

COUNTY COUNCIL – 3 APRIL 2012

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Military Champions *(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)*

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following military champions focusing on each of the military bases in Oxfordshire:

1. Bicester Garrison: Cllr Kieron Mallon
2. RAF Brize Norton: Cllr Donald Robert Seale
3. Abingdon Station: Cllr Sandy Lovatt
4. Vauxhall Barracks: Cllr Tony Harbour
5. RAF Benson: Councillor Bill Service
6. Defence Academy Shrivenham: Cllr Keith Mitchell
(as Leader of the Council)

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

2. Establishment Review – November 2011 *(Cabinet, 14 February 2012)*

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on activity since 31 March 2011. It gave details of the agreed establishment figure at 31 December 2011 in terms of Full Time Equivalents, together with the staffing position at 31 December 2011. In addition, the report provided information on vacancies and the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

3. Hampshire & Oxfordshire County Council ICT Partnership *(Cabinet, 20 December 2011)*

The Cabinet considered proposals for a formal partnership agreement for ICT services between Oxfordshire and Hampshire.

Cabinet agreed the establishment of a Joint ICT Partnership between the Oxfordshire County Council and Hampshire County Council ICT Services and that the first area of partnership collaboration be the provision of SAP Support to Oxfordshire. Responsibility for approval of other potential areas of collaboration that had material or significant impact was delegated to the Deputy Leader as the Cabinet portfolio holder for ICT and he was delegated responsibility for approving the finalised Partnership agreement.

4. Corporate Plan performance and Risk Management for the second Quarter 2011

(Cabinet, 20 December 2011)

The Cabinet noted a report setting out progress made toward the Corporate Plan priorities for the period between July and September 2011. In recognising that the County Council had achieved a number of positive outcomes and that overall progress against 2011/12 targets were on track Cabinet acknowledged that there were some priority areas which needed to be improved and these areas would continue to be monitored closely.

5. Corporate Plan performance and Risk Management for the third Quarter 2011

(Cabinet, 20 December 2011)

The Cabinet noted a report setting out progress made toward the Corporate Plan priorities for the period between October and December 2011.

Cabinet Member: Adult Services

6. Development in the Oxfordshire Care Partnership Agreement

(Cabinet, 20 December 2011)

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the principles for developing a partnership agreement with the Oxfordshire Care Partnership (OCP) for the provision of services for the care and support of older people in Oxfordshire whilst achieving service and financial objectives of the Council and the OCP.

Cabinet noted the negotiations underway, endorsed the proposals for overall service redevelopments and the recommended changes to the OCP contract; agreed to the sale of the freeholds of 5 Phase 1 new build sites and delegated authority to the Director of Social and Community Services to sign off the changes to the OCP contract and the revised financial model with advice from the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Members for Finance and Property and Adult Services following a consultation with the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee in January 2012.

7. Joint Strategic Commissioning Arrangements with NHS Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Cluster PCT

(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)

Cabinet considered and approved a report setting out proposals relating to the Section 75 NHS Act 2006 Mental Health Pooled Commissioning Budget Agreement between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (OPCT) and Specialist and targeted Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

8. Ridgeway Partnership Merger/Acquisition

(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that outlined the process and progress to date on a decision to include the services purchased from Ridgeway Partnership by Oxfordshire County Council in the NHS merger/acquisitions process and which sought confirmation of Cabinet's intention to continue to include the services purchased by the Council in the acquisitions process.

Cabinet confirmed its willingness to continue with the services it purchases from Ridgeway Partnership being included as part of the business to be acquired. The final approval to proceed with the transfer of the services the Council purchases to the preferred bidder was agreed by the Cabinet Members for Adult Services and Finance & Property on 1 March 2012.

9. Health & Wellbeing and Social Care: New Roles for Local Authorities

(Cabinet, 13 March 2012)

Cabinet discussed the changes to health, well-being and social care as described in the report, and approved the direction of travel as set out in the report. Cabinet asked the Director of Public Health to report back on future developments in due course.

10. Renewed Section 75 Agreement with Oxfordshire PCT

(Cabinet, 13 March 2012)

Cabinet endorsed proposals to agree joint agreements with Oxfordshire PCT for pooled budget arrangements and lead commissioning for older people and people with physical disabilities and people with a learning disability which have been approved by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Cabinet also granted delegated authority to the Director and s151 officer to agree the section 75 partnership agreement.

Cabinet Member: Finance & Property

11. 2011/12 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report

(Cabinet, 20 December 2011, 17 January 2012, 14 February and 13 March 2012)

Cabinet considered a series of regular reports which focussed on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies agreed as part of the service and resources planning process for 2011/12-2015/16 and which formed part of the forecast position for each Directorate.

In December Cabinet approved virements; agreed the return to balances as set out in the report; agreed the Children's Act loan write off, the creation of the Children, Education and Families reserves and approved changes to the Capital Programme.

In January Cabinet approved virements; wrote off a bad debt and agreed to a new reserve for training and staff development towards new ways of working.

In February Cabinet approved virements; agreed the creation of new reserves around academies issues, complex criminal investigations by Trading Standards and for the timely provision of critical infrastructure that supports planned growth; and approved the new schemes and budget changes set out in the report.

In March Cabinet approved virements; agreed the creation of the new reserves and approved new capital schemes and budget changes set out in the report. They also noted the changes made to the credit rating matrix limits set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy & Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 and 2012/13 under delegated powers (per paragraph 2 and 9); and RECOMMENDED Council to note the changes made to the credit rating matrix limits set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy & Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 and 2012/13. This is reported elsewhere on the agenda.

12. 2011/12 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report September 2011

(Cabinet, 20 December 2011 and 17 January 2012)

The Cabinet considered two further reports on the service and resource planning process for 2012/13 to 2016/17 which provided information on budget issues for 2012/13 and the medium term, included an update on directorate business strategies with a summary of changes to the pressures and savings therein, provided an update on government consultations and announcements, set out the review of charges and provided a draft capital strategy, corporate asset management plan and transport asset management plan. Also tabled at the December meeting was a supplementary report setting out the implications of the draft local government finance settlement and associated announcements.

Cabinet in addition to considering the reports when forming budget proposals considered by Council in February noted those charges prescribed by legislation and approved those charges where there was local discretion.

13. Property & Facilities External Services Contract Food with Thought and Quest Cleaning Services

(Cabinet, 6 February 2012)

Cabinet considered a report to inform their decision on whether the proposals put forward by the potential providers in respect of the catering and cleaning services provided by Food with Thought (FwT) and Quest Cleaning Services (QCS) met the requirements of the contract specification for the proposed Property and Facilities external services contract. Cabinet also considered the comments from the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 2 February 2012. Cabinet agreed that the proposals put forward by potential providers met the requirements of the contract specification and accordingly confirmed its 'in principle' decision to include Food with Thought and Quest Cleaning Services in the invitation to submit final financial offers.

14. Academies and Pension Costs

(Cabinet, 13 March 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that responded to a letter sent to all Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives in England which set out the statutory position regarding Academies and the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The report set out the background to the position in Oxfordshire, the issues surrounding pooling and asked the Cabinet to determine its views on the option of allowing academies to pool with the County Council. Cabinet noted that final decisions will be made by the Pension Fund Committee.

In light of the future financial risk to the Council, and the availability of alternative options open to the Pension Fund Committee, the Cabinet did not support the option of allowing academies to be pooled with the County Council for LGPS purposes, and agreed to inform the Pension Fund Committee accordingly.

Cabinet Member: Police & Policy Co-ordination

15. Big Society Fund- February

(Cabinet, 14 February 2012)

Cabinet considered bids to the Big Society Fund from the third wave of applications and gave approval to the following bids: Dean Court Community Centre; Kidlington Youth Club; New Horizons (Littlemore) and Connecting the B480 Parishes.

Cabinet Member: Safer & Stronger Communities

16. Proposals for the Future of the Library Service

(Cabinet, 12 December 2011)

Cabinet considered a report on the outcomes of the public consultation on the future of the library service. The same report had been considered by the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Lawrie Stratford, as Chairman of that Scrutiny Committee presented their views along with a number of other speakers.

Cabinet accepted the proposals outlined in this report which included the identification of the following core libraries: Abingdon, Banbury, Berinsfield, Bicester, Blackbird Leys, Botley, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Cowley, Didcot, Eynsham, Headington, Henley, Kidlington, Littlemore, Neithrop, Oxford Central, Summertown, Thame, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney.

They further agreed to continue to provide a fully supported infrastructure (building, ICT, book stock and the installation of self-service facilities) to those libraries not identified as core libraries and to work with each of these libraries to establish a Friends Group to enable a shift in the balance of staffing in these libraries towards volunteers over a three-year period. Chinnor, Faringdon, Grove, Wheatley and Woodstock were identified as Community Plus libraries, that would mean one third volunteers and two thirds paid staff. Adderbury, Bampton, Benson, Burford, Charlbury, Deddington, Goring, Hook Norton, Kennington, North Leigh, Old Marston, Sonning Common, Stonesfield, Watlington, Woodcote and Wychwood were identified as Community Libraries that would mean one half volunteers and one half paid staff. Cabinet also agreed to review the Quantitative Analysis of Service Requirements every four years, or earlier if necessary.

17. Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Fire & Rescue - Project

(Cabinet, 14 February 2012)

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework to which Fire Authorities must have regard when discharging their functions. The 2008-11 Framework requires each Fire and Rescue Authority to produce a publicly available IRMP. Cabinet considered and agreed proposals for a number of projects to be included within the Fire Authority's IRMP for the fiscal year 2012-13 and commented on the proposed Action Plan, consultation responses & management responses to the consultation responses.

Cabinet Member: Schools Improvement

18. Expansion of Orchard Meadow Primary School

(Cabinet, 14 February 2012)

Cabinet considered and approved the publication of a statutory notice for a proposal to expand Orchard Meadow Primary School to become a 2 form entry school with an Admission Number of 60 as one part of the county council's strategy to meet the need for primary school places in Oxford. The report included the outcome of a public consultation and consideration of the responses to it.

19. Proposed Extension of the Warriner School, Bloxham by Establishing a Sixth Form

(Cabinet, 14 February 2012)

Cabinet considered a report on the proposals by the governors of The Warriner School in Bloxham to establish a Sixth Form in order to offer post-16 education. The report set out the results of the public consultation and summarised the responses received. Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice to extend the age range of the school and establish a Sixth Form.

20. Council's Support for the Conversion of Schools to Academies and the Establishment of New Forms of Schools
(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)

Cabinet considered its position in respect of the conversion of schools to academies and the establishment of new forms of schools and the future role of the Council.

Cabinet confirmed: the Council's future role as commissioner of outcomes, and a champion for the children and families of the county; its absolute commitment to improve educational outcomes for those children and its support for the conversion of schools to become academies and the establishment of new forms of schools. Cabinet further agreed to a time-limited piece of work to inform a proposed Oxfordshire Academies Programme and to establish a new Advisory Board on Education Standards to advise the Council in its role as a Commissioner of excellent outcomes in Education.

21. Extension of Age Range at Woodeaton Manor School – Proposal for Alteration of Lower Age Limit
(Cabinet, 13 March 2012)

Cabinet considered and approved the publication of a statutory notice for a proposal to extend the age range of the School to include pupils of Key Stage 2 primary school age so that it becomes an age range of 7 to 18.

Cabinet Member: Transport

22. Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire
(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the proposed Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire, to cover the period up to 2034 which included the next four rail 'control periods' for investment. Cabinet approved the Strategy for stakeholder consultation and agreed that a final version of this Strategy be brought back for approval by Cabinet (and incorporated into an updated LTP3 for Oxfordshire), taking into account views expressed.

23. Renewal of Real Time Information System (RIS) Contract
(Cabinet, 17 January 2012)

Cabinet gave approval for continuation of the Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) services currently provided by Oxfordshire County Council and its project partners, Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach in Oxfordshire and Thames Travel Ltd, for bus users throughout Oxfordshire.

24. Dial-a-Ride Provision in Oxfordshire
(Cabinet, 6 February 2012)

Cabinet approved recommendations for the creation of, and future funding for, a unified Oxfordshire pre-booked transport service for disabled and mobility-

impaired residents replacing the existing separate “Octabus” and “Cherwell” dial-a-ride services.

25. Frideswide Square, Oxford – Transport and Public Realm Scheme

(Cabinet, 13 March 2012)

Cabinet approved the “Boulevard” option for Frideswide Square for detailed design and implementation, including the advertisement of any necessary traffic orders.

KEITH R MITCHELL, CBE

Leader of the Council

March 2012