

# COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2010

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

### ***Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council***

#### **1. Financial Monitoring**

*(Cabinet, 24 November and 15 December 2009)*

The Cabinet considered two financial monitoring reports. The report to the meeting on 24 November covered the period to 30 September 2009 and the report to the meeting on 15 December covered the period to 31 October 2009.

At the November meeting, Cabinet approved requests for virements set out in the report and agreed the extension of the reduction in payment terms for small to medium sized businesses from 28 to 14 days for a further year and to the replacement of the lost interest by LABGI funding.

At the December meeting it was reported that the in-year overspend for the Directorates was forecast to be £3.238m.

The year-end forecast of general balances showed an unchanged forecast of £14.088m. After taking into account the forecast Directorate overspend, the consolidated revenue balances forecast was £10.850m.

Cabinet noted the use of £0.472m one – off funding from the Highways Agency to offset the overspend in Transport (paragraph 42); approved the requested virements set out in the report; and agreed the proposed changes to Adult Learning charges from January 2010 (paragraph 59); and approved a one off payment of £1,887,000 for the early repayment of SAP and associated licences to be funded through prudential borrowing.

#### **2. Service & Resource Planning Report for 2010/11 - 2014/15**

*(Cabinet, 15 December 2009)*

Cabinet considered the second in a series of reports on the Service and Resource Planning process for 2010/11 to 2014/15, which provided councillors with information on budget issues for 2010/11 and the medium term. The report set out the review of charges, provided an update on the Service and Resource Planning process and included the Directorate Business Improvement & Efficiency Strategies. The strategies set out the identified pressures and priorities over the medium term and the proposals for savings.

The Cabinet noted those charges prescribed by legislation, approved those charges where there was local discretion and approved those charges for which an increase would commence before April 2010.

### **3. Appointments to Outside Bodies**

*(Cabinet, 24 November 2009)*

Cabinet considered a report that detailed specific appointments requiring the formal approval of Cabinet; sought endorsement of an advice note for members and reported on indemnity and insurance issues for members on outside bodies. It also sought approval to the arrangements for strategic partnership Cabinet Member appointments.

Cabinet agreed the procedure for considering appointments to strategic partnerships as set out in the report and the specific appointments; endorsed the advice note for councillors serving on outside bodies for issuing to all members appointed to outside bodies; and delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to put in place appropriate indemnity and insurance to enable members to undertake their functions.

### **4. Quarter 2 Performance Management: July - September 2009**

*(Cabinet, 15 December 2009)*

Cabinet noted a report that showed the council's performance in the four key areas of: customer, projects, finance, and people. Progress against targets was shown by directorate, including a summary of what was going well, what needed to be developed, and what required attention.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader***

### **5. Establishment Review**

*(Cabinet, 15 December 2009)*

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on activity since the implementation of the Establishment Review and associated Recruitment Approval process on 1 August 2005. Details of the agreed establishment figure at 30 September 2009 in terms of Full Time Equivalents was provided, together with the detailed staffing position at 30 September 2009. The report also contained information on grant funded posts and those vacancies which are being covered by agency staff and at what cost.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Schools Improvement***

### **6. European School Culham - Proposal to Replace it with an Academy**

*(Cabinet, 24 November 2009)*

The Cabinet considered a report that sought support for the replacement of The European School at Culham with an Academy and sought approval for submission of an 'Expression of Interest' to the Schools Minister for his approval of the replacement.

Cabinet noted the contents of the draft Expression of Interest; supported the submission of the Expression of Interest as the basis of a proposal to replace the European School, Culham with an academy subject to the financial

guarantees detailed in the report and requested officers to report on the outcomes of consultations undertaken as part of the 'Feasibility Study'.

***Cabinet Member: Transport Implementation***

**7. Oxfordshire County Council Parking Policy**

*(Cabinet, 24 November 2009)*

Cabinet noted that it was intended that West Oxfordshire District Council would be the first District within the County that would undertake Civil Parking Enforcement under an agency agreement. Oxfordshire County Council, as the highways authority, was required to make an application to the Department for Transport to create a Civil Parking Area which would enable civil enforcement of the various parking regulations in the District of West Oxfordshire to be undertaken and as part of this application the Council was expected to have in place a comprehensive parking policy document, a draft of which was submitted for consideration

Cabinet approved the Parking Policy Document for use throughout those parts of the County where Civil Parking Enforcement is undertaken.

***Cabinet Member: Growth & Infrastructure***

**8. Reading Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) Bid**

*(Cabinet, 24 November 2009)*

Cabinet considered a report that updated them on developments in the Reading Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid, described proposals for a Low Emission Zone in Reading, which included an element of charging and sought a decision on whether or not Oxfordshire County Council should enter in to a Partnership Agreement with Reading Borough Council, other neighbouring authorities and the Department for Transport and the appropriate level of any involvement.

Cabinet agreed in principle support of the Reading BC in its promotion of the Reading Area Transport Innovation Fund by participating as a Level 2 Programme Partner on the understanding that OCC is opposed to congestion charging and to any third bridge unless it is for public transport only. The agreement was conditional on the elements of the programme being agreed by the local authorities in whose areas these elements were located; authorised the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure to sign the partnership agreement. Cabinet made it clear that this did not mean that OCC gave unconditional support to all aspects of the Reading TIF bid.

KEITH R MITCHELL CBE  
Leader of the Council

December 2009