Councillor Hayward – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Cultural Services Committee Minute 11/00 – Countryside Service – Best Value Pilot Review

Councillor Hodgson – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Cultural Services Committee Minute 16/00 – The Countryside and Rights of Way Bill

Councillor Hodgson – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Cultural Services Committee Minute 17/00 – Adderbury Lakes – Transfer of Ownership

Councillor Mitchell – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Cultural Services Committee Minute 25/00 – Victoria County History Advisory Sub-Committee

Councillor Buckle – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Public Protection Committee Minute 12/00 – Roadworthiness of Motor Cars

Councillor Strangwood – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Social Services Committee Minute 16/00 – Developments in Mental Health Services

Councillor Janet Godden – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Social Services Committee Minute 20/00 – Allocation of Joint Finance 2000/2001

Councillor Mitchell – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Social Services Committee Minute 37/00 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2000/01 to 2002/03

Councillor Mitchell – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Education Committee Minute 27/00 – Best Value Review of Mainstream Passenger Transport

Councillor Robert Evans – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Education Committee Minute 24/00 – Sign Language and Interpretation Service

Councillor Hodgson – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Education Committee Minute 25/00 – Audit Commission Study – "The Price is Right? – Charges for Council Services"

Councillor Robert Evans – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Environmental Committee Minute 33/00 – Planning Sub-Committee Minutes

Councillor Hook – insubstantial, pecuniary

32/00 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 7)

(a) Director of Cultural Services

The Chair welcomed Richard Munro to his first meeting since taking up his appointment as Director of Cultural Services.

(b) Councillor Olive Stedman

The Chair congratulated Councillor Stedman on gaining a BSc from Oxford Brookes University.

(c) Former County Councillors Eric Bond and Edward Hordern

The Chair reported the deaths of former County Councillors Eric Bond and Edward Hordern. Councillors Spencer and Mitchell respectively spoke warmly of Eric Bond and Edward Hordern and of their contribution to the Council.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of their former colleagues.

33/00 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED: to make the following appointments to committees:-

Education Committee

Councillor Humphries in place of Councillor Ferriman

Councillor McSorley in place of Councillor Nicholson

Environmental Committee

Councillor Harris in place of Councillor Green

Councillor Wyatt in place of Councillor McSorley

Cultural Services Committee

Councillor Stedman in place of Councillor Green

Public Protection Committee

Councillor Langridge in place of Councillor Humphries

Councillor Wyatt in place of Councillor M Godden

Social Services Committee

Councillor Turner in place of Councillor M Godden

Councillor Power in place of Councillor Joslin

Strategy & Resources Committee

Councillor Janet Godden to the vacancy arising from Councillor M Godden's appointment as an ex officio member in place of Councillor Roaf

Councillor Karmali in place of Councillor Richardson

Oxfordshire Forum

Councillor Joslin in place of Councillor Langridge

34/00 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 9)

The Chair, having consulted the political Group Leaders in accordance with Standing Order 8(4)(b), had agreed the following requests to address the Council:-

Request from
Pro-West/Anti-North East

Agenda Item
15 - Environmental Committee Minute 15/00
– Direction of Growth at Didcot

Mr Nigel Moor, RPS)
Consultants, Steventon)
(Planning Consultant for)
Didcot West Consortium))

Mr Phillip Neale, Land)
Director, Persimmon Homes)

Dr John Rodda, Chairman,)
Thirteen Parishes Group)

Mrs Audrey Sharp, Chair,)
Appleford Parish Council)

Cllr Robin Peirce, Chair of)
Planning Committee, SODC)

Pro-North East/Anti-West)

Mr Paul Hannon)
representing Bryant Homes)

Dr Tony Hughes, Keep)
Harwell Rural Campaign)

Mrs Margaret Turner,)
Harwell Parish Council)

John Townsend, East)
Hagbourne Parish Council)

Mr David Thomas,)
31 Barleyfields, Didcot)

Councillor Jerry Patterson,)
Chairman of Planning &)
Development Committee,)
Vale of White Horse District Council)

The Council were addressed as follows:-

Nigel Moor spoke on behalf of the Wimpey Consortium, developers for the Didcot West option. He reminded the Council that findings of the EIP Panel were not binding and the Environmental Committee were not legally obliged to accept them. The Panel had acknowledged the superior accessibility and integration benefits of the West but had taken the view that these were outweighed by the arguments against use of best and most versatile agricultural land. However, he now argued that more weight should be attached to the report of the Cabinet Office Performance and Innovation Unit (PIU) which had suggested reassessment of the importance of such land. He urged the Council to confirm the Environmental Committee's decision to develop to the West, but not to endorse the Milton option adopted by the Environmental Urgency Sub-Committee on 5 May.

Phillip Neale on behalf of Persimmon Homes urged the Council to support the Milton option. He outlined the advantages of that option, which used less high-grade agricultural land than the Wimpey development to the West and offered better opportunities for integration with Didcot than the North East option. He acknowledged that new developments were rarely popular with local people but believed the Milton option would have less impact on residents both of Didcot itself and of the surrounding villages.

John Rodda spoke on behalf of the Thirteen Parishes Group, who believed West was the best option. This had been the original recommendation of the Director of Environmental Services back in November 1998 and had been recognised by the EIP Panel as representing the best option on accessibility and integration grounds. He referred to the PIU report and said that in his view the Rural White Paper in the Summer was likely to allow more flexibility as to development on best and most versatile agricultural land. He also reminded the Council of development proposals for Harwell. All things considered, he believed the West represented the most forward-looking option.

Audrey Sharp, Chair of Appleford Parish Council, urged the Council not to refer back the Environmental Committee's decision, which had been properly arrived at through the democratic process. Council should respect the judgement of the Environmental Committee and not allow any controversy surrounding the decision of the Environmental Urgency Sub-Committee on 5 May to cloud the primary issue as to whether development should go to the West or the North East.

Robin Peirce spoke on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, who fully supported the West option. His Council was committed to a £30m town centre development for Didcot and it was essential for proper integration with the town that the housing development should go to the West. However neither South Oxfordshire District Council nor the Vale of White Horse District Council supported the Milton option and he urged the Council to reject that and to confirm the "wrap-around" option approved by the Environmental Committee on 22 March.

Paul Hannon spoke on behalf of Bryant Homes, developers for the North East option. He urged the Council to overturn the Environmental Committee's decision and to revert to the North East, which represented the most sustainable option, both environmentally and educationally.

Tony Hughes endorsed Paul Hannon's arguments regarding educational sustainability. A third secondary school for Didcot should be located to the north east of the town, not the west where the two existing single sex schools were already located. He reminded members of the scale of the local opposition in Harwell to the West option and urged the Council to refer back the Environmental Committee decision.

Margaret Turner reminded members that since June 1998 the Environmental Committee had decided on three occasions that development should go to the north east, a view which had been shared by the EIP. To now opt for the West was a perverse decision which would compromise secondary education and transport strategy for the town. She warned the Council of the likelihood of costly legal challenges should they persist with the West option.

John Townsend warned that there would be applications for Judicial Review unless the Environmental Committee's decision was reversed. This decision had in his view been taken recklessly and would set a dangerous precedent, not only for Oxfordshire but for the South East as a whole, if best and most versatile agricultural land were built on in this way.

David Thomas asked the Council not to under-estimate the strength of feeling amongst Didcot residents who believed the future of their town was being decided by outsiders without proper consultation. The north east of the town was already in desperate need of a secondary school and other facilities. This situation could be remedied if further development was directed to that side of town rather than to the West.

Jerry Patterson spoke on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council, who believed the Environmental Committee's decision should be referred back. It was regrettable that the Committee had not accepted the EIP Panel's recommendation. The reasons for doing so were not clear, nor was it obvious why the Committee were now placing so much emphasis on the PIU report. If the Council persisted with the West option, this would mean further significant delay, yet another EIP

and the possibility of the Secretary of State calling in the matter. High grade agricultural land would be at risk throughout the County and the country.

REPORT OF STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 10)

35/00 TACKLING PENSIONER POVERTY

(Committee Minute 31/00)

The Council in February had referred the following motion by Councillor Mackenzie to the Strategy & Resources Committee for them to consider and advise the Council:-

"that this Council congratulates the government on its strategy to tackle pensioner poverty. By the end of this Parliament the package of measures to help alleviate poverty should ensure that pensioner households in Oxfordshire are some £300 a year better off."

The Strategy & Resources Committee had considered the motion on 18 April and had resolved to advise the Council to adopt it in the following amended form:-

"(a) This Council notes the Government's strategy to tackle pensioner poverty.

(b) This Council notes that the Government has implemented some helpful policies such as the free television licence for pensioners and congratulates them on the positive media coverage that they have managed to obtain for these policies. However, this Council notes with concern the abolition of the Widows' Bereavement Allowance, the abolition of tax relief on medical insurance for over 65's, the abolition of the Married Couple's allowance, the scrapping of Home Income Plans, the increase in petrol taxes which hits rural pensioners particularly harshly, the fact that the Minimum Income Guarantee is not a guarantee of a minimum income, the increases on tobacco and alcohol taxes and the £5 billion per year extra taxes on pension funds.

(c) The Council also notes that:

- (1) this year's increase in the State Pension is well below the level needed to maintain the income level of pension households with average incomes;
- (2) the basic pension has risen by just 75p per week (1.1%) this year;
- (3) hundreds of thousands of pensioners continue to live in relative poverty;
- (4) there is a less than comprehensive take up of the Minimum Income Guarantee.

(d) Council resolves to write to the Government calling for:

- (1) an additional increase to basic pensions of a level at least high enough to keep up with the actual level of inflation faced by pensioners;
- (2) a review of the Minimum Income Guarantee, in particular to look at passing on this additional entitlement through the basic pension;
- (3) a review of the decision to break the link between pensions and average earnings."

Councillor Mackenzie indicated that the Strategy & Resources Committee's advice was acceptable to her and with the leave of the Council amended her motion accordingly.

After debate the motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried nem con (with 9 members abstaining).

RESOLVED: accordingly.

36/00 REFUGEES IN OXFORDSHIRE

(Committee Minute 33/00)

Councillor Hodgson moved and Councillor Ferriman seconded that Minute 33/00(b) be referred back to the Strategy & Resources Committee for reconsideration insofar as it referred to government policies on employment opportunities for asylum seekers. On being put to the vote the reference back was lost by 48 votes to 21.

37/00 ADOPTION OF STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2) and subject to the decision recorded in Minute 35/00 above, the Minutes of the Strategy & Resources Committee on 18 April 2000 be received and the recommendations to the Council in Minutes:

SR34/00: Local Government & Housing Act 1989 – Annual Review of Political Balance on Committees and Other Bodies

SR42/00(a): Headquarters Offices – Speedwell House

be adopted.

REPORT OF CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 11)

38/00 ADOPTION OF CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2), the Minutes of the Cultural Services Committee on 27 March 2000 be received.

REPORT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 12)

39/00 ANNUAL REVIEW OF FIRE COVER IN CARTERTON

(Committee Minute 17/00)

Councillor Seale moved and Councillor Mrs Bulley seconded that Minute 17/00 be referred back to the Public Protection Committee. On being put to the vote the reference back was lost by 42 votes to 27.

40/00 ADOPTION OF PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2), the Minutes of the Public Protection Committee on 20 March 2000 be received.

REPORT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 13)

41/00 SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES

(Committee Minute 16/00)

The Council in February had referred the following motion by Councillor Hodgson to the Social Services Committee for them to consider and advise the Council:-

"given that smoking-related illnesses cause an estimated 120,000 deaths a year, and that the likely figures for Oxfordshire are therefore probably at least 1000 every single year (Oxfordshire's population is about 1% of the total UK population):

this Council:

- (a) notes the proposed Oxfordshire Tobacco Strategy which aims to reduce dependence on tobacco products;

- (b) asks all chief officers to report to the Social Services Committee on what they are doing and what they plan to do within their areas of responsibility to reduce the number of smokers and/or the effects of smoking in Oxfordshire, this to include a report from the County Personnel Officer on actions the Council is taking as an employer to inform its staff about the effects of smoking and how to give up smoking;
- (c) asks that a summary of this report be then referred, via the Oxfordshire Alliance on Smoking Issues, to the Health Improvement Programme Steering Group;
- (d) calls on the Government to follow the example of the Clinton administration in the USA and act against the cigarette companies in the courts, thereby raising large sums of money to be used to increase the funds available for the NHS and Social Services;
- (e) resolves to:
 - (i) endorse Oxfordshire Health Authority's Tobacco Strategy;
 - (ii) target efforts within its workplaces and within its areas of responsibility; and
 - (iii) receive annual reports to the Social Services Committee and make these available to the Health Improvement Programme Steering Group."

The Social Services Committee had considered the motion on 14 March and had resolved to advise the Council to adopt it in the following amended form:-

"given that smoking-related illnesses cause an estimated 120,000 deaths a year, and that the likely figures for Oxfordshire are therefore probably at least 1000 every single year (Oxfordshire's population is about 1% of the total UK population):

this Council:

- (a) notes the proposed Oxfordshire Tobacco Strategy which aims to reduce dependence on tobacco products and congratulates departments such as Trading Standards for the work they are already doing;
- (b) asks the County Personnel Officer to provide an annual report on actions the Council is taking as an employer to inform its personnel, including elected members about the effects of smoking and how to give up smoking;
- (c) calls on the Government to follow the example of the Clinton administration in the USA and act against the cigarette companies in the courts, thereby raising large sums of money to be used to increase the funds available for the NHS and Social Services;
- (d) resolves to:
 - (i) endorse Oxfordshire Health Authority's Tobacco Strategy;
 - (ii) target efforts within its workplaces and within its areas of responsibility; and
 - (iii) receive annual reports to the Social Services Committee and make these available to the Health Improvement Programme Steering Group".

Councillor Hodgson indicated that the Social Services Committee's advice was acceptable to him and with the leave of the Council amended his motion accordingly.

After debate the motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried by 42 votes to 6.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

In considering what advice to offer in relation to Councillor Hodgson's motion, the Social Services Committee had also resolved to advise the Council to consider extending the "No Smoking" rule to the whole of County Hall including the Members Room, and to official functions held in County Hall.

It was moved by Councillor Margaret Godden and seconded by Councillor Johnston that the "No Smoking" rule be so extended. After some debate it was moved by Councillor Dhall, duly seconded and **RESOLVED** (nem con) that the question be now put. On being put to the vote the substantive motion was carried by 33 votes to 22.

RESOLVED: to extend the "No Smoking" rule to the whole of County Hall including the Members Room, and to official functions held in County Hall.

42/00 ADOPTION OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2) and subject to the decisions recorded in Minute 41/00 above, the Minutes of the Social Services Committee on 14 March and 17 April 2000 be received.

REPORT OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

(Agenda Item 14)

43/00 ADOPTION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2), the Minutes of the Education Committee on 28 March 2000 be received.

REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

44/00 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND WORK PROGRAMME

(Committee Minute 9/00)

(Councillors Mitchell and Seale each declared an insubstantial, non-pecuniary interest in this matter)

It was moved by Councillor Tompkins, seconded by Councillor Bartleet and **RESOLVED:** (by 33 votes to 32) that Minute 9/00(a) be referred back to the Environmental Committee for further consideration.

45/00 PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011: DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT – REPORT OF THE EIP PANEL

(Committee Minute 15/00)

It was moved by Councillor Joslin, seconded by Councillor Lamont and after a lengthy debate

RESOLVED: (by 40 votes to 20, Councillor Mackenzie asking for her abstention to be recorded) that Minute 15/00 be referred back to the Environmental Committee.

A further motion by Councillor Hook, seconded by Councillor Tudor Hughes to suspend Standing Order 9(2)(e) insofar as it required the reference back to be determined by the Council, and to authorise the Environmental Committee to resolve the reference back on the Council's behalf, was then put to the vote and lost by 42 votes to 11.

46/00 ADOPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with Standing Order 9(2) and subject to the decisions recorded in Minutes 44/00 and 45/00 above, the Minutes of the Environmental Committee on 22/29 March 2000 be received.

NOTICES OF MOTION

47/00 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Ferriman formally moved and Councillor Hogdson formally seconded the following motion standing in her name at Item 16 in the Agenda:

"this Council

- (a) notes the Home Office proposal that a Holocaust Remembrance Day be observed annually, to begin on 27 January 2001;
- (b) approves the motives lying behind the proposal which are "to ensure that the ... crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust are never forgotten"; and
- (c) whilst noting that educational events are proposed and that Libraries and Museums will contribute instructs the appropriate officers to consult the relevant Government departments, the LGA and interested parties in the County, and report back upon the possible events which the County Council itself could undertake in 2001 and thereafter, in order to raise awareness, and understanding of the relevance of the Holocaust to the Oxfordshire public."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Operations Sub-Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

48/00 BOYS' UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT AT SCHOOL

(Agenda Item 17)

Councillor Crabbe formally moved and Councillor Matthews formally seconded the following motion standing in his name at Item 17 in the Agenda:

"Boys in Oxfordshire schools perform poorly compared to the level of achievement of girls at GCSE. In the light of this continuing and unacceptable trend, this Council requests the Schools Performance & Quality Sub-Committee to examine this issue and draw up a plan for research with a view to:

- (a) identifying factors affecting the performance of boys in Oxfordshire schools; and
- (b) making proposals for measures to improve the level of achievement of boys."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Schools Performance and Quality Sub-Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

49/00 LIBRARY AND ARTS FACILITIES IN THAME

(Agenda Item 18)

Councillor Horton formally moved and Councillor Mayhew-Archer formally seconded the following motion standing in his name at Item 18 in the Agenda:

"Council recognises the desire of residents in Thame and its surrounding villages to extend community facilities in the town, including well-equipped buildings for a library and arts development. Council accepts that the achievement of such projects will be best achieved through partnership working involving all relevant councils.

Council therefore agrees to propose to Thame Town Council and South Oxfordshire District Council the establishment of an informal member/officer working party to develop work towards the realisation of initiatives, to include the planning, design, funding and management of potential sites in and around the town. Such a working party should be able to invite participation of other interests that could assist in the achievement of these aims."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Cultural Services Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

50/00 SALE OF LAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
(Agenda Item 19)

Councillor Mrs Jan Morgan formally moved and Councillor Margaret Godden formally seconded the following motion standing in her name at Item 19 in the Agenda:

"that the County Council adopt the following policy:

that, when seeking planning permission prior to the sale of land for housing development, the Council complies with the relevant district council's policy on the provision of affordable housing as appropriate, seeking when necessary the approval of the Secretary of State where this would reduce the amount of the capital receipt which would otherwise be generated."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Operations Sub-Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

51/00 CUTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES
(Agenda Item 20)

Councillor Dhall formally moved and Councillor Simmons formally seconded the following motion standing in her name at Item 20 in the Agenda:

"Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing concern at the magnitude of the cuts imposed on social services under the present government and highlighting the following:

- (a) that good community relations between the County Council and sections of the public have been harmed by the closure of services that were locally popular, such as Oseney Court Elderly People's Home;
- (b) that such services will be unlikely ever to be replaced locally and as such the community element of the service is likely to be lost forever;
- (c) that some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire are facing added financial hardship as a result of the cuts; and
- (d) that some of the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire are at greater risk of danger or harm as a result of the cuts.

Council therefore asks the relevant Government bodies to urgently review the situation, in the light of their public commitment to social welfare and to reducing social exclusion."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Social Services Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

52/00 EUROPEAN CAR-FREE DAY
(Agenda Item 21)

Councillor Dhall formally moved and Councillor Simmons formally seconded the following motion standing in her name at Item 21 in the Agenda:

"In light of the success in all of Europe except Britain of last year's European Car-free Day with 85% popular approval, and that this Council seeks to raise the profile of alternatives to the car through its

well-funded TravelWise initiative, this Council instructs officers to:

- (a) investigate the feasibility of participating in the 2000 European Car-free Day (22 September);
- (b) identify a location or locations which would be suitable;
- (c) present a report to the Environmental Committee identifying the resource and staffing implications, possible funding partnerships and legal/planning implications of participating in European Car-free Day."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Environmental Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

53/00 TIMING OF OFF-JUNCTION PELICAN CROSSINGS
(Agenda Item 22)

Councillor Dhall formally moved and Councillor Simmons formally seconded the following motion standing in her name at Item 22 in the Agenda:

"This Council welcomes the publication of the Government National Walking Strategy, 'Encouraging Walking' and supports its central aim to make it as 'pleasant, safe and convenient as possible to walk'.

This Council also notes that:

- (1) most off-junction pelican crossings are set at 30-second vehicle green phase;
- (2) in many locations, this acts as a barrier to walking, causing delay and encouraging pedestrians to cross when the pedestrian 'red man' is showing;
- (3) there exist crossings with 20-second vehicle green phase in Oxford (Cowley Road) and in other parts of Britain, which give pedestrians a much greater sense of priority; and
- (4) research evidence has shown that reducing the vehicle green phase has significant measurable effects on pedestrian compliance and typically minimal or no impact on traffic capacity.

This Council also notes that:

- (i) Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan commits the Council to the targets of increasing walking overall by 5% by 2002 and 10% by 2004 (on 2000 base);
- (ii) Oxfordshire County Walking Strategy 1998 states that (3.23) 'The phasing of all pedestrian crossings on CPRNs (Core Pedestrian Route Networks) should be reviewed so that, where possible, pedestrian wait time is minimised'; and
- (iii) the Government Strategy 'Encouraging Walking' states under the heading (3.2) 'tactical actions which can make existing walking routes much better with comparatively low investment' lists 'reducing waiting times at signal controlled crossings'.

Council therefore resolves in respect of off-junction pelican crossings to

- (a) set as standard 20-second vehicle green phase in all new crossings;
- (b) undertake a review of all existing pelican crossings in Oxfordshire;
- (c) incorporate a 20-second vehicle green phase as standard in all pelican crossings; and
- (d) ensure adequate (vehicle red) crossing time is incorporated to meet the needs of slower (disabled and older) pedestrians."

RESOLVED: to refer the motion to the Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee for them to consider and determine within their delegated authority.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000

County Council, 18/07/00. Agenda Item 04, Annex 1

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 4

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

ANNEX 1

The Chair has received notice of the following interests:-

Strategy & Resources Committee Minute 56/00 – Oxford City Schools Reorganisation – Financial Position

Councillor Horton – pecuniary

Social Services Committee Minute 53/00 – Primary Care Trust Development

Councillor Mitchell – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Social Services Committee Minute 59/00 – Future Use of Orchard Lodge

Councillor Janet Godden – insubstantial, non-pecuniary

Education Committee Minute 54/00 – Post-16 Transport: Options for Improvement in Provision

Councillor R Evans – pecuniary

Education Committee Minute 57/00 – Teachers' Pensions – Actuarially Reduced Retirement Benefits

Councillor Turner – pecuniary

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 8

STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.05 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors Nils R. Bartleet, David Buckle (in place of Councillor Ted Cooper), A.D. Crabbe (in place of Councillor D.L.B. Spencer), Dhall, Neil Fawcett, Margaret Ferriman, Mrs C. Fulljames, Janet Godden, Margaret Godden, Brian Hodgson, Tim Horton, Shereen Karmali, Colin Lamont, Brian Law, Keith Mitchell, Janet Morgan, Don Seale, C.H. Shouler and Sylvia Tompkins.

Officers:

Whole of meeting: Chief Executive, S. Capaldi, C.J. Impey and Mrs A. Lowe; County Treasurer and P. Gerrish; Director of Environmental Services; Director of Social Services; County Trading Standards Officer; Chief Fire Officer; R. Smith (Education Department); A. Coggins (Cultural Services).

Part of meeting: Chief Education Officer; D. Illingworth (County Treasurer's Department).

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a tabled schedule of addenda. Copies of the agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto the Committee determined as follows:-

48/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hodgson (Labour) be elected to chair the meeting.

49/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

Apology from

Temporary Appointment

Councillor Cooper

Councillor Buckle

Councillor Spencer

Councillor Crabbe

50/00 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Horton declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Oxford City Reorganisation – Financial Position).

51/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2000 were approved and signed.

52/00 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 29/00 – Capital Programme 2000/01

The Director of Environmental Services agreed to write to Councillor Seale with up-to-date costings for the A40 bus lane.

53/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 7)

The Committee had before them a report (SR7) which presented the Council's provisional revenue outturn position in relation to the 1999/2000 Budget. This indicated a provisional overspend of £208,000 to be funded by variations in contributions to and from Reserves. The provisional County Fund Balance at 31 March 2000 stood at £5.8m.

Before considering the report, the Chief Executive drew the Committee's attention to a letter received from Hilary Armstrong, the Minister for Local Government and the Regions, a copy of which he circulated to members of the Committee. The Minister was seeking a meeting with the Authority to discuss the background to what, on the face of it, she believed could be said to be excessive increases in council tax and budget requirements for the past two years. The Chief Executive emphasised that the Council's budget for 2000/01 was not under threat. However, depending on the outcome of her meeting, the Minister would then decide whether to take any further action under her reserve powers to effectively cap the Council for 2001/02.

RESOLVED: (by 12 votes to 0) to:

- (a) receive the report;
- (b) approve the request from the Operations Sub-Committee that the overspend of £35,000 on the District Audit Fee budget be funded from revenue balances;
- (c) approve the return of the surplus remaining on the Commercial Services Reserve at the end of 1999/2000 to the Environmental Committee as a one-off contribution to the Highways Maintenance budget.

54/00 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT – 2000/01 budget

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a report (SR8) which presented the Council's 2000/01 Budget, setting out the financial issues and budget pressures identified to date and providing an update on progress towards achieving 2000/01 budget targets. Current projections at this early stage of the year indicated a County Fund Balance of £5.4m at 31 March 2001. However there were a number of funding requests from service committees referred to in the report which, if approved, could reduce this figure.

Referring to paragraph 20, the County Trading Standards Officer reported that to date he had

received no response from the Oxfordshire Health Authority to his request for funding to expand the Proof of Age Scheme across the whole County. He had also put in a bid to the Council's own Community Leadership Budget but did not yet know the outcome.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Ferriman and carried as indicated below):

- (a) (unanimously) to receive the report;
- (b) (unanimously) that, subject to the eventual purchase price being agreed by the County Treasurer and the Director of Environmental Services, the opportunity purchase of land for Carswell School, Abingdon be funded temporarily from balances and recovered from the Education Committee within the next two financial years;
- (c) (on an amendment by Councillor Margaret Godden, seconded by Councillor Janet Godden, accepted by Councillor Hodgson with the leave of the Committee and of his seconder and carried by 11 votes to 0) to provide a supplementary estimate to the Education Committee to fund the additional estimated costs for the improvement in provision for post-16 transport, to be repaid in 2001/02 as a first call on growth money in that year;
- (d) (unanimously) to agree the request from the Public Protection Committee for a supplementary estimate of £15,000 to roll out the Proof of Age Scheme Countywide;
- (e) (unanimously) to determine the financing of any approved funding as part of the consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan in September 2000; and
- (f) (on an amendment by Councillor Shouler, seconded by Councillor Seale, accepted by Councillor Hodgson with the leave of the Committee and his seconder and carried by 16 votes to 0) to confirm the inclusion of the efficiency savings target of £1m in both years 2001/02 and 2002/03 in the Medium Term Plan.

55/00 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report (SR9) which set out the provisional capital outturn position for 1999/2000 and identified an underspending of £4.387m against the capital programme for the year.

RESOLVED: to note the provisional capital outturn position for 1999/2000.

56/00 OXFORD CITY SCHOOLS REORGANISATION –FINANCIAL POSITION

(Agenda Item 10)

(Councillor Horton withdrew from the meeting until the debate on this item had been concluded and the vote taken.)

The Committee had before them (SR10) details of the revenue expenditure which had been committed so far for 2000/01 in relation to the Reorganisation of Schools in Oxford City, together with yet to be agreed costs for 2001/02 and future years.

Discussions with the DfEE over sources of funding were ongoing and a note from the Chief Education Officer setting out the current position was attached to the schedule of addenda. Insufficient progress had been made to warrant the special meeting of the Education Committee that had been planned for the previous day taking place. The meeting had accordingly been cancelled.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Karmali, seconded by Councillor Buckle and carried by 17 votes to 0):

- (a) *to note the outcome of the meeting with the DfEE on the possibility of funding being provided to assist with the reorganisation;*
- (b) to note the commitment of £100,000 in fees to date and approve the commitment of up to a further £200,000 on design work, no further fees to be committed without reference to the Education Urgency Sub-Committee;
- (c) to agree that the revenue expenditure of £438,000 so far committed for 2000/01 (with potential implications for future years) be considered as a charge against the committee carry forward reserve and recovered in future years from savings from the reorganisation, with the position being reviewed in the event of the reorganisation not proceeding.

57/00 Oxfordshire's SSA (STANDARD SPENDING ASSESSMENT) for Social Services

(Agenda Item 11)

The Committee considered a commentary (SR11) which set out some observations on the Social Services SSA. It considered the Council's spending levels and performance, the four separate SSAs that were received for Social Services and the impact of possible 'Safety Valves' on Oxfordshire.

During the debate a number of comments and suggestions were made by members, which Mr Illingworth agreed to take into account when finalising the commentary.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Margaret Godden, seconded by Councillor Janet Godden and carried nem con) to:

- (a) receive and endorse the commentary at SR11; and
- (b) instruct officers to agree the final version of the commentary with the Social Services Spokespersons and to circulate it to local MPs and to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

58/00 APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED: to make the following appointments on the nomination of the political groups:

Best Value & Audit Sub-Committee

Councillor Richardson in place of Councillor Tompkins

Councillor Roaf in place of Councillor Janet Godden

Best Value & Audit Urgency Sub-Committee

Councillor Mayhew-Archer in place of Councillor Janet Godden

Investment & Pensions Sub-Committee

Councillor Buckle in place of Councillor Green

Councillor Moley in place of Councillor Jan Morgan

Operations Sub-Committee

Councillor Wyatt in place of Councillor Nicholson

Operations Urgency Sub-Committee

Councillor Hook in place of Councillor Tudor Hughes

Personnel Sub-Committee

Councillor Jill Davies in place of Councillor Janet Godden

Standards Sub-Committee

Councillor Stedman in place of Councillor Green

Councillor Roaf in place of Councillor Margaret Godden

Strategy & Resources Urgency Sub-Committee

Councillor Margaret Godden in place of Councillor Roaf

59/00 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CAPITAL PROGRAMME – DIDCOT TO MILTON HEIGHTS LINK ROAD STAGE 2 (PHASE 1)

(Agenda Item 13)

On the recommendation of the Environmental Committee, it was

RESOLVED: to approve Project Appraisal H29/7 relating to the Didcot to Milton Heights Link Road Stage 2 (Phase 1).

60/00 INVESTMENT & PENSIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 14)

RESOLVED: that the Investment & Pensions Sub-Committee Minutes of 19 May 2000 be received.

61/00 BEST VALUE & AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 15)

RESOLVED: that the Best Value & Audit Sub-Committee Minutes of 24 May 2000 be received.

62/00 OPERATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 16)

RESOLVED: that the Operations Sub-Committee Minutes of 8 June 2000 be received

63/00 PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 17)

RESOLVED: that the Personnel Sub-Committee Minutes of 13 June 2000 be received.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 9

PUBLIC PROTECTION Committee – 5 JUNE 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.05 p.m.

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors David Buckle, Mrs Dee Bulley, Brenda Churchill, Mrs J. Heathcoat, Bob Langridge, Mrs Diana Ludlow, Norman Matthews (in place of Councillor John Farrow), Keith Mitchell (in place of Councillor Barry Wood), Jim Moley, David Nicholson, Anne Purse, Rodney Rose, Sam Segaran, Tony Stockford and Harry Wyatt.

Ex Officio:

Councillors Margaret Godden and Brian Hodgson.

Officers:

Whole of meeting: Mrs A. Lowe (Chief Executive's Office); Chief Fire Officer and J. Parry; County Trading Standards Officer and B. Yendole; County Emergency Planning Officer; Mrs P. Block (County Treasurer's Department).

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, copies of which agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto determined as follows:-

64/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Purse (Liberal Democrat) be elected to chair the meeting.

65/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

Apology from

Temporary Appointment

Councillor Farrow

Councillor Matthews

Councillor Wood

Councillor Mitchell

66/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 March 2000 were approved and signed.

67/00 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 18/00 – Thames Valley Police Authority

In response to a question from Councillor Purse, the Chief Fire Officer explained that the figure of £1.4m quoted in Police Authority Minute 82 (Police Safety Radio Communications Project) was the net cost to the TVPA of the replacement radio communications system. This did not include the cost of the core service, which would be top-sliced from police grant. This was in marked contrast to the Fire Service, which would receive no government grant towards the cost of its new Command and Control System, nor was it permitted to buy into the Police scheme.

68/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 7)

The Committee considered a report (PP7) which presented the provisional revenue outturn for this Committee and identified variations in 1999/2000 to be carried forward into 2000/01 under the Council's budget management arrangements.

The report identified an anticipated net overspend of £398,000. This was made up of a £94,000 overspend on repair and maintenance of buildings, which would be met by the Operations Sub-Committee; a net overspend of £420,000, mainly relating to the Firefighters Pension Account and Retained Firefighters, which would be met centrally from Council balances; and a net underspend of £116,000 resulting mainly from slippage in expenditure and increased income for the Fire Service and Trading Standards.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

69/00 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a schedule (PP8) showing the provisional capital outturn for this Committee. This indicated no significant variations from the approved capital programme.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

70/00 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report (PP9) which set out the Committee's 2000/01 Budget and, whilst it was still early in the year, identified the financial issues which would need to be addressed during the year and the action taken to date to achieve the 2000/01 policy plans.

In introducing the report Mrs Block drew particular attention to the estimated overspend on retained firefighter budgets of £200,000. This reflected the continuing success of recruitment campaigns and compared with an overspending of £220,000 in 1999/2000. She highlighted also paragraph 5 of the report, in which the Committee were alerted to the implications for retained firefighters of a recent European Union legal ruling applying pension rights to part-time workers. This could have serious financial consequences, which could not be estimated at the present time, particularly if the arrangement were backdated to 1976, as seemed possible.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to receive the report;
- (b) (on a motion by Councillor Purse, seconded by Councillor Langridge and carried nem con) to alert Oxfordshire MPs to the fact that the recent European Union legal ruling applying pension rights to part-time workers could have serious financial consequences in relation to retained firefighters and to ask that these be taken into account as part of this year's local government spending review.

71/00 DEPARTMENTAL MEDIUM TERM PLANS 2000/01 TO 2004/05
(Agenda Item 10)

The County Council was moving towards a medium term planning structure, with a corporate medium term plan, supported by more detailed departmental plans. The first round of corporate and departmental medium term plans had been produced in Spring/Summer 1999. As initial plans these were largely provisional documents that would be developed during the remainder of the 1999/2000 financial year into more comprehensive plans for the future. As a consequence of this development process the County Council had now published a new corporate plan "The Oxfordshire Plan 2000/01 - 2004/05", which set out overall objectives and priorities, and a range of key service targets and improvements over the next few years. This Plan also served as the Council's statutory Best Value Performance Plan.

It was now envisaged that each service department would produce, by June 2000, a similar complementary plan which would set out in more detail what its overall objectives were, and how they contributed to objectives in the over-arching corporate plan.

The Committee now had before them:

- (i) the Trading Standards Service's draft plan (PP10(a));
- (ii) the Fire Service Best Value Annual Performance Plan; and
- (iii) an interim report from the County Emergency Planning Officer setting out current performance measures and targets for the Unit and explaining that new National Standards were still awaited.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to approve the Trading Standards Medium Term Plan/Performance Plan at PP10(a);
- (b) to approve the Fire Service Best Value Annual Service Plan; and
- (c) to receive the interim report relating to Emergency Planning and to ask the County Emergency Planning Officer to report further when the Home Office had decided on performance measures for emergency planning units.

72/00 COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY (CRE) STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(Agenda Item 11)

In April 1996 the Strategy & Resources Committee had asked chief officers to report annually to committees on performance against the CRE Standard. The Committee now had before them

reports from the Chief Fire Officer (PP11(a)) and the County Trading Standards Officer (PP11(b)).

RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the progress made towards achieving Level 3 of the CRE Standard within the Fire Service and Trading Standards; and
- (b) to approve the proposals for action set out in Annex 1 of the report PP11(b) to ensure the Trading Standards Service complied with Level 3 by the end of 2001/2002.

73/00 COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
(Agenda 12)

The Committee had before them summaries of letters of appreciation and complaints received since the last meeting in relation to the services for which they were responsible.

REsolVED: to receive the reports.

74/00 BEST VALUE PILOT REVIEW – FIRE SERVICE ESSENTIAL USERS WHITE FLEET
(Agenda Item 13)

Following a Best Value Pilot Review of the Fire Service Essential User Fleet, the Committee in December 1999 had agreed to externalise the Essential User element of the White Fleet, i.e. the provision of vehicles for use by officers who respond to emergency incidents.

The Committee now had before them a report on progress towards the introduction of a leasing scheme. Discussions were currently taking place with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, who had operated a successful leasing scheme for their own vehicles for the last six years, with a view to their managing an Oxfordshire scheme.

In speaking to the report Mr Parry confirmed that the response from those officers involved had been positive, as was the reaction of Union representatives. He could not at this stage confirm the ultimate level of savings/payback period as take-up would need to be phased to allow for individuals' existing arrangements to expire. However he did expect that the majority of officers would be in the leasing scheme within the next three years.

RESOLVED: to authorise the Chief Fire Officer to progress externalisation of the Essential User element of the brigade's White Fleet, subject to satisfactory negotiation with the relevant representative bodies and confirmation of achieving projected savings.

75/00 QUALITY OF SERVICE MONITORING – OPERATIONS AND FIRE SAFETY
(Agenda Item 14)

The Committee considered a report (PP14) which provided a six-monthly analysis of returned "Quality of Service Delivery" questionnaires.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

76/00 FIRE SERVICE INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AND OUTPUT INDICATORS – QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2000

(Agenda Item 15)

The Committee considered details of the Brigade's internal performance and output indicators for the quarter ended 31 March 2000 (PP15).

RESOLVED: to note the report.

77/00 RETAINED FIRE STATIONS QUARTERLY REPORT

(Agenda Item 16)

The Committee considered tables (PP16) detailing the Retained Station establishments, strength variations, calls, crewing of appliances and confidence levels for the quarter ending 31 March 2000 and for comparative purposes the previous quarter.

RESOLVED: to receive the information at PP16.

78/00 ILLEGAL SALES OF PRODUCTS TO YOUNG PERSONS: PROOF OF AGE SCHEME

(Agenda Item 17)

In September 1999 the Committee had introduced a pilot proof of age scheme to secure improved compliance with the law in respect of the supply of a range of age restricted products. The Committee now had before them a report (PP17) updating members on the progress made in introducing this scheme and making proposals for extending the scheme Countywide. The report also outlined enforcement in 1999/2000 and proposed an enforcement programme for 2000/01.

In speaking to the report, Mr Yendole indicated that, should the Committee agree to extend the scheme, the next two areas were likely to be Oxford City and South Oxfordshire.

Members expressed considerable support for the scheme and were anxious to extend it across the whole County as soon as possible. It was noted that the County Trading Standards Officer was already exploring sources of funding to achieve this (including Oxfordshire Health Authority and the Council's Community Leadership Budget), but if these efforts were not successful members felt the Strategy & Resources Committee should be made aware of the funding shortfall.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Churchill, seconded by Councillor Buckle and carried by 14 votes to 0) to:

- (a) welcome the success of the pilot Proof of Age Scheme;
- (b) extend the scheme at a cost of £15,000 to a further two district council areas in 2000/01 funded from finance carried forward from underspends in 1999/2000;
- (c) ask the County Trading Standards Officer to continue to pursue additional funding to enable the scheme to be rolled out Countywide and to report the outcome to the Strategy & Resources Committee on 27 June;
- (d) advise the Strategy & Resources Committee that it would cost a further one-off sum of

£15,000 to extend the scheme across the whole County and to ask that Committee to make the necessary funds available to achieve this should the alternative sources of finance being investigated by the County Trading Standards Officer not be forthcoming;

- (e) approve the enforcement programme for 2000/01, as set out in paragraphs 14 to 16 of the report.

79/00 SUN PROTECTION CREAMS

(Agenda Item 18)

The Committee considered a report (PP18) which provided details of the effects of human exposure to ultraviolet rays; the current legal controls applicable to the labelling of sunscreen products in the UK; and what information was commonly found on sunscreen labels. As a result of a complex investigation culminating in a successful ground-breaking prosecution in Witney Magistrates Court and subsequent research, a number of proposals were now made for improving the controls on the supply of sunscreen products in the UK.

Mr Yendole introduced the report and gave a short visual presentation.

The Committee congratulated the County Trading Standards Officer on the important work he and his staff had done in relation to this matter. He confirmed that a Press Release would be issued and undertook to circulate this, together with a copy of his report PP18, to all members of the Council.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Purse, duly seconded and carried nem con):

- (a) to congratulate the County Trading Standards Officer and his staff for the excellent work done in connection with this matter; and
- (b) to request the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry to introduce improved controls for the supply of suncreams and require:-
 - (i) the stated SPF to be qualified by the addition of a category description;
 - (ii) an appropriate UVA rating to be placed next to the stated SPF;
 - (iii) compulsory use of a "best before" date and storage warning;
 - (iv) additional informative instructions on how the product should be applied, including quantities to be used, and the frequency of application;
 - (v) a review of SPF and UVA test methods with a view to standardisation, including a requirement for manufacturers and importers to test their products and make records available to enforcement authorities; and
 - (vi) public awareness campaigns to be amended to take account of the issues raised in this report.

80/00 EMPLOYEE SURVEY

(Agenda Item 19)

The County Council had carried out an Employee Survey in November 1999. Subsequently the Strategy & Resources Committee had asked chief officers to report to their service committees on survey findings relevant to their services and proposed actions thereon.

The Committee had before them a report by the County Trading Standards Officer (PP19) which considered the results of the employee survey, together with the outcome of an earlier staff

satisfaction survey undertaken in Trading Standards in October 1999. Areas for improvement had been identified and an action plan produced.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

81/00 THAMES VALLEY POLICE AUTHORITY
(Agenda Item 20)

In relation to Police Authority Minute 99, Mrs Lowe undertook to write to Councillor Churchill (with copies to the Public Protection Committee Spokespersons) to let her know the outcome of the meeting with the Home Office Minister on 18 April 2000 to discuss policing operations in connection with Hillgrove Farm, Witney.

RESOLVED: to receive the Thames Valley Police Authority Minutes of 18 February 2000 and of the special meeting on 14 April 2000 and draw them to the attention of the Council (**ANNEX**).

in the Chair

Date of signing 2000

County Council, 18/07/00, Agenda Item 10

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 10

social services Committee – 23 may 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at 2.40 p.m.

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors Ted Cooper, Mrs Ann Davis, Jerry Dempsey, Dhall, Margaret Ferriman, Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor, Janet Godden, Steve Hayward (in place of Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat) Bob Johnston, Terry Joslin (in place of Councillor Neville F. Harris) Brian Law, Norman Matthews, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Sandra Mold, Mrs Jan Morgan, John Power, Anne Purse, Don Seale and David Turner.

Ex Officio:

Councillors Margaret Godden, Dave Green, Brian Hodgson and Keith Mitchell.

Officers:

Whole of meeting: D.N. Bishop and J.A. Dean (Chief Executive's Office), Director of Social Services, L. Brown.

Part of meeting: P. Hodgson and N. Welch (Social Services Department); P. Gerrish (County Treasurer's Department)

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 by the Chief Executive. Copies of the agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto the Committee determined as follows:-

39/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Cooper (Labour) be elected to chair the meeting.

40/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

Apology from

Temporary Appointment

Councillor Harris

Councillor Joslin

Councillor Mrs Heathcoat

Councillor Hayward

41/00 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillors Mitchell and Janet Godden declared insubstantial, non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Items 16(a) and 21 respectively.

42/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 2000 were approved and signed.

43/00 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

The following request to address the meeting had been agreed:

<u>Request from</u> Mr Michael Hugh-Jones, Secretary, Oxfordshire Pensioners Action Group	Agenda Item 9 – Notice of Motion – Cuts in Social Services; and 20 – Developments in Services for Older People
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**44/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 1999/00
(Agenda Item 7)**

The Committee had before them a report (SS7) which gave details of the year-end provisional revenue outturn position for Social Services and identified variations in 1999/00 to be carried forward into 2000/01 in accordance with the Council's budget management arrangements.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) receive the report; and
- (b) request the officers to submit a comprehensive capital programme report to a future meeting of the Committee.

**45/00 DEPARTMENTAL MEDIUM TERM PLAN
(Agenda Item 8)**

The Committee considered a report (SS8) which summarised progress made in relation to the objectives set out in the Social Services Medium Term Plan for 1999/2002. The report also gave a proposed planning cycle for 2000/01 and beyond and linked the departmental Medium Term Plan with the Council's Oxfordshire Plan.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Cooper, duly seconded and carried by 12 votes to 0) to:

- (a) note the report and the progress against the objectives for 1999/2000;
- (b) agree the planning processes in 2000/01 and 2001/2004 as set down in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report.

**46/00 cuts in social services
(Agenda Item 9)**

The Council on 9 May 2000 had referred the following motion by Councillor Dhall to this Committee to consider and determine:-

"Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing concern at the magnitude of the cuts imposed on social services under the present government and highlighting the following:

- (a) that good community relations between the County Council and sections of the public have been harmed by the closure of services that were locally popular, such as Oseney Court Elderly People's Home;
- (b) that such services will be unlikely ever to be replaced locally and as such the community element of the service is likely to be lost forever;
- (c) that some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire are facing added financial hardship as a result of the cuts; and
- (d) that some of the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire are at greater risk of danger or harm as a result of the cuts.

Council therefore asks the relevant Government bodies to urgently review the situation, in the light of their public commitment to social welfare and to reducing social exclusion."

Councillor Seale proposed that the motion be amended as follows:

- in relation to (a), delete all wording after 'locally popular' and substitute with 'essential and effective';
- in relation to (c), insert the words ' many people amongst them' after 'that' and the insertion of 'including carers' after 'Oxfordshire'.

Councillor Dhall indicated that this amendment was acceptable to her and with the consent of the Committee amended her motion accordingly.

Councillor Janet Godden then moved and it was duly seconded that the motion be further amended as follows:

- replace (a) with 'that two external reviews in the past four years have failed to identify scope for efficiency savings on anything like the scale needed to bring expenditure down to SSA';
- replace (b) with 'that the loss of valued services are having a harmful effect on the County Council's relations with local communities, thereby jeopardising future opportunities for joint working';
- amend the final paragraph by the deletion of the word 'situation' and its substitution by the words 'standard spending assessment for social services in Oxfordshire and other shire counties'.

At the suggestion of Councillor Ferriman and with the leave of the Committee and her seconder, Councillor Janet Godden amended the final paragraph of her amendment by the substitution of the word 'review' for 'remedy'.

This amendment was put to the vote and was carried by 12 votes to 0.

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED: (by 18 votes to 0) that

"Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing concern at the magnitude of the cuts imposed on social services under the present government and highlighting the following:

- (a) that two external reviews in the past four years have failed to identify scope for efficiency savings on anything like the scale needed to bring expenditure down to SSA;
- (b) that the loss of valued services are having a harmful effect on the County Council's relations with local communities, thereby jeopardising future opportunities for joint working;
- (c) that many people, amongst them some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire, including carers, are facing added financial hardship as a result of the cuts; and
- (d) that some of the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire are at greater risk of danger or harm as a result of the cuts.

Council therefore asks the relevant Government Department to urgently remedy the SSA for social services in Oxfordshire and other shire counties in the light of their public commitment to social welfare and to reducing social exclusion."

47/00 BEST VALUE REVIEW DOMICILIARY CARE/MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN
(Agenda Item 10)

On 30 November 1999 the Best Value & Audit Sub-Committee had agreed that the pilot Best Value Review in respect of Domiciliary Care for older people would move forward into 2000/01 as a main Best Value Review. A revised BV2 form was due to be presented to the Sub-Committee on 24 May 2000.

The Committee's approval was sought to the creation of a temporary post of Project Officer (Domiciliary Care Development) in order to meet the expectations of the Best Value Review and the required target savings for domiciliary care of older people, as agreed on 17 April 2000.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) establish the post of Project Officer (Domiciliary Care Development) for the period of one year, finance for which would be available from the resources identified in the Policy and Budget Plans to support changes in domiciliary care.

48/00 CAPITAL PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 11)

The Committee had before them an Outline Project Appraisal (SS11) for the re-provision of facilities for

clients from the Blenheim Road Centre, Kidlington.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Janet Godden, seconded by Councillor Dhall and carried nem con) to:

- (a) approve the Outline Project Appraisal SS2/2000 for the reprovision of the Blenheim Road Centre facilities and to welcome an innovative joint scheme with Cultural Services;
- (b) declare surplus the areas marked 'B' and 'C' on the plan;
- (c) **RECOMMEND** the Operations Sub-Committee to
 - (i) agree that the areas marked "B" or "B & A" on the plan (should "A" not be required for a new build scheme for the replacement service) be sold to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, subject to final negotiations with the Director of Social Services and acceptable terms being agreed by the Director of Environmental Services; and
 - (ii) agree to the sale of the area marked 'C' on the plan on the open market.

49/00 CHILDREN'S DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRES – PROGRESS REPORT

(Agenda Item 12)

The Committee had before them a progress report (SS12) describing the current position with regard to the fundraising campaign to establish the County's existing four Children's Disability Resource Centres within an independent organisation.

During the debate Councillor Seale proposed and Councillor Hayward seconded that paragraph (d) of the resolution below be amended to include the words 'up to' before '£400,000'. On being put to the vote, the motion was lost by 11 votes to 6.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the current position regarding the fundraising campaign;
- (b) to instruct the Director of Social Services to continue discussions with Barnardo's and the independent partnership organisation to maintain four Centres within the revenue funds available;
- (c) that negotiations with the new organisation and staff continue to complete the transfer of the service from 1 September 2000;
- (d) to confirm the allocation of £400,000 in this financial year from the contingency monies.

50/00 ASYLUM SEEKERS

(Agenda Item 13)

Approval was sought to modify the Asylum Seeker Team in order to provide a coherent and robust system to support the majority of asylum seekers currently resident within Oxfordshire for at least the next twelve months.

RESOLVED: to approve the establishment of three posts within the asylum seeker team of Service Manager, Finance Officer and Fraud Officer, on fixed term contracts for one year, the costs of which would be met by government grant.

51/00 DAY SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY
(Agenda Item 14)

On 28 September 1999 the Committee had received a report which set out progress made in relation to year 1 of the 1999/2000 Implementation Plan to develop the Social Services Department's day services for adults with a learning disability; together with a summary of implementation and resource management issues relating to years 2 and 3 and of the Day Services Development Strategy 'New Directions'. The Strategy identified changes in service provision in accordance with national good practice guidance and consultation with users, carers and staff and included the introduction of two new posts and a revision of the workforce profile.

The Committee now had before them a report (SS14) which reviewed the work that had taken place on the 'New Directions' strategy. The report also included information on the revision of the workforce profiles across the service and work underway to achieve the budget cuts for 2001/02.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) receive the report;
- (b) endorse the new workforce profiles as detailed in paragraph 22 of the report, subject to final consultation arrangements;
- (c) request the Director of Social Services to report the outcomes of the feasibility study, detailing service options to achieve the budget reductions for 2001/02 to a future meeting of this Committee.

52/00 ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES – RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION - 1 WESTLANDS DRIVE, NORTHWAY, OXFORD
(Agenda Item 15)

The Committee considered a report (SS15) which proposed that the residential property 1 Westlands Drive, Northway, Oxford be appropriated to the Social Services Committee to enable its use as 'supported living' accommodation in partnership with a Housing Association, in accordance with the Adults with Learning Disability Strategy.

Councillor Cooper proposed and Councillor Ferriman seconded that the Committee defer the proposal on the grounds that there had been no immediate local consultation. On being put to the vote the motion was lost by 14 votes to 4.

resolved:

- (a) that the Operations Sub-Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to declare 1 Westlands Drive, Northway, Oxford surplus to staff housing requirements and agree that it be appropriated to

the Social Services Committee, at an appropriation fee set at the market value of the property; and

- (b) (i) to appropriate the property at the full market value;
- (ii) to undertake any necessary works to allow the property to be subsequently sold to a Housing Association on conditions requiring it to be used to accommodate people with learning disabilities; and
- (iii) to fund the appropriation fee from the subsequent capital receipt, with the balance from receipts to be achieved through similar sales of hostels.

53/00 PRIMARY CARE TRUST DEVELOPMENT
(Agenda Item 16(a))

The Committee were informed that the six Primary Care Groups had now notified Oxfordshire Health Authority of their intention to consult during Summer 2000 on a proposal to become five Primary Care Trusts by April 2001.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Janet Godden, duly seconded and amended at the suggestion of Councillor Mitchell with the consent of the seconder and the Committee and carried nem con)

- (a) to note the report;
- (b) (i) to request the Director of Social Services to convene a seminar, to take place in July 2000, to consider the Committee's response to the consultation, to which all members of the Council be invited together with other appropriate people to give their advice and views;
- (ii) that attendance at the seminar be deemed an approved duty for the purpose of members' allowances for members of the Social Services Committee and Group Leaders;
- (c) that, following discussion at the seminar, the Director of Social Services be requested to draft a response to the consultation, following consultation with the Political Group Spokespersons and that this be determined by the Committee on 3 October 2000, or by the Urgency Sub-Committee should this prove necessary.

54/00 MODERNISING SOCIAL SERVICES – SPECIAL GRANTS
(Agenda Item 16(b))

The Committee had before them a report (SS16(b)) which outlined progress in respect of the various special grants which support the Government's modernisation agenda for Social Services and described the conditions applied to their usage.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) endorse the proposals contained in the various grant plans as set out in the report; and
- (c) (on a motion by Councillor Janet Godden, duly seconded and carried nem con) request the Director of Social Services to report to a future meeting of this Committee on progress with Young Carers and the Prevention Strategy.

55/00 CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INSPECTION UNIT
(Agenda Item 17)

The Committee had before them the ninth annual report (SS17) by the Chief Inspector on the work of the Social Services Independent Inspection Unit which outlined the resourcing and workload of the Unit and the major national changes and key issues affecting the Unit.

Members' attention was drawn to the serious concerns expressed by the Social Services Inspection Advisory Panel as set out on the tabled Schedule of Addenda.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) accept the Chief Inspector's annual report; and
- (b) (on a motion by Councillor Mayhew-Archer, duly seconded and carried nem con) request the Chief Executive to send a copy of the report to all those members of the Children's & Young People's Sub-Committee who were not members of this Committee.

56/00 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SERVICE
(Agenda Item 18)

The Committee had before them a report (SS18) which sought approval to establish 1.5fte care manager posts with administrative support, to manage the rise in demand for the County Council drugs and alcohol service.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the increased demand placed on the Department in the light of an increase in serious drug misuse in the population; and
- (b) approve the establishment of additional posts as set out in paragraph 11 of the report, for which finance was available.

57/00 ALLOCATION OF GRANTS BUDGET 2000/2001
(Agenda Item 19)

The Committee had before them (SS19 – Annex 1) the 2000/2001 agreed grants budget allocation together with a summary of the principal points made in discussion with the Committee's Political Group Spokespersons concerning the grants budget's future use.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the main points of the discussion concerning the future use of the grants budget; and
- (b) request the Director of Social Services to submit a report to the 3 October 2000 meeting with revised criteria for seeking proposals for the use of the grants budget for 2001/02.

58/00 DEVELOPMENTS IN SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
(Agenda Item 20)

The Committee considered a proposal to convene a seminar for members to discuss the main issues

currently affecting services for older people and the overall impact.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the report;
- (b) (i) to request the Director of Social Services to convene a seminar on the main issues currently affecting services for older people, to take place on 23 June 2000, to which all members of the Council be invited;
- (ii) that attendance at the seminar be deemed an approved duty for the purpose of members' allowances for members of the Social Services Committee and Group Leaders.

59/00 FUTURE USE OF ORCHARD LODGE

(Agenda Item 21)

The Committee considered a request by the Oxfordshire Mental Health Care Trust to lease Orchard Lodge, Banbury, former home for older people, on a short term basis.

RESOLVED: to agree to lease Orchard Lodge, Banbury to the Oxfordshire Mental Health Care Trust on terms to be agreed by the Director of Environmental Services.

60/00 APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, ETC

(Agenda Item 22)

RESOLVED: to make the following appointments:-

Children's & Young People's Sub-Committee

Councillor Janet Godden in place of Councillor Margaret Godden
Councillor Turner in place of Councillor Purse.

Social Services Urgency Sub-Committee

Councillor Janet Godden in place of Councillor Margaret Godden.

Social Services Inspection Advisory Panel

Councillor Mrs Jan Morgan in place of Councillor Margaret Godden.

HlmP Partnership Board

Councillor Hodgson in place of Councillor Stedman
Councillor Margaret Godden in place of Councillor Mrs Jan Morgan.

61/00 HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 23)

RESOLVED: that the Homes for Older People Sub-Committee Minutes of 16 March 2000 be received.

62/00 CHILDREN'S & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 24)

RESOLVED: that the Children's & Young People's Sub-Committee Minutes of 13 April 2000 be received.

63/00 EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded during the consideration of items 25E and 26E in the Agenda since it was likely that if they were present during those items there would be a disclosure of "exempt" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below each item in the Agenda, i.e. information relating to:-

- (a) the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority) (Agenda Item 25E);
- (b) any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services (Agenda Item 26E).

PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

64/00 WRITING OFF IRRECOVERABLE DEBT*
(Agenda Item 25E)

The Committee considered a report (SS25E) which sought approval to the writing off of an irrecoverable debt valued above £1,000.

RESOLVED: to agree that the debt valued above £1,000, as identified in the report, be written off.

65/00 CAPITAL PROGRAMME*
(Agenda Item 26E)

The Committee had before them a detailed Project Appraisal (SS26E) for the acquisition of the former doctors' surgery, Mereland Road, Didcot for use as a base for the Community Mental Health Team.

RESOLVED: to approve Detailed Project Appraisal SS1/2000, subject to agreement being reached in respect of funding the identified shortfall.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000

** The reports relating to the exempt items have not been made public and should be regarded as strictly private to those members and officers entitled to receive them.*

County Council, 18/07/00, Agenda Item 11

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 11

EDUCATION Committee – 6 JUNE 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 5.20 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors A.D. Crabbe, John Dennis, Dr M. Evans, Robert Evans, Neil Fawcett, Steve Hayward, Mrs Humphries, Shereen Karmali, Norman Matthews, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Jim Moley (in place of Councillor Siobhan McSorley), Janet Morgan, Tom Richardson, George Sanders, C.H. Shouler, Craig Simmons, D.L.B. Spencer, Olive Stedman, Sylvia Tompkins, David Turner and Barry Wood.

Father Patrick Armstrong, Revd Dr J.D. Gay, Mr S. Terry and Mrs L. Werrell.

Non-Voting Members:

Mr S. Curran, Professor J. Howson, Mrs M. Randolph, Ms C. Thomson, Mr D. Tranter and Ms G. Wheatcroft.

Ex Officio:

Councillors Margaret Godden, Brian Hodgson and Keith Mitchell.

Officers:

Whole of meeting: D.N. Bishop and J.T. Hehir (Chief Executive's Office); Chief Education Officer and R. Smith.

Part of meeting: R. Capstick, D. Mankelow, M. Mill, S. Tanner, G. Tee (Education Department); N. Monaghan (Environmental Services); J. Hydari (County Treasurer's Department).

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting together with a schedule of addenda, copies of which agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto determined as follows:-

82/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Janet Morgan (Liberal Democrat) be elected to chair the meeting.

83/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

<u>Apology from</u>	<u>Temporary Appointment</u>
Councillor McSorley	Councillor Moley
Mr E. Moore	-
Mrs T. Smith	-
Mrs B. Williams	-

84/00 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor R. Evans declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 15 – Post 16 Transport Options for Improvement in Provision. Councillor Turner declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 18 –Teachers' Pensions Actuarially Reduced Retirement Benefits.

85/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 March 2000 were approved and signed, subject to the insertion of "non" before "pecuniary interest" in minute 14/00.

86/00 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

PETITIONS

The following petitions had been received in relation to agenda item 9:

- (a) from Father Armstrong – 1859 signatures – requesting full Catholic educational facilities for Catholic Families in and around Oxford;
- (b) objections to the proposed closure of Milham Ford School – 143 signatures;
- (c) from the 'Save our Schools' group consisting of:
 - (1) objections to the proposed change in the education system and the closure of Milham Ford School as the only girls' school in Oxford – 460 signatures;
 - (2) objection to the proposed closure of middle schools – educational grounds and disruption – 231 signatures;
 - (3) objections concerning disadvantage to C of E Schools – 5 signatures;
 - (4) comments on the social and financial consequences – 5 signatures;
- (d) objections concerning disadvantage to C of E Schools – 278 signatures;
- (e) objections to the proposed closure of Milham Ford School – 42 signatures.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

<u>Request from</u>	Agenda Item
Ms A. Skinner) (Save Our Schools Group)))	9 – City Schools Reorganisation
Mr N. Cowell))	
Mr C. Bevan))	
Mrs J. Todd))	
Mr M. Fysh (UNISON))	
Mr M. Alam (Oxfordshire Community Forum	19(a) – Oxfordshire Community Forum
Revd Dr. R. Silva	24 – Carswell School Abingdon – School Playing Field Provision

Ms Skinner addressed the Committee and said that the process of change and consultation on the proposed change from a 3 to 2 tier school system in Oxford City was flawed. A financial shortfall in support for the scheme was predicted and was likely to increase. She urged the Local Education Authority not to deprive children of a stable education environment and to take responsibility for educational damage which she believed would result from change.

Mr Cowell addressed the Committee and said that the Local Education Authority's plans for change were flawed educationally, financially and in planning and property terms. He said that if the main reason for the proposed change was to raise Educational Standards, there was no evidence to suggest that the schools affected were not doing this. Promises of financial gains were unsupported. He urged the Committee to take their decisions with reference to the seven principles of public life as set out in the SOS objection document.

Mr Bevan addressed the Committee and said that whilst St Augustine's School was well supported by Catholic parents, families valued a Catholic School with a Catholic ethos. There were no significant cost benefits to maintaining St. Augustines as a multi-denominational school; standards were not improving and there was clear support for a separate Catholic secondary school in Oxfordshire.

Mrs Todd said that she anticipated that the proposals to change the school system in Oxford City would be submitted to judicial review. The LEA had miscalculated any financial gains. In the longer term she felt that secondary schools in the City would lose their sixth forms and that an independent sixth form college would be created. The proposed changes were promoted by possible financial gains which would not be realised, rather than by raising standards. She urged the Committee to withdraw their support for the changes proposed.

Mr Fysh said that the reported views of UNISON in report ED9 were from the Oxford City Branch rather than the County Council Branch of the Trade Union. Oxfordshire UNISON represented many staff affected by the proposed changes, and wished to maintain an open, constructive environment for negotiation.

Mr Alam and Revd Dr Silva addressed the Committee at agenda items 19(a) and 24 respectively (see Minutes 47/00 and 48/00 below).

87/00 ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED: to vary the order of business as indicated in these Minutes.

88/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 7)

The Committee considered a report (ED7) which set out the provisional revenue outturn for the Committee for 1999/2000 together with year-end variations to be carried forward under the Council's budget management arrangements. The report included a separate section on capital projects underway. It identified the expenditure incurred and analysed the variations between planned and actual expenditure.

Members commented on underspends referred to in the report, including £74,000 on discretionary awards. The Chief Education Officer said that he had publicised the availability of discretionary awards.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

89/00 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a report (ED8) which set out the position on the budget for this Committee as at the end of March 2000, showing projected year end variations and carry forwards.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

90/00 CITY SCHOOLS REORGANISATION

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report (ED9) on the outcome of the statutory processes on proposals to reorganise school provision in Oxford City. Introducing the report, Mr Capstick said that, in law, the statutory notices objection period was followed by a period of one month during which the Local Education Authority had to provide a commentary on objections received and decide whether or not to refer the scheme to the Secretary of the School Organisation Committee. Copies of all objections received were available for inspection by members and the public.

The Chief Education Officer said that the number of pupils affected by the proposed changes was considerably less than the 12,000 which had been quoted in some objections. One of the issues to be addressed in the review was the capital deficit; he wished to see better facilities for schools in Oxford. The review had been promoted to raise educational standards; this would entail financing better staff resources to achieve improvement.

The Committee considered and commented on the tone of the report (ED9), the reporting of objections, the impact of building work on children currently being educated in the schools affected, the traffic implications of the proposals, the possibility of the scheme being referred to judicial review and estimated building costs for works at the schools affected, particularly if punitive clauses were included in contracts.

The Committee then considered the contents of all of the objection letters received and the officers' comments thereon (as referred to in Annexes 1-6).

During the debate the Committee were reminded that some members had opposed the proposal to

change from a three to two tier school system in Oxford City, but that the majority had considered that education standards would improve by changes to the current system. Whilst a shortfall in excess of £10 million was now predicted, this was partly as a consequence of a strategic decision by Oxford City Council to revise its policy in respect of the requirement for social housing. Financing of the proposed scheme would need more detailed consideration than the officers' report, or the Committee, was currently able to provide.

Mr Smith said that discussions would take place with the DfEE on 16 June concerning raising attainment in the City Schools and the funding available to do this. A special meeting of the Education Committee before the Strategy & Resources Committee on 27 June would allow time for discussions with the DfEE. Once funding was approved for the review scheme, it would be accounted for in an adjusted Standard Spending Assessment for the Council.

Father Armstrong referred to the petition presented on behalf of Catholic families in Oxfordshire and said that it was a duty under Canon Law, to provide where necessary, Catholic Schooling for Catholic families.

RESOLVED:

- (a) (on a motion by Councillor Spencer, seconded by Councillor Hayward and carried by 19 votes to 2) in the light of the objections received to the Statutory Notices, to refer the City Reorganisation scheme to the School Organisation Committee for consideration;
- (b) (on a motion by Councillor Janet Morgan, seconded by Councillor Fawcett and carried nem con) hold a special Education Committee at 2.00 pm on 26 June 2000 to establish the financial viability of the City Reorganisation Scheme;
- (c) (on a motion by Councillor Karmali, seconded by Councillor R. Evans and carried by 20 votes to 1) on proportionality (Annex 6), to confirm that the LEA would seek to address any agreed shortfall of Anglican secondary school places by agreeing that the additional secondary capacity required in Didcot, under the new structure plan, should be in a church school if the public consultation demonstrated that such a school had the support of the local community. (See the Oxfordshire School Organisation Plan 1999-2004 paragraph 50*). If, for whatever reasons, the structure plan expansion of Didcot did not take place, or if the local community did not support the establishment of an Anglican Secondary School the LEA would seek to make good any shortfall in other areas;
- (d) (on a motion by Councillor Janet Morgan, seconded by Councillor Spencer and carried by 19 votes to 1) to confirm their support for St Augustine's School as a joint secondary school within a two tier organisation and ask that officers take administrative steps to promote this in conjunction with the relevant bodies;
- (e) to welcome the willingness of Oxford School to provide single sex teaching, and to ask for a further report on practical matters in 2002, i.e. c. one year before commencement;
- (f) to support a revised Standard Number of 35, for consideration by School Organisation Committee, in respect of St Christopher's VC School.

*("The LEA will seek to maintain the current balance of denominational places and ensure that provision is appropriate and supported by local communities").

91/00 ETHNIC MINORITIES CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FORUM
(Agenda Item 19(a))

The Education Committee at their last meeting had deferred the Consultative Committee's recommendation (Minute 37/00(a)) for the Oxfordshire Community Forum, and requested officers in the meantime to provide further information on the Forum's Status. Further information was now before them (ED19(a)).

Mr Alam of the Oxfordshire Community Forum addressed the Committee and referred to the circulated information and to the good consultative processes which had been established between the Forum, the Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee and the Local Education Authority. He urged the Committee to agree to appoint a representative from the Forum as a co-opted member on the Committee.

Councillor R. Evans moved and Councillor Karmali seconded, to support the allocation of a non-voting co-opted place to represent the interests of ethnic minority communities on the Education Committee and recommend that the co-opted representative be elected annually by the community co-opted members of the Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee.

On being put to a vote the motion was lost by 11 votes to 7.

RESOLVED: to agree that a non-voting co-opted place on the Education Committee for the Oxfordshire Community Forum so that they might represent the interests of the ethnic minority community should not be created, but to encourage community representatives of the Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee to use the public address procedure to draw to the Committee's attention particular concerns which they might have on issues before the Committee.

92/00 EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 24)

Rev Dr Silva addressed the Committee in relation to Minute 32/00 – Carswell School Abingdon – School Playing Field Provision. He spoke to points in support of provision of playing space at Carswell School which he had circulated, namely; the School's record, educational considerations, the support of parents and the community, that it was the final opportunity to return the area of land in question to the school's use and in the interests of the quality of education provision.

RESOLVED:

- (a) (on a motion by Councillor Mayhew-Archer, duly seconded and carried nem con) to note that:
- (i) the school premises did not meet the statutory requirements for playing fields and in particular were very short of grassed areas;
 - (ii) the land in question was formerly owned by the Council and was an integral part of the school's site;
 - (iii) the chance to recover the land would not recur making it particularly important that this opportunity was not missed; and

therefore to **RECOMMEND** Strategy & Resources Committee on 27 June 2000 to make capital available to purchase the land giving the Education Committee, together with the school, time to identify funding for a scheme which would maximise the benefit to the school;

- (b) subject to (a) above, that the Education Management Sub-Committee Minutes of 10 May 2000 be received.

93/00 MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR EDUCATION 2000-2004

(Agenda Item 10)

The Committee had before them a report (ED10) on the Medium Term Plan which highlighted key

areas identified for change and development in Oxfordshire education over the specified period of the Plan, the items being selected for inclusion according to their closeness to the values and objectives of the service. The material of the plan in the first year had been largely brought together from the range of existing plans in the service already approved by the Education Committee (and by the DfEE in many instances). The programme of activities set out in the detailed parts of the Medium Term Plan also reflected intentions over a three year period.

The main body of the report was concerned with three key interweaving themes which formed the focus of the service's intentions:

- promoting learner achievement;
- inclusion;
- community development and governance.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) (by 11 votes to 0) receive the outline for the Medium Term Plan and to endorse the three key themes;
- (b) authorise the Chief Education Officer, in consultation with the informal member/officer Education Planning & Development Group to agree the final version of the Plan itself and make arrangements for its publication.

94/00 WANTAGE CE INFANTS' SCHOOL AND WANTAGE CE JUNIOR SCHOOL UNIFICATION
(Agenda Item 11)

Following informal consultations the Committee had before them a report (ED11) which sought approval to publish notices to unify the Wantage CE Infant and Junior schools on one site. This would involve the Council, the Anglican Diocese and Governing Bodies taking forward a scheme to create a unified Church primary school, age range 3-11, for 420 pupils (5-11) and 26 places at Foundation stage on the present Junior School site. The Junior School (as a legal entity) would close and the Infant School would transfer onto the site of the present Junior School, at Newbury Street. The Wantage Nursery School would close and be incorporated as a primary school on the unified school site.

Councillor Moley, as local member, said that whilst the amalgamated site was on a sharp road bend the majority of parents of pupils in the affected schools supported the proposals, if the safety issues were addressed.

RESOLVED: to agree that:

- (a) Statutory Notices be published to close the Wantage CE Junior School and the Wantage Nursery School on 31 August 2001;
- (b) the Governors of Wantage CE Infant School be asked to publish Statutory Notices to change the character of the school from 5 - 8, to full primary status (3 – 11) and to move it to Newbury Street, on 1 September 2001;
- (c) officers be asked to continue their work on safety issues and that a contribution to this should be obtained from the receipts from the sale of Wantage Infants School.

95/00 ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR STATUTORY FIVE YEAR OLDS
(Agenda Item 12)

Parents of Summer-born rising fives had been allowed to defer entry into school for their children until they were statutory school age. Historically when admission was deferred for Summer-born rising fives parents had to reapply for a place in September and the admission had counted against the admission number and the reception class children, although technically the child was Year 1 and could well be with a year 1 class. This practice had created a number of difficulties particularly due to Class Size legislation and the Committee had before them a report (ED12) which proposed that when an application was made for a Summer-born rising five for a place in the school for September that the admission was counted against the year 1 cohort and not the reception group and the admission number.

RESOLVED: to agree to this change in the administrative arrangements for admission to primary schools.

96/00

Local government association DISCUSSION PAPER – "WHAT PRICE A NATIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM"

(Agenda Item 13)

The Committee had before them the LGA education discussion paper (ED13) concerning Government's current review of the way that schools were funded.

Councillor Spencer moved and Councillor Crabbe seconded that the Committee:

- (a) welcome the proposals of HM Government in respect of the provision of funding for education;
- (b) note the LGA response, noting furthermore that it was negative and non-reflective of leaders in education.

On being put to a vote the motion was lost by 12 votes to 7.

97/00 Primary class size trends in oxfordshire

(Agenda Item 14)

The Education Committee in June 1999 had received a report on progress towards implementing the infant class size limit. Trends in KS1 and KS2 class sizes were presented along with details of schools in receipt of class size grant funding and further annual reports were requested. The Committee now had before them a report (ED14) which presented the most recent data available (based on the January 2000 Form 7 count) and showed that the average KS1 class size continued to fall from its 1998 peak as did the proportion of KS1 pupils in classes of 30. In addition the growth in KS2 class sizes appeared to have been reversed. The report also included a brief explanation of the methodology and allocation of Class Size Grant.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) receive the report;
- (b) request further annual reports on the trends in class sizes in Oxfordshire;
- (c) request further annual reports on Oxfordshire Class Size Standards Fund grant.

98/00 **POST-16 TRANSPORT: OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PROVISION**

(Agenda Item 15)

(Councillor R. Evans withdrew from the meeting until the debate on this item had been concluded and the vote taken).

The Committee had before them a report (ED15) on options for reinstating transport for post-16 school students where it was most needed. Problems had arisen in the past in relation to transport to a number of rural secondary schools and, in the case of Chipping Norton, had caused the school to pay for transport themselves. The situation had eased at Chipping Norton for the time being, and no transport was being paid for out of the school budget. It seemed likely that difficulties would arise again in that school and in others as contracts were re-tendered and "surplus" places were taken out.

The Committee were reminded that the present policy was that transport was not provided as of right to any student on a post-16 course except for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Students could apply for concessionary places on transport provided for younger students who were entitled to transport free of charge. Where these places were available, a charge was levied

(currently £60 per term) but this charge was waived for students whose families were in receipt of means-tested benefits or low income. The same charging arrangements applied to students with SEN.

One of the outcomes of the Best Value Review of mainstream transport was to agree that officers would produce data on the main routes to school taken by sixth-formers and currently not covered by concessionary seats on coaches provided for younger pupils. This information would be passed to public transport operators so that they could consider introducing, or amending, public service routes to cover them.

Councillor Karmali moved and Councillor Stedman seconded the words recorded in the resolution below with the exclusion of sub-paragraph (i).

Councillor Turner moved and Councillor Janet Morgan seconded an amendment to include after paragraph (a) of the motion the words recorded in sub-paragraph (i) below. On being put to a vote the amendment was carried by 18 votes to 0. The motion, as amended was put to a vote and carried by 11 votes to 7.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) **support Option 1, with charges reduced to £25 per term, as proposed during the 1999 Budget setting process, plus Option 3, giving an estimated full year cost of £282,5000;**
 - (i) **for students in those areas in which there was no post-16 provision the LEA would make a grant to students using college provided transport of the difference between the college charge and the charge made in LEA buses to schools;**
- (b) **to RECOMMEND Strategy & Resources Committee that a supplementary estimate be made available to fund this proposal;**
- (c) **endorse the work already undertaken under the Best Value Review of mainstream transport and urge further progress between Education and Environmental Services in negotiating amendments and additions to public service bus routes to enable joint use with Home to School Transport provision, where appropriate.**

99/00 ASYLUM SEEKERS

(Agenda Item 16)

Further to Minute 17/00, the Committee had before them a report (ED16) which addressed the educational needs of asylum seekers and funding issues.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) **receive the report;**
- (b) **approve the proposals for increasing educational support for asylum seekers and refugees; and**
- (c) **seek urgently funding from the Government to provide educational support for asylum seekers.**

100/00 TACKLING POVERTY IN OXFORDSHIRE

(Agenda Item 17)

It was reported that the report had not been received in time for publication with the agenda.

RESOLVED: to consider the annual report on the strategies within the Education Service for "Tackling Poverty in Oxfordshire" at the October meeting of the Committee.

101/00 teachers' pensions – actuarially reduced retirement benefits

(Agenda Item 18)

(Councillor Turner withdrew from the meeting until the debate on this item had been concluded and the vote taken).

The Committee had before them (ED18 Annex A) extracts from the Regulations which had come into effect on 30 March 2000, granting teachers the right to retire once they reached the age of 55 with immediate payment of "actuarially-reduced" benefits.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to agree that governing bodies should have the power to consent or withhold consent (for up to six months) to school-based teachers wishing to retire early on actuarially-reduced benefits, in accordance with the Teachers' Pensions (Amendment) Regulations (SI2000 no 665);
- (b) to agree that the Chief Education Officer should have delegated powers to grant or withhold consent (for up to six months) in relation to centrally-employed teachers;
- (c) (on a motion by Councillor Karmali duly seconded and carried by 11 votes to 7) that any cases agreed under these powers be referred to the Education Urgency Sub-Committee.

102/00 appointments

(Agenda Item 19)

RESOLVED: to make the following appointments:

Education Management Sub-Committee

Councillor Harris in place of Councillor Tompkins

Schools Performance & Quality Sub-Committee

Councillor Tompkins in place of Councillor Green
Councillor Humphries in place of Councillor Karmali

Schools Performance & Quality Urgency Sub-Committee

Councillor Tompkins in place of Councillor Green

Children's & Young People's Sub-Committee

Councillor Janet Godden in place of Councillor Margaret Godden
Councillor Turner in place of Councillor Purse

103/00 EDUCATION URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 20)

In accordance with Standing Order 19(4) Councillor Karmali had requested a report on the review of the Premature Retirement Compensation Scheme. At Minute 20/00 of the meeting held on 20 April 2000, the Education Urgency Sub-Committee had agreed the addition of a new paragraph (3.4) to the Scheme applying to teachers aged 52+ working in schools in special measures.

The addenda, circulated at the meeting, indicated the choices which the Committee had in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, for reviewing the scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (a) (on a motion by Councillor Karmali, duly seconded and carried by 11 votes to 7) to delegate the review of the Premature Retirement Scheme as referred to in Minute 20/00, to the Education Urgency Sub-Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14(2)(b); and
- (b) that the Education Urgency Sub-Committee Minutes of 11 and 20 April 2000 be received.

104/00 children's & young people's sub-committee

(Agenda Item 21)

RESOLVED: that the Children's & Young People's Sub-Committee Minutes of 13 April 2000 be received.

105/00 Community education (youth & adult) sub-committee

(Agenda Item 22)

RESOLVED:

- (a) in respect of Minute 20/00 – Learning & Skills Bill:
 - (a) to receive the updated version of the report (ED22(a)) together with the following specific comments from the Sub-Committee;
 - (1) in particular, to recommend that the County Council pressed strongly for there to be a member from the County Council on the Local Learning & Skills Council;
 - (2) to draw the Government's attention to the fact that the County Council might be in a position of failing to make provision for sixth form pupils in the future where currently it was able to; and
 - (3) (on a motion by Councillor Dennis, seconded by Councillor Mayhew-Archer and carried nem con) to request officers to review urgently

the implications for buildings and other assets and to report back to the Education Management Sub-Committee;

- (b) to note that a seminar on the implications of the Bill for the County Council was being arranged for September 2000; and
- (b) subject to (a) above, that the Community Education (Youth & Adult) Sub-Committee Minutes of 10 April 2000 be received.

106/00 schools performance & quality sub-committee

(Agenda Item 23)

RESOLVED:

- (a) (in respect of Minute 22/00(b) – Monitoring the Curriculum in Special, Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools: Science – A Summary Report) to note the report (attached as Annex A to the Sub-Committee's Minutes), in particular paragraphs 18, 19 and 22; and
- (b) subject to (a) above, that the Schools Performance & Quality Sub-Committee Minutes of 3 May 2000 be received.

107/00 TEACHERS JOINT COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 25)

RESOLVED:

- (a) (in respect of (a) - Closures and Amalgamations Procedure; (b) – Model Procedure for the Redeployment of Employees; (c) – Joint Working Party on Teacher Stress: Interim Report) to adopt the amended procedures (a)-(b) and to endorse the Model Job Descriptions and the covering letter to Headteachers and Chairs of Governors (c);
- (b) subject to (a) above, that the Teachers Joint Committee Minutes of 11 April 2000 be received.

108/00 EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded during the consideration of items 24 and 26E in the Agenda since it was likely that if they were present during those items there would be a disclosure of "exempt" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below each item in the Agenda, i.e. information relating to:

- (a) any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services (Agenda Item 24);

- (b) a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under, the Authority (Agenda Item 26E).

PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

109/00 EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE – CARSWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS – OUTLINE PROJECT APPRAISAL *

(Agenda Item 24)

RESOLVED: to receive the outline project appraisal.

110/00 education URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE *

(Agenda Item 26E)

RESOLVED: that the Exempt part of the Education Urgency Sub-Committee Minutes of 11 and 20 April 2000 be received.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000

(* The reports relating to the exempt items have not been made public and should be regarded as strictly private to those members and

County Council, 18/07/00, Agenda Item 12

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 5.10 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors Nils R. Bartleet, A.D. Crabbe (in place of Councillor Mrs C. Fulljames), Dickie Dawes, John Dennis, Brian L. Hook, Tim Horton, Terry Joslin, Colin Lamont, MacKenzie, Anne Purse, G.A. Reynolds, Sam Segaran (in place of Councillor Neville F. Harris), Tom Snow, Keith Strangwood, Sylvia Tompkins, Roy Tudor Hughes and Harry Wyatt.

Ex Officio:

Councillors Margaret Godden, Dave Green, Brian Hodgson and Keith Mitchell.

Officers:

Whole of meeting: J. Leverton and D. Mitchell (Chief Executive's Office); Director of Environmental Services, C. Cousins, R. Dix and E. Luck; Maureen Elliott (County Treasurer's Department).

Part of meeting: P. Coulter (Environmental Services); and S. Ohlenschlager (Chief Executive's Office).

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, copies of which agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto determined as follows:-

111/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hook (Conservative) be elected to chair the meeting.

112/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

Apology from

Temporary Appointment

Councillor Mrs Fulljames

Councillor Crabbe

Councillor Harris

Councillor Segaran

113/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 and 29 March 2000 were approved and signed.

114/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 7)

The Committee considered a report (ENV7) which presented the provisional revenue outturn for this Committee and identified variations in 1999/2000 to be carried forward into 2000/01 under the Council's budget management arrangements. It also presented the 1999/00 provisional capital outturn for the Environmental Committee Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) receive the report subject to the following allocation of underspends under EN8 – Management and Support Services:
 - (i) £20,000 for consultancy work to assist progress on the GTE for Oxford project;
 - (ii) £6,000 for Village Shop Support, Economic Development Initiatives Budget;
- (b) endorse the Landscape Character Assessment project as described in the report.

115/00 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a report (ENV8) which set out the position of the Committee's budget for 2000/01 and identified the financial issues which would need to be addressed during the year and action taken to date to achieve the 2000/01 policy plans.

RESOLVED: to receive the report subject to Annex 1 to the report being amended to show the additional allocation of underspends agreed under Agenda Item 7 (Provisional Revenue Outturn Report 1999/2000).

116/00 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2000/2001

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report (ENV9) which reviewed the County Council's transport capital investment programme, highlighted the staff implications of the rapidly increasing programme, and discussed a means of addressing this within the financial resources which were expected to be available.

Mr Luck reported that the signing of a Legal Agreement which would secure further developer contributions for dualling of Hennef Way was imminent and that the agreement for north-east Witney which would secure the Cogges Link scheme was also expected to be completed in the next 4-6 weeks. He further reported that due to the difficulties with acquiring land from the Ministry of Defence for the Skimmingdish Lane scheme, officers were looking at a fallback scheme with a modified alignment using land within the highway, but stressed that this would only be used as a last resort.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Horton, seconded by Councillor Bartleet and carried nem con) to:

- (a) note the allocation of an additional Supplementary Credit Approval (SCA) of £495,000 for 2000/2001;
- (b) note the current position of the developer funded major schemes set out in Annex 1 to ENV9 including the programme for Hennef Way, Banbury;
- (c) allocate the additional SCA of £495,000 for 2000/2001 to the Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee to support road safety and sustainable transport programmes, including a programme of minor improvements to pedestrian crossing facilities to bring all crossings in the County up to the full standards necessary to meet the needs of disabled people, as specified in the national Best Value Performance Indicators;
- (d) allocate £200,000 of the 2000/2001 SCA, previously allocated to the A40 Bus Lane, to the Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee to fund works currently included in the 2000/2001 Highways Maintenance programme that were eligible for capital funding as Local Safety Schemes;
- (e) allocate the equivalent revenue funding no longer required to fund these works to establish a minor traffic management schemes programme (£50,000 p.a. from 2000/2001), increase the Department's staffing budget by £100,000 p.a. to fund three additional staff in Transport Development and provide an additional fees budget (£50,000 in 2000/2001) for preparation work to assist with the delivery of the increasing capital programme;
- (f) approve the establishment of three additional posts in Transport Development;
- (g) ask the Director of Environmental Services to review the 2000/2001 capital programme and report to the next meeting of this Committee with further recommendations for the allocation of the as yet unallocated portion of the 2000/2001 SCA;
- (h) approve the Project Appraisal H29/7 (Didcot Milton Heights Stage 2 (Phase1)) attached as Annex 2 to ENV9 and **RECOMMEND** the Strategy & Resources Committee also to approve it.

117/00 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(Agenda Item 10)

The Committee considered a report (ENV10) which presented the draft Local Transport Plan which had been prepared under the guidance of the Local Transport Plan Working Group and sought approval for the draft document to be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

During debate members made a number of observations which Mr Luck undertook to take into account in finalising the Local Transport Plan for publication.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Bartleet, seconded by Councillor Hook and carried nem con) to:

- (a) approve the draft Local Transport Plan for submission to the Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions, subject to determination of the final text following further discussion by the Local Transport Plan Working Group and consultation with the Group Spokespersons;
- (b) approve the expenditure profile set out in the report as the basis of the 5 year bid to be

included in the Local Transport Plan;

- (c) adopt the advice of the Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee that the GTE for Oxford proposal should be put forward in the event that additional funds were to become available during the next five years.

118/00 A40 WITNEY TO WOLVERCOTE BUS LANE

(Agenda Item 11)

The Committee considered a report (ENV11) which provided members with an update on current scheme progress and explained the Highways Agency's need to undertake significant bridge strengthening work along this stretch of the A40. The report further considered the case for HGVs to use the bus lane and the feasibility of bus priority on the Eynsham to Botley route.

During debate Councillor Tudor Hughes moved and Councillor Strangwood seconded that the recommendations as set out in the report be adopted subject to the modification of paragraph (e) set out in the schedule of addenda, and with the following replacing paragraph (d):

"(d) instruct officers to pursue the possibility of HGVs being permitted to use the bus lane along with other public transport, including taxis, and also multiple occupancy vehicles."

Councillor Bartleet moved and Councillor Tompkins seconded an amendment to substitute the wording of paragraph (d) set out in the report. The amendment was put to the vote and was carried by 9 votes to 7.

Councillor Dawes then moved and Councillor Reynolds seconded a further amendment by adding the words "and West Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils" at the end of sub-paragraph (e). The amendment was accepted, with the Committee's and the seconder's consent, by the proposer.

The substantive motion as so amended was then put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: (by 8 votes to 7) to:

- (a) note that the Highways Agency needed to undertake essential bridge strengthening involving a series of structures along the A40 between Eynsham and Oxford prior to detrunking and that as a result the commencement of work on the implementation of the bus lane would need to be put back;
- (b) note that following discussion with the Highways Agency about the cost implications of needing to minimise traffic disruption by introducing night time working, it was clear that the Stage 1 scheme would cost over £5m which was above the threshold at which a bid for a major scheme was required;
- (c) approve the preparation of a major scheme bid to Central Government for inclusion within the Local Transport Plan;
- (d) instruct officers not to pursue the possibility of HGVs being permitted to use the bus lane, on the basis of the over-riding safety concerns;
- (e) instruct officers to report back with the conclusions of the B4449/B4044 Bus Route Feasibility Study following further discussion with representatives of Eynsham and Cumnor Parish Councils and West Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils;
- (f) approve the scheme layout and details shown on drawings BPN531/B3203 to B3209 as the basis for further public consultation over the summer and instruct officers to prepare and distribute an appropriate information leaflet to assist in the consultation process.

119/00 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

North Oxford Park & Ride – Planning Application

In accordance with Standing Order 19(3) and Section 100b.(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair asked the Committee to discuss, as a matter of urgency, a proposal (set out in a report circulated with the schedule of addenda – ENV11A) for the making of a planning application for a stand alone park & ride car park of up to 800 spaces on the site east of the A4165 north of Oxford and immediately south of the grain silo. The Chair declared himself satisfied that this matter was urgent because making an application at this time provided the best opportunity of obtaining a consent that would enable construction of a park and ride site to commence this financial year; and that if action was not agreed and taken urgently this possibility would disappear.

RESOLVED: that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to make a planning application for a stand alone park & ride car park of up to 800 spaces on the site of the A4165 north of Oxford and immediately south of the Grain Silo.

120/00 REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE

(Agenda Item 12)

The Committee considered a report (ENV12) which outlined the proposed changes to draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) following the government's consideration of the report of the Panel who conducted the Public Examination.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hook, seconded by Councillor Horton, amended with the agreement of the seconder and of the Committee at the suggestion of Councillor MacKenzie, and carried nem con) to:

- (a) endorse the comments in paragraphs 5-25 and Annex 2 of the report as the County Council's response to the Government on the proposed changes to draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, and inform the Government in particular that:
 - (i) the final version of the guidance should place the South East in its national context, and set out the Government's approach to addressing inter-regional inequalities;
 - (ii) the final guidance should generally contain much stronger and clearer guidance on the mechanisms for implementing the strategy, including where necessary reference to non land use measures;
 - (iii) the final version of the guidance should place more emphasis in the spatial strategy on the long term policy in the current RPG9 on addressing the economic imbalances between the east and west of the region;
 - (iv) the illustrative housing figure for Oxfordshire was a cause of serious concern, in that it did not reflect the need for a rebalancing from the west to the east of the region, and the Government's stated aim of achieving 60% of new housing development on previously developed land in urban areas was likely to be impossible to achieve in the County, and would result in considerable releases of greenfield land; and consequently the County Council considered that the housing distribution should be amended to better focus on parts of the region which had greater potential for development on previously developed sites in urban areas;
 - (v) the County Council deeply regretted the lack of practical means for local planning authorities to achieve the provision of significant amounts of affordable and social housing, and considered that the Government should address this in the final version of the guidance;
 - (vi) the County Council regretted the lack of commitment to the investment required to assist a change to more sustainable travel patterns in the South East, and asked in particular that the final version of the guidance should contain a clear commitment to the East-West rail link;

- (b) note the resolution of Social Services Committee of 14 December 1999 concerning social housing as set out in paragraph 21 of the report, and confirm that although the County Council's powers to provide social housing were limited to broad guidance in the Structure Plan without any direct means of implementation, the issue would be considered as far as

possible in the review of the Structure Plan;

- (c) note the provisional timetable for the review of the Structure Plan set out in Annex 4 of the report; and
- (d) establish an informal member/officer working group of six members (comprising the three Group Spokespersons plus one other member of the Environmental Committee from each of the largest three groups, with appropriate officers) to consider in detail all matters relating to the review and to guide officers in making recommendations to the Environmental Committee, members' attendance at meetings of the Working Group to be an approved duty for the purpose of allowances.

121/00 PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 - DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

(Agenda Item 13)

On 9 May 2000, Council had resolved to refer back to the Environmental Committee for reconsideration their decision of 22 March 2000 not to accept the EIP Panel recommendation that housing development at Didcot should be mainly to the north-east of the town, and to propose that development should be mainly to the west of the town.

The Committee considered a report (ENV13) ([APPENDIX 1](#)) which reviewed the strategic planning issues as they related to the direction of growth and concluded that many of the factors showed no significant differences between the options, or tended to cancel each other out. The report further explained that the main factors in deciding the direction of growth remained the need to protect best and most versatile agricultural land, accessibility by sustainable modes of transport and integration with the existing town, and concluded that there had been no changes in circumstances since the publication of the Panel Report which would warrant departing from the Panel's conclusions. Government policy on the protection of agricultural land had not changed, and this had been confirmed by the Minister for Housing and Planning, the Government Office for the South East and the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency.

Mr Cousins reported receipt of further letters since preparation of the report and addenda. He referred in particular to a letter from Mason Richards on behalf of Persimmon Homes, concerning the factors which they considered supported the "Milton Option" and suggesting an expanded form of words for the statement of Decision and Reason in Annex 5 to the report. In response to a letter from Strategic Land & Planning Consultants on behalf of Bryant Homes, Mr Cousins stated that archaeology issues had been considered by the Panel, who had concluded that it was not a defining issue.

Councillor Lamont moved and Councillor Bartleet seconded that the Committee adopt recommendation (a)(i) as set out in the report (ENV13), namely that the Committee inform the Council that in the Committee's view the recommendations of the EIP Panel in favour of development mainly to the north-east of the town should be adopted, with housing distribution determined and other action taken as set out in [Annex 3](#) to the report.

Following a lengthy debate the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 10 votes to 5. Councillors Lamont, Dawes, Bartleet, Joslin and Segaran asked that their vote for the motion be recorded. Councillors Strangwood, Tudor Hughes, Crabbe, Reynolds, Wyatt, Snow, Horton, Purse, Dennis and Hook asked that their vote against be recorded and Councillors Tompkins and MacKenzie asked that their abstention be recorded.

Councillor Tudor Hughes then moved and Councillor Snow seconded that the Committee adopt recommendation (a)(ii) as set out in resolution (a) below.

Councillor Lamont moved and Councillor Joslin seconded an amendment by the addition of a proviso that the Examination in Public be reconvened to consider the two western options in detail. Following advice by Mr Cousins that both options had been considered and compared at the

Examination in Public, Councillor Lamont, with the consent of the seconder and the Committee, withdrew his amendment.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was:-

RESOLVED: (by 10 votes to 4, Councillors Mackenzie, Segaran and Tompkins requesting that their abstention be recorded) to:

- (a) inform the Council that in the Committee's view if the recommendations of the EIP Panel were not accepted, the proposed alteration to the Structure Plan should be modified on the basis of the housing distribution of the Didcot West option, with housing distribution determined and other action taken as set out in **Annex 4** to the report;
- (b) (on a motion by Councillor Hook, seconded by Councillor Reynolds and carried nem con)
RECOMMEND Council to:
 - (i) **decide on the direction of growth at Didcot for the purpose of the alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011; and**
 - (ii) **agree the housing distribution and other necessary actions,****on the basis of the respective options set out in Annexes 3, 4 and 5 to ENV13 and in the light of the views of the Committee set out in (a) above.**

Appendix 2

122/00 MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

(Agenda Item 14)

The Committee considered a report (ENV14) which set out a timetable for work on the review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan leading to the publication of Issues Papers for public consultation in Autumn 2000, and explained that due to considerable pressures on Land Use staff it had not been possible to determine the timetable for the full process at this stage.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) agree the timetable for the pre-deposit stage of the review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan set out in Annex A to ENV14; and
- (b) authorise the Director of Environmental Services, following consultation with the Group Spokespersons, to determine and publish a timetable for the remaining stages of the plan process.

123/00 ROYAL COMMISSION STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

(Agenda Item 15)

The Committee considered a report (ENV15) on the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's review of environmental planning, which aimed to assess whether the various regimes for setting and achieving environmental goals provided an effective, accountable and transparent way of protecting the environment.

RESOLVED: that the comments in paragraphs 4 to 20 and Annex A of the report be forwarded to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution as the County Council's

views on the Commission's study of environmental planning.

124/00 INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT
(Agenda Item 15A)

The Committee had before them a report (ENV15A) which outlined a proposal put forward by the Waste Management Joint Advisory Sub-Committee for a "Memorandum of Understanding" which would form the basis for future co-operation between the District Councils and the Oxfordshire County Council, to achieve an integrated approach to waste management in Oxfordshire.

RESOLVED: to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding and authorise the Chief Executive to sign it on behalf of the County Council.

125/00 SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT
(Agenda Item 16)

The Committee had before them a report (ENV16) which outlined the arrangements for the preparation of successor contracts for waste management in southern Oxfordshire, in preparation for the termination of the existing contract in September 2001.

RESOLVED: that the Director of Environmental Services, following consultation with the Group Spokespersons, be authorised to determine the full contract specification and public notice.

126/00 GUIDANCE FOR DIY WASTE AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES
(Agenda Item ENV17)

Further to Minute 26/00 the Committee had before them a report (ENV17) which outlined draft guidance and procedures for the acceptance of DIY waste at Civic Amenity Sites.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Wyatt, duly seconded and carried nem con) to:

- (a) approve the principles set out in the report and circulated drafts for the establishment of guidance and procedures for charges for non-household waste delivered to Waste Recycling Centres;
- (b) authorise the Director of Environmental Services, following consultation with the Group Spokespersons, to approve the final guidance and procedures when discussions with contractors had been completed and the necessary systems were in place;
- (c) ask officers to review the guidance and procedures and any effects on fly-tipping after six months and report the outcome to the Committee.

127/00 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 18)

On 9 May 2000, Council had resolved to refer back to the Environmental Committee for reconsideration their decision of 22 March to adopt a series of proposals for the Economic Development Work Programme for 2000/01, subject to proposed expenditure of £1,000 for Village Shop Support being increased to £7,000, funded by subtracting a sum of £500 from other expenditure headings.

The Committee considered a report (ENV18) which reviewed the position with regard to Village Shop Support in the context of the wider framework of support for rural communities.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Bartleet, seconded by Councillor Dawes and carried nem con) to:

(a) RECOMMEND Council to:

- (i)** note that the Committee were able to fund the additional £6,000 which they had proposed for village shop support by utilising underspends elsewhere within their programmes, and accordingly
 - (ii)** approve the proposals for the economic development work programme for 2000/01 as originally recommended to the Committee and now set out in column (a) in Annex 1 to the report (APPENDIX 2), subject to the proposed expenditure for village shop support being increased to £7,000 without reduction in any of the other expenditure proposals set out in that column;
- (b)** subject to Council agreeing (a) above, endorse the use of the additional funding for village shop support in the manner proposed in the report, enhanced by a further contribution to the Countryside Agency Village shops grant scheme, to enable additional small grants to be made in individual cases under that scheme.

128/00 REVISION OF OXFORDSHIRE AGENDA 21

(Agenda Item 19)

The Committee had before them a report (ENV19) which presented a revised draft of the Vision and Action Plan for Oxfordshire Agenda 21.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hook, seconded by Councillor Bartleet and carried nem con) to:

- (a)** agree the Vision and outline Action Plan set out in Annexes 1 and 2 to the report, subject to the addition of illustrative material, and further editorial improvements;
- (b)** authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to agree the final version of the document, following consultation with the Council's representatives on the Agenda 21 Co-ordinating Group.

129/00 EUROPEAN CAR-FREE DAY

(Agenda Item 20)

The Council on 9 May 2000 had referred the following motion by Councillor Dhall to this Committee to consider and determine:

"In light of the success in all of Europe except Britain of last year's European Car-free Day with 85% popular approval, and that this Council seeks to raise the profile of alternatives to the car through its well-funded TravelWise initiative, this Council instructs officers to:

- (d)** investigate the feasibility of participating in the 2000 European Car-free Day (22 September);
- (e)** identify a location or locations which would be suitable;
- (f)** present a report to the Environmental Committee identifying the resource and staffing implications, possible funding partnerships and legal/planning implications of participating in European Car-free Day."

The motion was put to the vote and was lost by 13 votes to 0.

130/00 EMPLOYEE SURVEY

(Agenda Item 21)

The Committee had before them a report (ENV21) which considered the results of the employee survey carried out in November 1999, areas of improvement which had been identified and future action to be taken.

RESOLVED: that the report be received.

131/00 COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

(Agenda Item 22)

The Committee considered a report (ENV22) submitted in response to the resolutions of Strategy & Resources Committee asking Chief Officers to produce annual reports monitoring their services against the CRE Standard and setting objectives for future action.

RESOLVED: to receive the report and to endorse the Action Plan set out in Annex 2 of the report.

132/00 APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, ETC

(Agenda Item 23)

RESOLVED: to make the following appointments:-

Gypsy Sub-Committee

Councillor Mold in place of Councillor Humphries
Councillor Wyatt in place of Councillor Churchill

Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee

Councillor Harris in place of Councillor Bartleet

Public Transport Sub-Committee

Councillor Moley in place of Councillor Purse.

133/00 PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 24)

RESOLVED: that the Planning Sub-Committee Minutes of 3 April 2000 and 15 May 2000 be received.

134/00 OXFORD TRANSPORT STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

(Agenda Item 25)

RESOLVED: that the Oxford Transport Strategy Working Party Minutes of 7 April 2000 be received.

135/00 PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 26)

RESOLVED: that the Public Transport Sub-Committee Minutes of 27 April 2000 be received.

136/00 HIGHWAYS & ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 27)

RESOLVED:

- (a) (in respect of Minute 54/00(D) – Consultations by Other Authorities on Traffic and Highways Schemes - Woodstock Town Centre – Environmental Improvement Scheme) to agree the exercise by West Oxfordshire District Council of the Council's powers as local highway and traffic authority so far as necessary to enable them to promote and implement environmental improvements in Woodstock Town Centre at no cost to the County Council, subject to:
 - (i) approval of the details of the proposals by the Director of Environmental Services; and
 - (ii) reference of any objections or representations in response to consultation and publication of any draft Order to the Sub-Committee for consideration and determination;
- (b) (in respect of Minute 54/00(E) - Consultations by Other Authorities on Traffic and Highways Schemes Traffic Calming Measures - A44, Old Woodstock) to agree the exercise by Woodstock Town Council of the Council's powers as local traffic and highway authority as far as necessary to enable them to implement traffic calming measures for the A44 in old Woodstock, subject to approval of the details of the proposals by the Director of Environmental Services;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, that the Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee Minutes of 11 May 2000 be received.

137/00 ENVIRONMENTAL URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 28)

RESOLVED: that the Urgency Sub-Committee Minutes of 5 May 2000 be received.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Report by the Director of Environmental Services

Introduction

1. On 9 May 2000, Council resolved to refer back to Environmental Committee for reconsideration their resolution of 22 March 2000 (minute 15/00) "that the recommendation of the EIP Panel be not accepted, and the proposed alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 be modified to provide for the additional dwellings planned for Didcot to be located mainly to the west of the town, on the grounds that the advantages of better integration and access to employment and services, greater availability of connections and opportunities for footpaths and cycle links to the town centre and the existence of a substantial bus network now outweighed the disadvantages of building on "best and most versatile agricultural land"." The purpose of this report is to review the options for the direction of growth at Didcot and set out my current advice.

Background

2. The purpose of the alteration to the Structure Plan is to determine how many of the houses to be built at Didcot should be in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse Districts respectively. This was unresolved when the Structure Plan was adopted in August 1998 as the direction of growth at Didcot was not known. Following joint consultation and independent consideration by the District Councils, this Council resolved in December 1998 that the development should be mainly to the north east of Didcot, all within South Oxfordshire district. The proposal was subject to pre-deposit and deposit consultation during 1999, and an Examination in Public in November/December 1999. The report of the independent EIP Panel, published in January 2000, recommended that the County Council's proposals should be adopted as they were proposed.
3. On 22 March 2000 Environmental Committee resolved not to accept the Panel's recommendation and that development should be mainly to the west of Didcot. On 29 March 2000 the housing distribution between districts was deferred by Environmental Committee for consideration by an Urgency Sub-Committee to allow the views of the District Councils to be sought. On 5 May 2000 the Urgency Sub-Committee resolved "to:
 - (a) modify the proposed alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 (as set out in the Deposit draft of May 1999), to allocate 2,800 dwellings to the Vale of White Horse District and 400 to the South Oxfordshire District; and
 - (b) authorise the Director of Environmental Services to:
 - (i) determine the content of the formal modification based on Annex 1 to the report

amended to give effect to (a) above; and

- (ii) undertake the necessary statutory procedures to place the proposed modification on deposit."

The Urgency Sub-Committee's decision has since been overtaken by the reference back by Council of the Committee's decision on the basic issue of the direction of growth.

- 4. Since the Environmental Committee met on 22 March 2000 the Chief Executive and I have received a number of letters either supporting or opposing the Committee's decision. [These are listed in Annex 1](#), and copies have been placed in the Members' Resource Centre. Many people have also written direct to members.

Options for the Direction of Growth

- 5. The main strategic development options are the North East option (as originally proposed by the County Council), Didcot West (also known as the wrap around option), and the Milton option (see plan 1). The key strategic issues in relation to the options have been set out in previous reports to Environmental Committee, in particular 9 December 1998, 22 April 1999 (Urgency Sub-Committee) and 22 July 1999. The report to Environmental Committee on 22 March considered the findings of the EIP Panel. Copies of these reports have been placed in the Members' Resource Centre. The issues are reviewed briefly below.

(a) Environmental Matters

- 6. The EIP Panel considered that for a number of factors – traffic impact, landscape, built environment, energy conservation, the effect of the Power Station and the impact on the living environment – the evidence was either inconclusive and/or the arguments so finely balanced that they could not be considered as determining factors in deciding a preferred option. This conclusion is similar to my advice in the reports dated 22 July 1999, 22 April 1999 and 9 December 1998, and the Environmental Appraisal of the Proposed Alteration (May 1999).
- 7. The Panel did not consider two other factors – landfill and groundwater quality – to be of overriding strategic significance, and in terms of adopting the precautionary principle, they considered they would cancel each other out. I commented in July 1999 that it would be difficult to give the presence of the aquifer substantial weight in view of the advice of the Environment Agency (who expressed a north east preference, but did not object to some development to the west). Also, the potential for landfill gas migration would be taken into account in detailed planning stages, and the relevance of evidence of health effects in relation to landfill sites was questioned.

(b) Accessibility and Encouraging Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport

- 8. The Panel considered that all three options should be capable of providing good accessibility to employment, and did not consider that access to other facilities provided a compelling argument strongly favouring any one of the options. The overall view of the Panel, however, was that Didcot West provided better opportunities for integration due to its physical configuration, greater potential availability of connections, and good access to employment and services. They found the Milton option to perform least well in this respect. For the North East, the barriers between the town and the development would be something of an obstacle to full integration; however, the Panel considered that measures could be taken so that the North East option and Ladygrove could become an integral part of the town.
- 9. The Panel thought that Didcot West was marginally better in terms of encouraging use of more sustainable modes of transport due to greater opportunity for footpath and cycle links into the town, proximity of existing bus services and reasonable access to the station. The Milton option was better for encouraging bus travel, but less good for walking and cycling. The North-East would need more effort to mitigate obstacles to movement for walkers and cyclists and sustaining good bus services, but these problems were not regarded as insuperable. Proximity of the site to the railway station was seen as an advantage. In considering integration and sustainable travel issues in the 9 December 1998 report, my view was that the West performed better, in the context of the decision being finely balanced.

(c) Traffic Impact and Mitigation Measures

10. The Panel found that the growth in general traffic appeared to be the dominant feature affecting the transport situation wherever the development took place, and agreed that there was no clear balance of advantage in any one location in terms of traffic impact. They concluded that in terms of traffic impact and scope for mitigation there is very little to choose between the alternative locations. This is again similar to my advice in December 1998, that the studies carried out have found no clear balance of advantage in locating development to the north-east or west of Didcot.

(d) The Overall Balance of Factors

11. For the EIP Panel, the main factors in deciding the direction of growth were accessibility of sustainable modes of transport and integration with the existing town, and the weight to be attached to the protection of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land. This concurs with my conclusions in the 9 December 1998 report that, "the determining issues at the heart of deciding the direction of growth are agricultural land quality, proximity to the employment areas and integrating the new development with the existing town. The ability to achieve transport infrastructure measures would only be important if it could be shown that one option is superior in this respect".
12. The Panel found the difference between the options in terms of agricultural land quality to be the most clear cut of all the issues, and that a viable alternative to developing BMV land to the west of the town was available – development to the north-east was capable of meeting other sustainability objectives, could provide a satisfactory living environment, and could accommodate the full housing requirement without breaching Moor Ditch. The Panel concluded that the advantages of the west were therefore outweighed by the need to protect BMV land. Accordingly they recommended development should be to the north-east of Didcot as in the proposed alteration.

(e) Additional Information

13. Since the EIP, the Cabinet Office Performance and Innovation Unit (PIU) published their report on Rural Economies, which suggested the need to reassess Government policy to protect best and most versatile agricultural land. This report had been leaked at the time of the EIP, and the Panel considered it should not be attributed any weight. Since the Committee on 22 March 2000 copies of letters from Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, the Government Office for the South East, and the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) on behalf of MAFF, have been received. These are attached in Annex 2. These letters contain a consistent message that;
- (i) the PIU report represents a contribution to the debate on the forthcoming Rural White Paper and is intended as a discussion document;
 - (ii) it does not represent a change of Government policy; and
 - (iii) Government policy remains as set out in PPG7.
- In addition, FRCA state that MAFF does not regard the PIU report as a material consideration.
14. During May 2000 the Select Committee on Environment, Transport and the Regional Affairs published their Seventh Report on the Rural White Paper. This considered the issues raised by the PIU report. On the protection of best and most versatile agricultural land, the Select Committee were concerned that PIU report had not taken into account ongoing changes in agriculture and growing public concern about food production. Their view was that "High quality agricultural land will continue to be a national asset which should be protected". A copy of the Select Committee report has been placed in the Members' Resource Centre.
15. My advice has consistently been since the 9 December 1998 report that the decision on the direction of growth has been finely balanced. I consider this has been borne out by the analysis of technical information and the public consultation exercises which have been carried out since then, and by the findings of the EIP Panel. In reaching the decision to propose the north-east direction of growth, the Environmental Urgency Sub-Committee on 22 July 1999 "accepted that making the proposed alteration to the Structure Plan is the only means of allowing the issues involved to go before an Examination in Public at an early date, thus allowing all the evidence to be independently evaluated". The Panel's report represents the results of the

independent evaluation which the Sub-Committee sought. The Panel have come to a clear view of the weight to be attached to the different factors which have a bearing on the choice of development location and their strategic significance. I consider there have been no changes in circumstances since the Panel Report was published which would warrant departing from the Panel's conclusions. Therefore, I can see no reason not to accept the Panel's recommendations.

16. I have also consistently advised the Committee of the dangers of delaying adoption of the alteration, in particular for local plan preparation. Delaying their preparation would increase the risk of planning by appeal, particularly as the current local plans have only a very short time left to run. My strong advice is therefore for the Committee to recommend Council to accept the Panel's recommendations and proceeds to adopt the alteration in the deposit draft of May 1999 which proposed development to the north-east of Didcot within South Oxfordshire district. The adoption process can then be completed quickly, and local plan preparation can progress. The Development Plan Regulations require local authorities to prepare a statement on the decisions they have reached in light of the Panel Report and recommendations. The wording of the proposed alteration (including the housing distribution) and the suggested statement of the County Council's decision are set out in [Annex 3](#).

17. Should the Committee wish to continue not to accept the Panel's recommendation and propose development mainly to the west of Didcot, I strongly urge the Committee to recommend a housing distribution based on the Didcot West (wrap around) option (see [Annex 4](#)) and not to support the Milton option which was favoured by the Urgency Sub-Committee on 5 May 2000 (see [Annex 5](#)). I remain of the view that the Didcot West option is the most appropriate location for development to the west of Didcot. The Didcot West option is also supported by both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Council (the latter as a fall back position). The EIP Panel considered (in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of their report under "Panel conclusions and recommendations") that new development at Didcot West would integrate better with the existing town compared with the Milton option, which they considered would be least likely of all the options to integrate well with the rest of Didcot. Although the Milton option would take less best and most versatile land than the Didcot West option, it would still be a significant loss, contrary to Government policy in PPG7. The Panel considered that "Taken in isolation, the BMV land issue clearly militates against the development of either western option – providing another site is available". The Panel did take into account the advantages of the Milton option, for example for bus provision and closer proximity to employment areas, but these were thought of as only one consideration, or they were felt to be marginal benefits. The Milton option has not been supported by either District Council, accepting that the Vale oppose any development to the west of Didcot. I remain of the view that the Milton option is the least likely to be sustainable.

18. The wording set out in [Annex 4](#) for the proposed modification and suggested statement of decisions for Didcot West is based on the resolution of Environmental Committee of 22 March 2000) is set out below. The housing distribution is based on a split of 2,700 houses in South Oxfordshire and 500 in the Vale. The Vale of White Horse District Council have argued that due to various uncertainties, the figure for the Vale should be reduced to 2-300 houses. The case made by the Vale is in my view not conclusive, is disputed by South Oxfordshire District Council, and relates to essentially detailed matters. The numbers involved are relatively insignificant in strategic terms. If detailed local plan work indicates that a slightly higher or lower number of houses can be accommodated elsewhere within Didcot which suggests minor changes to the housing figures, this is not an issue on which I would recommend withholding a certificate of general conformity of the local plans with the Structure Plan. The housing in figures in policy H1 of the Structure Plan are caveated by the word "about", which allows for such flexibility.

19. The suggested terms set out in [Annex 5](#) for the proposed modification and statement of decision for the Milton option are based on the proceedings of the Urgency Sub-Committee on 5 May 2000.

Next Steps

20. If Council in July accepts the Panel recommendation and proceeds to adopt the alteration as proposed with development to the north-east, the alteration could be adopted by early September 2000, following the completion of the statutory procedures.

21. However, if Council decides to proceed by continuing to propose a western direction of growth, proposed modifications would need to be placed on deposit for six weeks to allow public representations to be made. This would not be likely to take place until September/October so as to avoid the main holiday period. The County Council would be required to consider any representations, potentially in a report to Environmental Committee in December. Adoption would not be until February 2001 at the earliest (one month before the current district local plans expire), assuming that the Council decides it is not necessary to re-open the EIP. In that case adoption would probably not be possible until autumn 2001.
22. The above timetable assumes the alteration is not called in by the Secretary of State, and there are no legal challenges. Either of these would cause considerable delay.

Environmental Implications

23. The environmental implications of the choice of direction of growth at Didcot have been well rehearsed in previous reports.

Implications for People Living in Poverty

24. Encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport through the location of development and the provision of infrastructure may help people in poverty. A proportion of the new houses will be negotiated by the District Councils for affordable and special needs housing.

Financial and Staff Implications

25. These will very much depend on the course of action decided upon. Adoption of the alteration based on the north-east direction of growth should not incur significant financial costs or result in a heavy workload for staff. It will also allow land use planning staff resources to be devoted to the review of Regional Planning Guidance, the review of the Minerals & Waste Local Plan and the review of the Structure Plan which ought to begin formally when Regional Planning Guidance for the South East is finalised, potentially in autumn 2000.
26. If the Council decides to go ahead with proposed modifications for a western option, staff time will be required to carry out the proposed modification procedure, particularly for the preparation of the necessary documents and the analysis of objections and representations. This will have implications for other key areas of work, such as working to influence Regional Planning Guidance, the Structure Plan review, and the review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The deliberations on Didcot are also preventing any work on members' request to report on a rural strategy. Considerable financial resources would be required if, following the deposit period, the Council considers the EIP should be re-opened. Running the EIP in November/December last year cost about £27,000, excluding officer time. The implications of a legal challenge are hard to quantify, but in financial terms it could well be of the same order as the EIP, and would take up considerable amounts of staff time.
27. Following reorganisation of the transport policy and transport implementation functions of the department, areas will emerge where additional staff resources may be needed in order to meet transport objectives, including support for the projects mentioned above. Further modification of the approved Structure Plan is likely to heighten transport issues at Didcot and elsewhere which may cause a major increase of transport planning resources needed.

Recommendations

28. **The Committee are RECOMMENDED to:**

(a) inform the Council that in the Committee's view:

- (i) the recommendations of the EIP Panel in favour of development mainly to the north-east of the town should be adopted, with housing distribution determined and other action taken as set out in Annex 3 to the report; but that**
- (ii) if the recommendations of the EIP Panel are not accepted, the proposed alteration to the Structure Plan should be modified on the basis of the**

housing distribution of the Didcot West option, with housing distribution determined and other action taken as set out in Annex 4 to the report;

(b) RECOMMEND Council to:

(i) decide on the direction of growth at Didcot for the purpose of the alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011; and

(ii) agree the housing distribution and other necessary actions,

on the basis of the respective options set out in Annexes 3, 4 and 5 to the report and in the light of the views of the Committee set out in (a) above.

DAVID YOUNG

Director of Environmental Services

Background papers : Nil

Contact Officers: Frankie Upton, Tel: Oxford 815962

Ian Walker, Tel: Oxford 815588

22 May 2000

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Annex 1

Didcot – Direction of Growth

Letters received since 22 March 2000

The letters received since 22 March by the Chief Executive and the Director of Environmental Services are listed below.

The names of those who wrote are grouped as to whether they support or object to the Environmental Committee resolution on 22 March that development at Didcot should be to the west of the town.

The list does not include those people who wrote to all County Councillors.

Support

Alice Freeman – Clifton Hampden
Simon and Dillion Freeman – Clifton Hampden
Mrs J B Soper – South Moreton
G Ainsworth Harrison – Culham
Dr G M McCracken – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Dr Leon Cobb and Dr Evelyn Boeson – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Ann Jervis and Herbert Bevan – Little Wittenham
Karen Stevens – Clifton Hampden
C Bowden – Clifton Hampden
Gervase and Elizabeth Duffield – Appleford
Christine Thompson – Appleford
R and A J Duff – Little Wittenham
Stuart Fisher – Appleford-on-Thames
Carole A Dennis – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Dr Andrew Lea – Little Wittenham
G Bristow – Appleford
Miss J Wyatt – Appleford
Peter J Nolan – Long Wittenham
Anna-Marie Edwards and Mijo Segrt – Burcot

O, H and R Stevenson – Long Wittenham
C B and J M Hobart – Clifton Hampden
Isobel and Anthony Nurse-Marsh – Culham
Chisholm Ogg – Long Wittenham
Peter SurrIDGE – Long Wittenham
Richard C Taylor – Long Wittenham
Mrs V E Johnson – Clifton Hampden
Angela and Michael Luke-Jones – Appleford
Mrs S E Warburton – Little Wittenham
Mr and Mrs Ward – Long Wittenham
B R Evans – Appleford
Derek and Marion Robinson – Appleford
J M Balsamino – Appleford
Christopher Owen – Appleford
Culham Parish Council
Derek Cullington – Little Wittenham
Evan M Wilson – Little Wittenham
Michael A Blight – Clifton Hampden
M J Heydon JP – South Moreton
Marcus Hayes – Little Wittenham
Dr D D Gibbs and Mrs R E Gibbs – Appleford
P M Cooper – Little Wittenham
James Dunsmure – Little Wittenham
Mason Richards Planning on behalf of Persimmon Homes
Mrs E Cowley – Appleford
Arthur Evans – Long Wittenham
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council
A C Western – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Major and Mrs W F C Robertson – Appleford-on-Thames
Appleford-on-Thames Parish Council
Barbara Price – Didcot
Patrick Oakley – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Environment Group
Mrs P E Alcorn – Appleford
Mavis and Michael Gotch
L M Francis (Miss) – Little Wittenham
Roger and Susan Ball – Little Wittenham
Claudia Schramm – Shillingford
W J Woodley – Appleford-on-Thames

Object

Brig (Retd) J H Lawrence-Archer – Didcot
Mr and Mrs G E Webb – Didcot

Christopher Wilson – Didcot
Mrs J Hardy – Didcot
Dr P A Cawse – Didcot
Dr A E Hughes for Keep Harwell Rural Campaign – Harwell
Vale of White Horse DC
G D Robinson – Didcot
Mr P W Gregory
Graham Beckett - Didcot
Mrs M Sanderson – Didcot

Did not support or object

Elenor Bowey and Margaret Hedger – West Hagbourne
Edna and Fred Scott
Valerie R Newman – Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Paul G Samuels – Didcot
Christopher Owen - Appleford

The following have written to the Secretary of State to request that the alteration is called in:

Didcot Town Council
Eversheds on behalf of Bryant Homes

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Annex 3

Direction of Growth at Didcot - North East Option

Recommended Actions, Proposed Alteration to the Structure Plan (Table 1) and Statement of the County Council's Decision on the EIP Panel Recommendations (Table 2)

Recommended Actions

- (a) **accept the recommendations of the EIP Panel that policy H1 of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 be amended in line with the original proposed alteration, as set out in Table 1 of this Annex, namely to add a total of 5,500 dwellings at Didcot to the housing allocation for South Oxfordshire and to insert a reference that development will be mainly to the north-east of the town, for the reasons set out in Table 2;**
- (b) **adopt the alteration, subject to completion of the necessary statutory procedures;**
- (c) **authorise the Director of Environmental Services, following consultation with the Environmental Committee Group Spokespersons, to prepare the explanatory text for inclusion in the published alteration.**

Table 1

Policy H1, Adopted August 1998

Proposed Alteration
(deposit draft May 1999)

Provision will be made for about 35,500 dwellings (net) to be built between 1 April 1996 and 31 March 2011. The provision will be distributed as follows:

1996-2011

Cherwell 11,250

Oxford 3,750

South Oxfordshire (excluding Didcot) 3,000

Delete "(excluding Didcot)" and "3,000". Insert "8,500" in second column.

Vale of White Horse (excluding Didcot) 5,250

Didcot 5,500

Delete "(excluding Didcot)".

West Oxfordshire 6,750

Delete "Didcot" and "5,500".

Total 35,500

The main locations for housing will be Banbury (about 3,900 dwellings), Bicester (about 4,200 dwellings), Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings) and Witney (about 2,700 dwellings).

After "Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings" insert "mainly to the north-east of the town".

Elsewhere most new housing development should take place in larger settlements where a reasonable range of employment, services and community facilities exist or can be provided. Significant additional housing development, including inappropriate infill, should be avoided where this is likely to result in cars commuting to urban centres and where travel needs are unlikely to be well served by public transport.

Local Plans should phase the provision of housing so that land is released gradually throughout the plan period and to ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure, services, facilities and other improvements.

The final distribution of the housing allocation for Didcot between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts will be determined in an early alteration of the Structure Plan.

Delete whole sentence beginning "The final distribution".

Table 2

Panel's Recommendation

OCC Decision and Reason

Policy H1 of the adopted Oxfordshire Structure Plan should be amended in line with the published Proposed Alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011, namely to add a total of 5,500 dwellings to the 3,000 housing allocation for South Oxfordshire and to insert a reference in the policy to the development of 5,500 dwellings at Didcot being mainly to the north-east of the town.

Accept the Panel's recommendation. The Panel have come to a clear view of the weight to be attached to different factors and their strategic significance, and their recommendation is consistent with the County Council's proposals. Adoption of the alteration will allow local plan preparation to take place in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse Districts without further delay.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Annex 4

Direction of Growth at Didcot – Didcot West Option

Recommended Actions, Proposed Modification Alteration to the Structure Plan (Table 1) and Statement of the County Council's Decision on the EIP Panel Recommendations (Table 2)

Recommended Actions

- (a) **modify the proposed alteration of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 on the basis of the housing distribution of the Didcot West option, as set out in Table 1 of this Annex, for the reasons set out in Table 2;**
- (b) **authorise the Director of Environmental Services to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to place the proposed modification on deposit.**

Table 1

Policy H1, as proposed to be altered (deposit draft May 1999)

Proposed Modification

Provision will be made for about 35,500 dwellings (net) to be built between 1 April 1996 and 31 March 2011. The provision will be distributed as follows:

1996-2011		
Cherwell	11,250	
Oxford	3,750	
South Oxfordshire (excluding Didcot)	3,000 8,500	Delete "8,500" and insert "8,000".
Vale of White Horse (excluding Didcot)	5,250	Delete "5,250" and insert "5,750".
Didcot	5,500	
West Oxfordshire	6,750	
Total	35,500	

The main locations for housing will be Banbury (about 3,500 dwellings), Bicester (about 4,200 dwellings), Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings **mainly to the north east of the town**) and Witney (about 2,700 dwellings).

In "Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings mainly to the north east of the town)" delete "north east" and insert "west".

Elsewhere most new housing development should take place in larger settlements where a reasonable range of employment, services and community facilities exist or can be provided. Significant additional housing development, including inappropriate infill, should be avoided where this is likely to result in cars commuting to urban centres and where travel needs are unlikely to be well served by public transport.

Local Plans should phase the provision of housing so that land is released gradually throughout the plan period and to ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure, services, facilities and other improvements.

~~*The distribution of the housing allocation for Didcot between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts will be determined in an early alteration of the Structure Plan.*~~

N.B. Proposed alterations to the policy as adopted in August 1998 are shown crossed through (deletions) or in bold (insertions).

Table 2

Panel's Recommendation

OCC Decision and Reason

Policy H1 of the adopted Oxfordshire Structure Plan should be amended in line with the published Proposed Alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011, namely to add a total of 5,500 dwellings to the 3,000 housing allocation for South Oxfordshire and to insert a reference in the policy to the development of 5,500 dwellings at Didcot being mainly to the north-east of the town.

The Panel's recommendation is not accepted, and the proposed alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 is proposed to be modified to provide for the additional dwellings planned for Didcot to be located mainly to the west of the town, on the grounds that the advantages of better integration and access to employment and services, greater availability of connections and opportunities for footpaths and cycle links to the town centre and the existence of a substantial bus network outweigh the disadvantages of building on best and most versatile agricultural land.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Annex 5

Direction of Growth at Didcot – Milton Option

Recommended Actions, Proposed Modification Alteration to the Structure Plan (Table 1) and Statement of the County Council's Decision on the EIP Panel Recommendations (Table 2)

Recommended Actions

- (a) **modify the proposed alteration of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 on the basis of the housing distribution of the Milton option, as set out in Table 1 of this Annex, for the reasons set out in Table 2;**
- (b) **authorise the Director of Environmental Services to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to place the proposed modification on deposit.**

Table 1

Policy H1, as proposed to be altered (deposit draft May 1999)

Proposed Modification

Provision will be made for about 35,500 dwellings (net) to be built between 1 April 1996 and 31 March 2011. The provision will be distributed as follows:

1996-2011		
Cherwell	11,250	
Oxford	3,750	
South Oxfordshire (excluding Didcot)	3,000 8,500	Delete "8,500" and insert "5,700".
Vale of White Horse (excluding Didcot)	5,250	Delete "5,250" and insert "8,050".
Didcot	5,500	
West Oxfordshire	6,750	

Total **35,500**

The main locations for housing will be Banbury (about 3,500 dwellings), Bicester (about 4,200 dwellings), Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings **mainly to the north east of the town**) and Witney (about 2,700 dwellings).

In "Didcot (about 5,500 dwellings mainly to the north east of the town)" delete "north east" and insert "west".

Elsewhere most new housing development should take place in larger settlements where a reasonable range of employment, services and community facilities exist or can be provided. Significant additional housing development, including inappropriate infill, should be avoided where this is likely to result in cars commuting to urban centres and where travel needs are unlikely to be well served by public transport.

Local Plans should phase the provision of housing so that land is released gradually throughout the plan period and to ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure, services, facilities and other improvements.

~~*The distribution of the housing allocation for Didcot between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts will be determined in an early alteration of the Structure Plan.*~~

N.B. Proposed alterations to the policy as adopted in August 1998 are shown crossed through (deletions) or in bold (insertions).

Table 2

Panel's Recommendation

OCC Decision and Reason

Policy H1 of the adopted Oxfordshire Structure Plan should be amended in line with the published Proposed Alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011, namely to add a total of 5,500 dwellings to the 3,000 housing allocation for South Oxfordshire and to insert a reference in the policy to the development of 5,500 dwellings at Didcot being mainly to the north-east of the town.

The Panel's recommendation is not accepted, and the proposed alteration to the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 is proposed to be modified to provide for the additional dwellings to be located to the west of the town, as illustrated by the "Milton option", on the grounds that it is closer to a major employment area at Milton Park, it provides better opportunities for encouraging bus travel, and would not give rise to a significant problem of coalescence. This option also outweighs the disadvantages of building on best and most versatile agricultural land.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX 2

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2000

PROPOSED ALTERATION TO THE OXFORDSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2011 – DIRECTION OF GROWTH AT DIDCOT

Economic Development Initiatives Budget 1999/2000: Revised Proposed Expenditure

	(a) Officer Proposal March 2000	(b) Committee Decision March 2000
Partnership and Research		
	5,000	5,000
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	5,000	4,500
Research Proposals		
Regeneration and Social Exclusion		
Single Regeneration Budget	5,000	4,500
Oxfordshire Co-operative Development Agency	8,000	7,500
Unemployed Workers and Claimants Union	2,500	2,000
Ethnic Minority Business Service	2,000	1,500
Sustainability		
Farming and Food Initiatives	5,000	4,500
Village Shop Support	1,000	7,000
Innovation, Enterprise and Competitiveness		
TBAC	1,500	1,000
NORBIS	1,500	1,000
Oxfordshire Investment Opportunity Network	1,000	500
Technology and Innovation Initiatives (RITTS Action Plan, eg Enterprise Hub etc.)	6,000	5,500
Promotion and Publicity		
Publications		3,000
Oxfordshire Business Awards	3,500	2,000
Website Development	2,000	1,500
	2,000	

Total

51,000

51,000

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 18 JULY 2000

AGENDA ITEM 13

CULTURAL SERVICES Committee – 12 JUNE 2000

MINUTES of the meeting commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.10 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillors David Buckle, Mrs Dee Bulley, Brenda Churchill, Margaret Ferriman, Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor, Mrs Diana Ludlow (in place of Councillor Kieron Mallon), Richard Marchant, Norman Matthews, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Jim Moley, Rodney Rose, George Sanders, Sam Segaran, Olive Stedman and Harry Wyatt (in place of Councillor Jill Davies).

Ex Officio:

Councillors Margaret Godden, Brian Hodgson and Keith Mitchell

Officers:

Whole of meeting: G. Malcolm (Chief Executive's Office); Director of Cultural Services, M. Brown, A. Coggins and N. Hood; M. Whitaker (County Treasurer's Department).

Part of meeting: D. Mackie (Environmental Services).

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 by the Chief Executive, copies of which agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes, and in relation thereto determined as follows:-

138/00 ELECTION TO CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Councillor Rose (Conservative) be elected to chair the meeting.

139/00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were reported as follows:-

Apology from

Temporary Appointment

Councillor Davies

Councillor Wyatt

Councillor Mallon

Councillor Mrs Ludlow

140/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 2000 were approved and signed subject at Minute 3/00, Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests, to the deletion of Councillor Mayhew-Archer's name/declaration.

141/00 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 7)

The Committee considered a report (CS7) which summarised the provisional revenue outturn for the Committee for 1999/2000 and identified variations to be carried forward into 2000/01 in accordance with the budget management arrangements.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

142/00 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 1999/2000

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee considered a report (CS8) which analysed the provisional outturn for expenditure on capital schemes and programmes underway in 1999/2000. It highlighted variations in planned payments for the Oxfordshire Museum, the Oxfordshire Record Office and the Minor Works Annual Programmes.

RESOLVED: to note the position of the 1999/2000 Cultural Services Provisional Capital Programme Outturn.

143/00 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered a report (CS9) which set out their 2000/01 Budget and identified the financial issues to be addressed during the year and action taken to date to achieve the 2000/01 policy plans.

RESOLVED: to receive the report.

144/00 DEPARTMENTAL MEDIUM TERM PLANS – 2000/01 TO 2004/05

(Agenda Item 10)

The County Council was moving towards a medium term planning structure, with a corporate medium term plan supported by more detailed departmental plans.

The first round of corporate and departmental medium term plans had been produced in Spring/Summer 1999. As initial plans these were largely provisional documents to be developed during the remainder of the 1999/2000 financial year into more comprehensive plans for the future. As a consequence of this development process the County Council had published a new corporate plan "The Oxfordshire Plan 2000/01 – 2004/05", which set out overall objectives and priorities, and a range of key service targets and improvements over the next few years. This Plan also served as the Council's statutory Best Value Performance Plan. Each service department would produce, by June 2000, a similar complementary plan which would set out in more detail what its overall objectives were, and how they contributed to objectives in the over-arching corporate plan.

The Committee considered a report (CS10) on the development of a Cultural Services Medium Term Plan and proposed strategic objectives, with timescale for production of the Plan and an indication of key actions.

At members' suggestion the Director of Cultural Services added at Annex 1 'Strategic Planning and Organisational Development' a further clear diamond bullet point – "Implementation of the Oxfordshire Better Government for Older People Action Plan."

Resolved: to:

- (a) approve the strategic objectives for Cultural Services highlighted in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report;
- (b) approve the process and timescale for the production of a Medium Term Plan described in the report;
- (c) approve in principle the actions contained in Annex 1 to the report as amended; and
- (d) instruct the Director of Cultural Services to submit by the deadline of 3 July 2000 a response to the DCMS consultation document 'Comprehensive & Efficient - Standards for Modern Public Libraries', following consultation with the Committee's political Group Spokespersons.

145/00 Capital programme 2000/2001 – 2001/02
(Agenda Item 11)

The Committee considered a report (CS11) on the outcome of their recommendations to the Strategy & Resources Committee on 18 April; the Central Library repairs programme; and the progress made on libraries schemes under the Premises Review. In particular, endorsement was sought for further negotiations to take place regarding the Kidlington and Chipping Norton schemes.

Councillor Mitchell addressed the Committee as local member about the refurbishment of Adderbury Library and invited members to the opening on 30 September 2000.

Mr Mackie provided background information about Didcot Library which had given rise to the additional officer recommendation shown in the schedule of addenda.

The Director of Cultural Services undertook to supply further information to Councillor Matthews in relation to Deddington Library.

Consideration of Thame Library was deferred to agenda item 13 (see Minute 36/00 below).

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the position regarding funding for the Oxfordshire Record Office and Wychwood Library projects;
- (b) note the programme for the Central Library repairs;
- (c) welcome the programme for the enhanced library provision at Adderbury;

- (d) agree in principle the partnership project at Kidlington Library, for a joint redevelopment of the library site with Social Services plus an external developer;
- (e) welcome the programme agreed with the Education Department for a joint community/school library for Sonning Common;
- (f) authorise officers to continue discussions and negotiations at Chipping Norton, with the local businessman, with a view to his providing for rent a greatly improved library facility; and
- (g) instruct the Director of Environmental Services to arrange an informal member/officer meeting between the Cultural Services and Environmental Committees' political Group Spokespersons and relevant County Council officers and members/officer representatives of the South Oxfordshire District Council in order to discuss the funding options for the proposed new library's possible inclusion in the Didcot Town Centre redevelopment, the meeting to be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances, the County officers to report further to this Committee's next meeting.

146/00 COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY (CRE) STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(Agenda Item 12)

The Committee considered a report (CS12) which responded to the Strategy & Resources Committee resolution in October 1998 asking Chief Officers to continue to report annually to their programme committees on departmental performance against the Commission for Racial Equality Standard up to and including Level 3. It detailed the Department's performance against the standard, indicated areas where improvements had taken place and incorporated an action plan for the coming year.

RESOLVED: to note the work undertaken in response to the Strategy & Resources Committee request for Chief Officers to continue to produce annual reports monitoring their service against the Commission for Racial Equality Standard on each of the indicators up to and including Level 3 as shown in the annex to the report.

147/00 THAME LIBRARY/ARTS DEVELOPMENT
(Agenda Item 13)

The Council on 9 May 2000 had referred the following motion by Councillor Tim Horton to this Committee to consider and determine:-

"Council recognises the desire of residents in Thame and its surrounding villages to extend community facilities in the town, including well-equipped buildings for a library and arts development. Council accepts that the achievement of such projects will be best achieved through partnership working involving all relevant councils.

Council therefore agrees to propose to Thame Town Council and South Oxfordshire District Council the establishment of an informal member/officer working party to develop work towards the realisation of initiatives, to include the planning, design, funding and management of potential sites in and around the town. Such a working party should be able to invite participation of other interests that could assist in the achievement of these aims."

Councillor Horton spoke in support of his motion.

Councillor Mrs Ludlow addressed the Committee as local member and reminded the Committee that the outline project appraisal had been approved in 1995 and was now first priority in the preparation pool. She drew attention to the paucity of land for new building in Thame and the need to identify funding.

Mr Malcolm circulated a letter from Sarah Hayes, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Thame Community Arts & Theatre Centre (CAT) asking the Committee to support the motion.

Councillor Ferriman, seconded by Councillor Rose, moved an amendment to add the following paragraph at the end of the motion: 'The County Council representatives on the working party will comprise the Committee's political Group Spokespersons and relevant officers, with others eg local members being invited as appropriate'. The amendment was put to the meeting and was carried nem con.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

148/00 PEOPLE'S NETWORK FUNDING PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 14)

The Committee considered a report (CS14) on funding for Cultural Services from the New Opportunities Fund for the development of the People's Network (New Library) in Oxfordshire which aimed to link every public library in the U.K. to the Internet and to the National Grid for Learning by 2002. It offered a major opportunity for Oxfordshire to enhance very significantly its provision of ICT services, in particular the Internet, in all of its branch libraries and offered the opportunity to contribute to a network that would enable the economic connection of other County Council establishments (including schools).

It also identified significant long-term funding implications for this Committee. From November 2003 onwards, substantial additional operating costs would fall on the County Council, to be addressed as a revenue budget pressure for Cultural Services within the overall ICT framework for the Council. The issue of charging for Internet access would also need to be addressed in the near future.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) welcome the funding offered by the New Opportunities Fund programme, which would enhance significantly the provision of ICT in Oxfordshire libraries and contribute to the development of the County Council's ICT Strategy;
- (b) note that the additional operating costs for the enhanced services, from November 2003 onwards, would fall on the County Council, and need to be addressed as a revenue budget pressure for Cultural Services within the overall ICT framework for this Council;
- (c) request the Director of Cultural Services to consult the Head of Corporate ICT and the County Treasurer, through the Chief Officers ICT Strategy Group, on options for the long term co-ordination, management, operation and funding of this initiative as part of the County Council's ICT Strategy; and
- (d) consider the charging policy for the Internet service as part of a subsequent Review of Charges.

149/00 PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

(Agenda Item 15)

Every year in England and Wales hundreds of thousands of chance archaeological finds were made by members of the public. Only a very small proportion of these finds were ever recorded by museums or archaeologists. The Committee considered a report (CS15) which proposed to extend this project to enable a post to be created and shared between Oxfordshire and Berkshire to carry out this work. It described the success of a number of pilot schemes funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to appoint archaeologists to work with the public and metal detector users.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) receive the report and note the application to the HLF for the Portable Antiquities Scheme;
- (b) welcome the inclusion within the scheme of one post to cover Oxfordshire for the three year period of the scheme at £1,000 pa to be met from within existing resources; and
- (c) instruct the Director of Cultural Services to update members on progress with the scheme.

150/00 MOVING HERE: THE PEOPLING OF ENGLAND

(Agenda Item 16)

Cultural Services had been invited to participate in an application to the New Opportunities Fund for a project 'Moving Here' which aimed to research and document the history of immigration into England from 1840. The project was led by the Public Record Office and aimed to promote social inclusion with possible involvement of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, Oxfordshire Archives and the Oxfordshire County Museums Service.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) accept the invitation for the Oxfordshire County Museums Service to participate in the application to the NOF Project: Moving Here – The Peopling of England, on the understanding that no resource implications would arise for the County Council; and
- (b) instruct the Director of Cultural Services to inform members of the outcome of the application.

151/00 local cultural strategy

(Agenda Item 17)

At their September 1999 meeting the Committee had considered the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) draft guidance for local authorities in England for Local Cultural Strategies, which strongly encouraged all local authorities to draw up such a Strategy to reflect the whole range of cultural activity within their area. The DCMS expected that all local authorities (apart from parish and town councils), individually or as part of joint or consortium arrangements, would prepare a Local Cultural Strategy for their area within the next three years.

The Director of Cultural Services reported on proposals to develop a Local Cultural Strategy for Oxfordshire in accordance with the Committee's decision and the expectations of the DCMS. The development process would include the organisation of a Seminar of representatives from local authorities and cultural bodies from across the County which had provisionally been arranged to be held on 13 July 2000 (am) in Oxford.

In response to members' concerns that the proposed date clashed with a County Council meeting, the Director undertook to look into the possibility of rearranging it.

RESOLVED: to endorse the proposals for developing a Local Cultural Strategy.

152/00 COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 18)

At members' request, the original documents referred to in the statement would be placed in the Members Resource Centre.

RESOLVED: to receive the statement of communications from members of the public.

153/00 URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 19)

RESOLVED: that the Urgency Sub-Committee Minutes of 17 May 2000 be received.

in the Chair

Date of signing

2000