

## **CABINET**

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 May 2022 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.00 pm

### **Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Liz Leffman – in the Chair  
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Glynis Phillips  
Councillor Dr Pete Sudbury  
Councillor Tim Bearder  
Councillor Duncan Enright  
Councillor Calum Miller  
Councillor Jenny Hannaby  
Councillor Mark Lygo  
Councillor Andrew Gant

### **Other Members in**

**Attendance:** Councillors David Bartholomew, Andy Graham, John Howson, Eddie Reeves, Roz Smith

### **Officers:**

Whole of meeting Stephen Chandler, Interim Chief Executive; Steve Jorden, Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets & Investment; Claire Taylor, Corporate Director Customers & Organisational Development; Kevin Gordon, Corporate Director for Children's Services; Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance; Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer; Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Committee Officer

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

### **57/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item. 1)

The Chair welcomed Councillor Andrew Gant to his first meeting as a Cabinet Member.

There were no apologies for absence.

### **58/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

**59/22 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2022 were approved and signed.

**60/22 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

(Agenda Item. 4)

See attached Annex.

**61/22 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item. 5)

The Chair agreed to the following requests to speak:

6: Climate Change Update

Cllr John Howson

8: Local Area SEND Strategy

Cllr John Howson

9: Libraries and Heritage Strategy

District Cllr Julian Cooper

Cllr Andy Graham

**62/22 CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE**

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report updating on the delivery of the 2021/22 Climate Action Programme delivery plan and setting out the 2022/23 delivery plan.

Before discussing the report, the Chair had agreed to the following request to speak:

Councillor John Howson asked that the report be circulated to all councillors as climate change was of concern to everyone. He was disappointed that only four maintained primary schools had been helped with energy efficiency. Most primary schools were not yet set up for renewable energy sources although they could play an important part as a community hub. He was pleased to see that £400,000 was to be spent in 2022/23 on the school support programme although there was nothing in the report on how to help academies or private schools.

Cabinet Members noted that the report demonstrated that the team had the knowledge, skills and commitment to make major progress. Determined progress had been made on Scope 1 (direct emissions from fuel use on council estate and fleet) and Scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased

electricity) and they were not hesitating on going for the full Scope 3 (indirect emissions from staff travel and electricity distribution).

An officer will shortly be appointed to work on decarbonising the Council's supply chain which was much larger than the Council's own carbon footprint. The carbon accounting framework and toolkit referred to on Agenda Page 27 would be of benefit to other organisations in understanding exactly what they were signing up to.

Officers will be asked if there was scope in the school conditions survey to examine energy supply and consumption of the buildings to inform the Council in considering the suggestions Councillor Howson made.

**RESOLVED to:**

- a) **Note the annual update on the delivery of the Climate Action Programme (Appendix 1)**
- b) **Approve the Climate Action Programme delivery plan for 2022/23 (Appendix 2)**
- c) **Approve the council's Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (Appendix 3) and the interim emissions reduction target for 2024/25.**

**63/22 OXFORDSHIRE FOOD STRATEGY**

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet had before it an Oxfordshire-wide food strategy, developed in partnership with the district and city councils and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), supporting a broad range of Council priorities and strategies in particular healthy weight strategies, addressing food poverty, tackling inequalities and the Council's Climate Action Framework.

The Cabinet Members for Public Health & Equalities and Climate Change Delivery & Environment spoke to the report. The strategy addressed the issues of food poverty, climate action, inequalities and the cost of living. The consultation process included farmers, producers, residents, local councillors and officers.

All the partners were required to develop an action plan and for us that will be a cross-council piece of work including input from the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It was a whole-system approach which was why there was a recommendation to allocate £250,000 to our district and city partners to support their own action plans. This could be passed on to local community and voluntary groups working in their own local areas.

Most food from Oxfordshire was well-grown, well-reared and good for the planet. The Climate Change Committee had identified the importance of local food production in mitigating against risks of climate change. A survey had shown that only 1% of food consumed in Oxford was grown in

Oxfordshire so there was a lot of work to be done. The National Farms Union strategy fitted in very well with this Council strategy.

Members acknowledged the work of many local organisations and volunteers in distributing food locally that was sourced locally. These organisations have responded very positively to this Council initiative.

**RESOLVED to**

- a) **Endorse the Oxfordshire Food Strategy – Part One attached at annexe 1 including the principles and overarching framework**
- b) **Agree that £250,000 grant funding be awarded to District and City council partners to support the delivery of the strategy as set out in paragraph 22 of the report**
- c) **Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Customers and Organisational Development to agree the terms of reference for the grant funding in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Equalities**
- d) **Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Customers and Organisational Development to make minor design and typographical changes to the document pending adoption by District and City partners**

**64/22 LOCAL AREA SEND STRATEGY**

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered the Local Area SEND Strategy which was co-drafted by a governance group of representatives from Local Authority Education, Social Care (Children's and Adult), Health, Education Setting and Parent/Carers.

Before discussing the report the Chair agreed to a request to speak.

Councillor John Howson stated that he looked forward to seeing the implementation plans and reminded Cabinet to place Members at the heart of decisions. The national Schools Bill was disappointing with no provision for SEND pupils because a national strategy has yet to be formalised. The government was not doing enough to help local authorities to provide for children with SEND coming into the county.

A recent report noted that the government had laudably raised parental expectations but had not provided the funding to meet those expectations sustainably. He believed that it was wrong that Ofsted reports did not include measures of SEND inclusion.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services agreed that central government had not grasped this issue. There was a

White Paper on schools and a Green Paper on SEND but she did not believe that they were working in the same direction.

In the development of this strategy there were fifteen engagement sessions that included children, parents, sector partners and the community and voluntary sectors. Going forward it was agreed that the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on the implementation plan and the intention is to keep up the high level of public engagement.

The Chair emphasised that the recommendation was to approve the document with the list of amendments made following consultation.

**RESOLVED to approve publication of the Local Area SEND Strategy.**

## **65/22 LIBRARY AND HERITAGE STRATEGY**

(Agenda Item. 9)

A draft Libraries and Heritage Strategy: 2022 - 2027 was approved by Cabinet on 21st December 2021 subject to public consultation. Cabinet considered a report detailing the consultation approach and setting out the key themes arising from the consultation.

Before discussing the report, the Chair agreed to requests to speak.

District Councillor Julian Cooper and Councillor Andy Graham, both representing Woodstock, asked that the provision of a permanent library for Woodstock be prioritised as the library was unable to provide as good a service in its temporary cramped location.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services & Safety agreed that providing a permanent building for Woodstock was a priority. She wished to acknowledge that her predecessor, Councillor Neil Fawcett, had steered this strategy through the engagement process. There had been an extraordinary level of agreement on the strategy.

Libraries should be accessible, interesting places at the hub of the community. Some needed improvement. She intended to ensure that all libraries will have the new services being planned.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) **Note the outcome of the public consultation on the Libraries and Heritage Strategy**
- b) **Delegate the responsibility for the adoption and implementation of the strategy to the Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Safety and the Corporate Director for Customer, Organisational Development and Resources and the project team.**

- c) **Agree that an annual review of the actions to deliver the strategy is reported to Cabinet and the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**66/22 APPOINTMENTS 2022/23**

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered Member appointments to a variety of bodies which in different ways support the discharge of the Council's Executive functions.

The Chair noted that there were two amendments to the list in the Annex which were required to reflect the recent changes in the Cabinet portfolios.

**RESOLVED: to agree the appointments to the bodies set out in the Annex to this report with two amendments:**

Under Joint Committees – Future Oxfordshire Partnership  
Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Group – substitute to be Cllr Andrew Gant  
Environment Advisory Group – substitute to be Cllr Andrew Gant

**67/22 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS**

(Agenda Item. 11)

The Cabinet considered a list of items (CA11) for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

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

**68/22 EXEMPT ITEM**

(Agenda Item. 12)

**RESOLVED** that the public be excluded for the duration of item 13 since it was likely that if they were present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified in relation to the respective items in the Agenda since it was considered that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information

**69/22 SECTION 101 AGREEMENT WITH LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

(Agenda Item. 13)

**PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

1. Information relating to any individual
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

**RESOLVED to**

- (a) Pursuant to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000, approve the delegation of specific powers from the county council to the London Borough of Bromley in relation to the investigation and prosecution of companies and individuals associated with the investigation known as Operation Argus**
- (b) Authorise the Head of Legal and/or the Director of Law and Governance to enter the necessary agreements to implement this delegation**

.....in the Chair

Date of signing .....

## ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>1. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>At the last Cabinet meeting you spoke passionately about trees, and Cabinet endorsed the new tree policy, so I know this question is of significance.</p> <p>During 2019 a vast swathe of council-owned trees was removed by Taylor Wimpey from alongside the highway on the A4155 at Shiplake in order to facilitate a housing development at Thames Farm. There was an obligation on the developer to undertake a major tree replanting programme by 2020. However, due to problems with the site, development has not yet commenced (other than the roadworks) and neither has the tree replanting programme. The consequence of this is that what was a pleasant, leafy rural road is now a bare urban landscape. What pressure can be brought to bear on the developer to commence the tree replanting programme regardless of the problems with the site itself?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Landscaping proposals for the development known as Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, have been approved under Reserved Matters planning application by South Oxfordshire District Council. The planning condition that specifically relates to Landscaping requires only that these works are to be carried out in accordance with approved plans and Landscape management Plan; there is no specific trigger date for this landscaping to be delivered by. Enforcement of planning conditions is a matter for the Planning Authority and unfortunately OCC have no jurisdiction over on-site planning matters in this respect. It is however the case that OCC are concerned about lack of progress and will shortly be writing to Taylor Wimpy in this regard, particularly in relation to the newly constructed access that remains un-used, un-finished and un-adopted.</p>



<p><b>Questions</b></p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member</b></p>
<p>(‘Before’ and ‘After’ pics supplied.)</p> <p><b>Supplementary</b></p> <p>Thank you for your response, however I was disappointed with its anodyne tone given the passion you have previously shown when speaking about trees.</p> <p>I thought the photographs showing the destruction of the rural scene that accompanied my question would have had more impact.</p> <p>Your reply states that there is no specific date for the tree replanting to start. This is not the case: it was specified that the tree re-planting would be completed by February 2020 as per the Tree Works Application (reference 13S12-3043) and the Woodland Project Plan. Failure to resolve ground condition problems has caused the delay.</p> <p>I understand planning enforcement is a district council responsibility but are you prepared to press them to get the county trees that were removed from the highway replaced in the coming planting season?</p>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Planning enforcement is indeed the responsibility of South Oxfordshire District Council and as far as I know you are a councillor at SODC and could therefore press your own planning department a lot harder than I can but I will surely join you in that.</p>
<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</b></p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>
<p>Since the county has taken responsibility for on-street parking offences, how many fixed penalties have been issued? Can the cabinet member provide a breakdown of where these penalties have been issued, and where patrols have taken place?</p>	<p>The information requested is set out <a href="#">here</a></p>
<p><b>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</b></p> <p>As part of the bus grant, we are required to find the means of speeding up bus travel. What steps are being taken to ensure the traffic in Frideswide's Square at busy times of day does not prevent buses reaching the Station and the Botley Road from Park End Street due to other vehicles sitting across the non-roundabout circles?</p> <p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY</b></p> <p>The issue around Frideswide Square takes on new impetus because of the one-way working on the Botley Road for possibly as long as 18 months while Great Western Railways expand the west side of the station and build the new bridge span and deepen the space under the bridge to allow high-sided vehicles to use the Botley Road. That will inevitably cause tailbacks. Can the Cabinet Member reassure me that the buses going to and from both Botley Road and the station will not be badly affected by the</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Information on our proposals for core schemes that are likely to impact on traffic levels in the area identified to the west of the city centre and across the city as a whole can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The Core Schemes proposed are expected to improve bus flow across the city, as a result of a reduction in through traffic. Further engagement and consultation is expected to be undertaken over the coming months.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE</b></p> <p>I am aware that the answer does not address the specific point of congestion on Frideswide Square so I will undertake to take that away and investigate with officers what measures, if any, can be taken to address that. More broadly, you are absolutely right to draw attention to the pressures that are going to be added to this already very busy part of the city centre not just from the redevelopment of the station but also from displacement of what is already very heavy traffic heading for Westgate and the Oxpens</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>consequences of this vital work for our rail network over such a long period of time.</p>	<p>development coming down the track. It is certainly a part of the city that we have to take a close interest in and I will certainly do that with officers.</p>
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p>What steps can the county council take to ensure that inflation doesn't erode the nutritional value or portion size of school meals served in state schools across Oxfordshire?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</b></p> <p>All of the school food provision in Maintained schools and new Academy schools (since 2015) in Oxfordshire, <u>should</u> be subject to the Government Guidelines set out in the School Food Plan, which came into force in January 2015. These standards specify which types of food should be served in schools and how often, and include the directive that 'Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services' should be adopted when purchasing ingredients.</p> <p>The School Food Guidelines dictate appropriate portion sizes for all food that can be served in both Primary and Secondary Schools.</p> <p>The Government Buying Standards for Food set out the clear technical specifications for food purchasing and production, covering aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production, processing and manufacturing Production standards, Traceability, Authenticity, Origin of meat and dairy, Animal welfare, Eggs, Higher</li> </ul>

Questions	Cabinet Member
	<p>environmental production standards, Palm Oil, Fish and Seasonal produce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition Reducing salt intake, Increasing salt intake, Meal deals, Reducing Saturated fat, Increasing fibre, Reducing sugar intake, Breakfast cereals, Fish, Savoury snacks, Confectionary, Beverages</li> <li>• Resource Efficiency Water, Reducing landfill, Food waste, Energy management, Catering equipment, Paper products</li> <li>• Social-economic Ethical trading, Inclusion of SME, Equality and diversity</li> </ul> <p>The buying standards further include Best Practice standards.</p> <p>I can therefore confirm that for all of the 58 Maintained schools, Nurseries and Academies who are signed up to Oxfordshire County Council's in house catering operation, the rise in inflation will have no impact on either nutritional content or portion sizes.</p> <p>For schools who have their own arrangements with third party suppliers, it might be wise for them to seek a similar</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY</b></p> <p>I am sure you can agree with me that the government is not doing enough for struggling families that need the assurance that their children will get a decent sized and nutritional meal during the school day and you have confirmed that the 58 schools that we have under the local authority will be continuing with the government guidelines but I would like to ask with prices continuing to rise how long does this guarantee to parents last for on both nutritional content and portion size.</p>	<p>assurance from their current meal provider.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE</b></p> <p>I do not think there is a time limit on the school food guidelines but I would like to take the opportunity to suggest that governors take the opportunity to ask their schools for similar assurances about the size and nutritional value of their meals</p>
<p><b>5. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Highways Management assure me that he will lobby central government for more funding for highway maintenance for Oxfordshire County Council? As I recently received an email from highway officers that Edmonds Road resurfacing was delayed another year due to high cost of materials and funding for the financial year. This is the second time parts of Edmonds Road have had no road resurfacing since the early 1990s when I attended Drayton school.</p> <p>Furthermore roads like Warwick Road also need further</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>My predecessor wrote to central government on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 making the case for extra funding. Having recently been appointed to Cabinet Member for Highway Management portfolio, I can confirm that I will use this as an opportunity to introduce myself and further make the case for much need additional finding for Highway Maintenance.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>
road maintenance. This is important for local people cycling and all road users in general.	

