

## COUNTY COUNCIL – 5 NOVEMBER 2013

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

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

#### **1. City Deal Strategy Overview**

*(Cabinet 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet considered a report that set out an overview of the City Deal proposal and sought approval for the City Deal Negotiation Document prior to its submission and presentation to the Government.

Cabinet approved the approach and overarching strategy for the City Deal proposal; and agreed the County Council to act as the accountable body for the City Deal proposal.

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

#### **2. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report – Quarter 1**

*(Cabinet 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet noted a report which provided details of performance for quarter one. The report was required so that Cabinet could monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas and be assured that progress was being made to improve areas where performance was below the expected level.

#### **3. Staffing Report – Quarter 2, 2013**

*(Cabinet 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013. It gave details of the agreed staffing numbers and establishment at 30 June 2013 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on vacancies and the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

#### **4. East-West Rail Local Contributions**

*(Cabinet 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet had before them a report which sought agreement to the terms of a formal agreement on local contributions for East-West Rail over a 15-year period from 2014, ahead of Oxfordshire County Council entering into the agreement with Buckinghamshire County Council and the Department for Transport by October 2013.

Cabinet approved the principle of the agreement with Buckinghamshire County Council, with approval of the final agreement being delegated to the Deputy Leader in consultation the Head of Legal Services and the Chief

Finance Officer and approved the local contribution for Oxfordshire County of £11.06m.

**5. Oxfordshire Customer Services (OCS) and Children Education & Families (CEF) Externalisation**

*(Cabinet 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet had before them a report which following the completion of soft market testing, updated Cabinet on the outcomes and outlined recommendations for the future direction of Oxfordshire Customer Services (OCS) and Children, Education and Families (CEF) services.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including a major procurement exercise to commence in January 2014; and that ICT should continue as an in-house service with the expectation that work to re-shape ICT will continue and thereby, ultimately, the majority of the service requirements will be commissioned; A Joint Venture is the anticipated direction for schools back office and CEF services but a final position on the conduct of the procurement exercise as it affects schools should be taken in December after there has been an opportunity during the Autumn to shape this with Headteachers, Governors, Schools Forum and other stakeholders. Requirements should include arrangements for school representatives to participate directly in the major procurement exercise to begin in January 2014. Trust options for the future of the Music Service should be considered in consultation with stakeholders during the Autumn with a proposed direction of travel to be considered by Cabinet in December; the remaining in-house delivery to meet the Council's own skills/learning needs should cease and all future requirements should be commissioned as necessary and discussion should be opened now with local Oxfordshire providers first with a view to externalising qualification based learning and to determine the future of the remaining skills and learning provision.

***Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care***

**6. Contributions Policy**

*Cabinet, 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet approved a report seeking approval to the Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care, for implementation with effect from 5 January 2014.

***Cabinet Member for Business and Customer Services***

**7. Revised Space Standards for Schools**

*Cabinet, 17 September 2013*

Cabinet approved a report that proposed revisions to space standards for the design and construction of new school buildings and subsequent amendments to policy documents (The Primary and Secondary School Briefs).

**Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families**

**8. Home to School Transport Policy Consultation**

*(Cabinet, 17 September 2013)*

Following the decision of the Cabinet on 16 July to consult again on the possible changes to the Home to School Transport Policy Cabinet approved the proposed consultation process.

**7. Edward Field Nursery School – Proposal to Close and provide alternative early Years provision**

*(Cabinet, 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet approve the closure of Edward Feild Nursery School with effect from 31 December 2013 subject to the following conditions:-

- That a lease for Robin Playgroup's use of the school premises be in place by the Nursery closure date.
- That as long as Edward Feild Primary School remains a maintained school the authority will retain an arbitration role to ensure that the lease remains equitable and sustainable for both parties.
- That any surplus in the Edward Feild Nursery School budget at closure is transferred to the Edward Feild Primary School budget and that the funds be spent to maintain or improve the parts of the premises occupied by or shared with the Robin Playgroup.
- The Nursery is to transfer any resources bought for nursery age children from public funds to Robin Playgroup without charge.

**8. Final Decision on Expansion of Watchfield Primary School to 2 form of entry**

*(Cabinet, 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet approved the permanent expansion of Watchfield Primary School with effect from 1 September 2014.

**9. Financial Contribution towards the University Technical College Project, Didcot**

*(Cabinet, 15 October 2013)*

The Department for Education had approved a proposal to create a 600 place University Technical College in Didcot. Subject to the outcome of a public consultation, which was currently underway, the UTC would serve a large catchment area covering the southern part of Oxfordshire. The UTC would make a substantial contribution towards the additional school places required to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Didcot and it was proposed that the Council make available a site on the Great Western Park development.

Cabinet approved the leasing of 2 hectares to the University Technology College trust; and to make a contribution of up to £2 million towards the construction costs of the University Technology College.

***Cabinet Member: Environment***

**11. Thornhill and Water Eaton Park & Rides – Introduction of Short Term Parking Charges**

*(Cabinet 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet approved proposed service changes to introduce new and to increase existing car park charging to the Thornhill and Water Eaton park & rides scheme after consultation.

Cabinet confirmed the timing of the introduction of charges and agreed to remove the Hospital exemption. Cabinet instructed officers to undertake a review between 6 and 12 months of commencement of charging but agreed that issues that arise in the meantime would be investigated.

**12. Witney Transport Strategy – Phase 1**

*(Cabinet 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet had before them a report which sought agreement to detailed proposals to improve the Ducklington Lane corridor; Phase 1 of the wider Witney Transport Strategy. The scheme formed part of a package of transport infrastructure investment in Witney, identified to relieve congestion and support the planned level of growth. The report also confirmed the outcomes of a public consultation and separate Traffic Regulation Order consultation, and the subsequent changes made to the scheme design following this.

Cabinet noted the responses received as part of the consultation; agreed the proposed changes to the scheme reflected in the revised scheme drawing as well as giving approval to the scheme for detailed design and construction; and delegated powers to the Director for Environment & Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to make minor amendments to the scheme. Cabinet also asked officers to report back to a future meeting of the Cabinet following implementation of the Ducklington Lane Corridor improvements to assess the impact on congestion.

***Cabinet Member: Finance***

**13. 2012/13 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report**

*(Cabinet, 17 September and 15 October 2013)*

Cabinet considered two reports that focussed on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies which were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2013/14 – 2016/17. In each report Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances. Capital Programme monitoring was included at Part 3. Changes to Fees and Charges were included in Part 4.

At the September meeting Cabinet approved provisions, bad debt write offs and noted the updated Treasury Management lending list. Cabinet also approved changes to the Capital programme, the increase to the Wheatley

River Bridge scheme of £0.550m to be funded from the earmarked reserves of the capital programme and the changes to charges at Hill End Outdoor Education Centre.

Cabinet approved virement requests, the transfer of the Schools Amalgamations Reserve to the Academy Conversion Support Reserve and the creation of the reserve for Job Clubs. Cabinet noted the Treasury Management lending and approved the use of £0.300m revenue funding towards the capital project to increase the provision for 2 year olds. Cabinet also approved changes to the Capital Programme and the full updated Capital Programme including the addition of the Milton Interchange scheme in the Capital Programme.

#### **14. Service & Resource Planning Report for 2014/15 – 2017/18**

*(Cabinet, 17 September 2013)*

Cabinet noted the first report in a series on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2014/15 to 2017/18, providing councillors with information on budget issues for 2014/15 and the medium term. The report presented the assumptions on which the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is based, known and potential financial issues for 2014/15 and beyond which impact on the existing MTFP, and approved a process for Service & Resource Planning for 2014/15 including a timetable of events.

**IAN HUDSPETH**

Leader of the Council

October 2013