

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 3.25pm

### **Present:**

Councillor Susanna Pressel – in the Chair

Councillors:

John Howson	Ted Fenton	Jane Murphy
Juliette Ash	Donna Ford	Michael O'Connor
Brad Baines	Andrew Gant	Michele Paule
Hannah Banfield	Stefan Gawrysiak	Glynis Phillips
David Bartholomew	Andy Graham	Sally Povolotsky
Robin Bennett	Kate Gregory	Eddie Reeves
Felix Bloomfield	Jane Hanna OBE	G.A. Reynolds
Liz Brighouse OBE	Jenny Hannaby	David Rouane
Kevin Bulmer	Charlie Hicks	Geoff Saul
Nigel Champken-Woods	Tony Ilott	Les Sibley
Mark Cherry	Bob Johnston	Nigel Simpson
Andrew Coles	Liz Leffman	Roz Smith
Yvonne Constance OBE	Dan Levy	Ian Snowdon
Ian Corkin	Dr Nathan Ley	Dr Pete Sudbury
Imade Edosomwan	Mark Lygo	Bethia Thomas
Duncan Enright	Kieron Mallon	Michael Waine
Mohamed Fadlalla	Ian Middleton	Liam Walker
Arash Fatemian	Freddie van Mierlo	Richard Webber
Neil Fawcett	Calum Miller	

*The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **44/22 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022 were amended as follows:-

#### **34/22 Election of Chair for the 2022/23 Council Year**

The addition of “(Councillor Susanna Pressel in the Chair)” following this minute

Replacement of references to Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Chair and Vice-Chair

### **37/22 Minutes**

The Director of Law and Governance to agree a revised form of words regarding the statements by Councillors Leffman and Corkin during the debate on the severance of the S.113 agreement with Cherwell District Council at the meeting of Council on 8 February 2022.

### **38/22 Report of the Cabinet**

Paragraph 1 to state

“In relation to a question from Cllr Bob Johnston, Cllr Pete Sudbury said that the Tree Policy did include climate resilience and UK grown and quarantined trees which were also found in Southern Europe. Trees needed to provide food, timber or natural habitats”

and approved as a correct record

### **45/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bearder, Field-Johnson, Haywood, Leverton, Roberts and Rooke

### **46/22 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

(Agenda Item 4)

Council received the following communications:-

- 1 A statement by the Chair on the devoted service by Her Majesty the Queen during her reign spanning 70 years and the celebrations in Oxfordshire for her Platinum Jubilee
- 2 A statement by the Chair on her various engagements in many divisions within the County

The Council then paid tribute to the late Councillor David Wilmshurst and observed a minute's silence in his memory

### **47/22 APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda Item 5)

Council noted the following appointments:-

### **Pension Fund Committee**

Councillor Field-Johnson to replace Councillor Reeves

### **Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Fatemian to replace Councillor Murphy

Councillor Fenton to replace Councillor Constance

## **48/22 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item 6)

### **Petition**

Fazal Hussain presented a petition on behalf of LTN Smart Changes Group, requesting the removal of Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes in Cowley and East Oxford

### **Public Address**

Emily Daly, a parish councillor in Lower Heyford, addressed the Council on the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. Ms Daly referred to the omission in the plan of a weight limit as part of the Heyford Park development. Ms Daly said the Council's policy to replace point weight limits with area based limits was not included in the plan. Ms Daly expressed concern about the lack of consultation on the change in policy, that it had appeared to be predetermined and did not take into account the views of local parish councils who were best placed to identify and make representations on the local traffic concerns in their neighbourhoods.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that she was not aware of any policy decisions of this Council being predetermined.

Mark Goldring addressed the Council on the work of the Asylum Welcome charity, working with asylum seekers and refugees across the county. Mr Goldring referred, in particular, to the efforts of the Council working with local organisations to support refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Mr Goldring asked that the Council establish a permanent refugee support and co-ordination function

## **49/22 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

(Agenda Item 8)

27 Questions with Notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers will be set out in the Annex to the minutes.

In relation to question 1, (Question from Cllr Kieron Mallon to Cllr Andrew Gant), Cllr Gant undertook to provide a written response on whether Low

Traffic Neighbourhoods were proposed in areas covered by Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

In relation to question 5, (Question from Cllr Nathan Ley to Cllr Andrew Gant) Cllr Gant undertook to provide a written response on S106 developer contributions to the new bus service

## **50/22 REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the report of the Cabinet

In relation to a question from Cllr John Howson, Cllr Liz Brighthouse said that it was important to improve the Council's SEND system through increased engagement from the health sector.

In relation to a question from Cllr Ian Corkin, Cllr Liz Brighthouse undertook to provide a written response on the number of children from Ukraine waiting for school places and the waiting times for those places

In relation to a question from Cllr Brad Baines, Cllr Mark Lygo explained that the Council was working with partners on the strategy for the next steps of the food strategy in order to achieve the desired outcomes

In relation to a question from Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Mark Lygo said that initiatives had been taken to encourage more involvement by schools in the development of the Food Strategy

In relation to a question from Cllr Robin Bennett, Cllr Mark Lygo explained ways in which the district councils and other partners would be involved in development of the Food Strategy

In relation to a question from Cllr Ian Corkin, Cllr Pete Sudbury undertook to provide a written response to concerns regarding the planning application to restore a destroyed landfill site at Ardley

In relation to a question from Cllr David Bartholomew, Cllr Calum Miller explained the measures being taken to address the deficit to the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant fund and that local authorities were working together to lobby central government for more financial support for a measure which he considered had been inadequately funded since it had been introduced.

In relation to a question from Cllr Charlie Hicks, Cllr Duncan Enright undertook to speak to officers about the review of LTCP 4

In relation to a question from Cllr Robin Bennett. Cllr Pete Sudbury explained the measures being taken to reduce Scope 3 carbon emissions and a report would be submitted to the Cabinet in the autumn

In relation to a question from Cllr Roz Smith, Cllr Jenny Hannaby said that she intended to visit all 44 of the county's libraries and would be looking at the measures needed to improve buildings and services where required

In relation to a question from Cllr Robin Bennett, Cllr Calum Miller said that the new administration had put in place new capital expenditure controls and steps to deal with what he considered to be inadequately funded schemes inherited from the previous administration.

In relation to a question from Cllr David Bartholomew, Cllr Calum Miller said that it had been disappointing that a proportion of capital funds allocated in the previous financial year had been unspent but that they had been earmarked in the current year and that the administration would ensure continued close scrutiny of the Council's capital expenditure

In relation to a question from Cllr David Bartholomew, Cllr Calum Miller undertook to provide a written response on the contradiction between statements in the Treasury Management annual report and the Capital Programme report regarding new borrowing in 2021/22

In relation to a question from Cllr Brad Baines, Cllr Andrew Gant said that the Active Travel Strategy, which formed part of the evidence base to the LTCP, had addressed the issue of good quality, segregated active travel infrastructure.

In relation to a question from Cllr Yvonne Constance, Cllr Andrew Gant said that he would speak to officers on the plans for "Vision Zero" on the A420 road

In relation to a question from Cllr Andrew Coles, Cllr Andrew Gant explained the current status of the Woodstock Road scheme and that the primary aims were to reduce congestion and car use and encourage use of buses as part of the Active Travel Scheme

In relation to a question from Cllr George Reynolds, Cllr Andrew Gant said that he would be ensuring that the provision of bus services from rural areas of the County into Oxford continued to be prioritised.

In relation to a question from Cllr Robin Bennett, Cllr Duncan Enright said that he would ensure that input from parish Councils and Didcot Town Council was taken into account in the development of the Didcot area strategy

In relation to a question from Cllr Yvonne Constance, Cllr Duncan Enright said that the governance of the HIF2 scheme had been reviewed, a cabinet advisory group had been established, monitoring of environmental performance had been introduced, and that he was confident that the scheme would provide considerable improvements to the infrastructure of the county.

In relation to a question from Cllr John Howson, Cllr Duncan Enright said that he would ensure that neighbourhood forums and residents' groups were consulted on the HIF2 scheme.

**51/22 JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT**

(Agenda Item 10)

Council had before it the annual report of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Regulation 28(1) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council had a duty to "review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in its area".

As part of this overarching duty, it also had a duty, enshrined in the Council's Constitution, to report on its activity over the preceding year in the form of an annual report.

Cllr Jane Hanna presented the report and answered a number of members' questions

Following debate it was:-

**RESOLVED** (on a motion from Cllr Jane Hanna, seconded by Cllr Nathan Ley and carried nem con) to endorse the Joint Committee's annual report

**52/22 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO TERMINATION OF THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL S.113 AGREEMENT.**

(Agenda Item 12)

Council had before it a report recommending the disbandment of the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee following the decision to terminate the current s.113 partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council

**RESOLVED** (on a motion from Councillor Liz Brighthouse and seconded by Cllr Ian Corkin and agreed nem con) to:

- a) Approve that the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee (JSSP) should be disbanded with effect from 31 August 2022

- b) Delegate to the Chief Executive powers to, operate, terminate, extend, or vary the new arrangements with Cherwell District Council
- c) Delegate to the Director of Law and Governance to make any resultant changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect the recommendations in this report

**53/22 EXEMPT ITEM**

(Agenda Item 13)

**RESOLVED to** exclude the public for the duration of the following item since it is likely that if they were present during this item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified below in relation to those items and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**54/22 PROPOSALS FOR ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE RESULTING IN PROPOSED REDUNDANCIES**

(Agenda Item 14)

The information contained in the report was exempt in that it fell within the following prescribed categories:

1. Information relating to a particular individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

It is considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would distort the proper process of free negotiations between the authority with another party for the purposes described and would prejudice the position of the authority in those negotiations and other negotiations of a similar nature in future

Council had before it a report recommending approval of special severance payments arising from a review of the Council's staffing structures. In view of statutory guidance issued in May 2022, these payments required the approval of the full Council.

Councillor Liz Leffman moved and Councillor Liz Brighthouse seconded that the recommendations set out in the report be adopted.

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 36 votes to 0 with 18 abstentions

**RESOLVED**, (by 36 votes to 0, with 18 abstentions), to approve the payments set out in the report, subject to granting reasonable discretion as identified and approved by the Leader of the Council and Interim Chief Executive to make any changes as required.

**55/22 LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN**

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before it a report updating members on the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). Local Transport Plans were statutory documents, required under the Transport Act 2008. The new Oxfordshire document had been titled the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), to better reflect the strategy both for digital infrastructure and for better connectivity across the whole county.

The report summarised the results of the LTCP consultation and outlined the key changes to the final LTCP. It also included information about changes to the supporting strategies for Freight and Logistics, Innovation Framework and Active Travel. It was proposed that the content of the documents found in annexes 2-5 were all adopted by the council

Councillor Duncan Enright moved and Councillor Andrew Gant seconded that the recommendations set out in the report be adopted.

Following debate it was:-

**RESOLVED** (nem con) to:-

- a) Adopt the content of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan document, and the supporting strategies, as council policy.
- b) Acknowledge the Cabinet resolution on 21 June 2022 to delegate the decision on the final Local Transport and Connectivity Plan document, including graphical format, to the Corporate Director for Environment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Travel and Development Strategy.

**56/22 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER**

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Liam Walker moved and Councillor Eddie Reeves seconded the following Motion:-

“This council recognises the need to improve public transport in Oxfordshire to reduce emissions, tackle congestion and make sure our bus services are more sustainable.

Park and Ride sites are important transport hubs in Oxfordshire helping to reduce the need to drive into Oxford city.

To help meet the commitments as stated above this council calls on both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways Management to:

- Establish a cross-party task force to explore the viability of making parking at our P&R sites free.
- Write to the Leader of Oxford City Council asking for the city council to join this new task force
- . • Work with public transport providers in Oxfordshire to establish a Park & Ride improvement plan”

Councillor Duncan Enright moved and Councillor Andrew Gant seconded the following amendment as shown in bold italics and strikethrough:-

This council recognises the need to improve public transport in Oxfordshire to reduce emissions, tackle congestion and make sure our bus services are more sustainable.

Park and Ride sites are important transport hubs in Oxfordshire helping to reduce the need to drive into Oxford city.

To help meet the commitments as stated above this council calls on both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways Management to:

- ~~• Establish a cross-party task force to explore the viability of making parking at our P&R sites free.~~
- ~~• Write to the Leader of Oxford City Council asking for the city council to join this new task force.~~
- ~~• Work with public transport providers in Oxfordshire to establish a Park & Ride improvement plan~~
- ***Continue working within the Enhanced Bus Partnership (EBP) to make Park & Ride (P&R) more attractive than driving into the city centre***
- ***Work with the public transport providers, City and District Councils through EHP to plan the future of P&R, including discussing freight consolidation, shared transport, bike and scooter hire, tourist coaches, and high frequency services beyond the city.***

Following debate, the amendment by Councillor Duncan Enright was put to the vote and carried by 35 votes to 21

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.(vii), Councillor Roz Smith moved and Councillor Pete Sudbury seconded that the question now be put.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was carried by 34 votes to 7 with 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED** (by 34 votes to 7 with 1 abstention):-

This council recognises the need to improve public transport in Oxfordshire to reduce emissions, tackle congestion and make sure our bus services are more sustainable.

Park and Ride sites are important transport hubs in Oxfordshire helping to reduce the need to drive into Oxford city.

To help meet the commitments as stated above this council calls on both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways Management to:

- Continue working within the Enhanced Bus Partnership to make Park & Ride (P&R) more attractive than driving into the city centre
- Work with the public transport providers, City and District Councils through the Enhanced Bus Partnership to plan the future of P&R, including discussing freight consolidation, shared transport, bike and scooter hire, tourist coaches, and high frequency services beyond the city.

**57/22 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY**

(Agenda Item 16)

The time being 3.25 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.8

**58/22 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE**

(Agenda Item 17)

The time being 3.25 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.8

**59/22 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES**

(Agenda Item 18)

The time being 3.25 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.8

**60/22 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR NIGEL SIMPSON**

(Agenda Item 19)

The time being 3.25 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.8

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....