

## COUNTY COUNCIL – 3 NOVEMBER 2014

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

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

#### **1. Governance and Constitution Review 2014 - September** *(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

In April 2013, the Council adopted new governance arrangements which came into effect following the May 2013 elections. The Council asked its Monitoring Officer to review the effectiveness of these decision-making arrangements a year after their coming into operation, along with the underlying Constitution. His recommendations will be considered by Full Council on 9 December. Cabinet had before them a report that summarised the emerging issues from the Monitoring Officer's review and they endorsed the direction of travel of the review.

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

#### **2. Staffing Report** *(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet considered and approved the quarterly staffing report that provided details of key people numbers and analysis of main changes since the previous report.

#### **3. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report 2014/15 – Quarter 1** *(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

Cabinet considered and noted a paper that provided details of performance for quarter one (2014-15)

#### **4. Operational Peer Assessment Audit Action Plan** *(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service received an external Operational Assessment Peer Review in May 2014. This is a sector led process which replaced the previous inspection regime carried out by of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire Service. Cabinet noted the contents of the Peer Review and approved the action plan.

**Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care****5. Outcome Based Contracting for Mental Health and Older People Services**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet considered a report on Outcomes Based Contracting which is an NHS priority as a way of managing spending and activity by making health care providers responsible for delivering outcomes, rather than paying them for activity. The substantial and on-going pressures on health and social care services, and large activity pressures with acute (hospital) care mean that there needs to be action to manage costs and activity over the medium term.

Cabinet supported the transition of the NHS to focus on outcomes rather than activities as the right direction for the benefit of the health of people in Oxfordshire; to recognise that the change is essential if the NHS in Oxfordshire is to be able to manage with the resources available and that the NHS managing within the resources is crucial to securing the resources of £8m from the Better Care Fund to protect Adult Social Care services and to secure resources to pay for the costs of the new Care Act.

Cabinet also delegated authority to negotiate Oxfordshire County Council's engagement with these two OBC contracts to the Director of Adult Social Services subject to conditions.

**6. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Resource Implications following Supreme Court Judgment in March 2014**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

The Cheshire West judgment was handed down by the Supreme Court on 19th March 2014. This judgment has had a significant impact on the workload to meet the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) due to the increased scope of the definition of 'deprivation of liberty' and consequently the number of service users that are now within the remit of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards who are placed within care homes and hospitals.

Cabinet noted a report that provided an understanding of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, the context to the judgment and the operational impact of responding to the judgment in Oxfordshire. The report considered the risks to Oxfordshire County Council and how these were being addressed and managed and the need to consider how to meet the additional responsibilities on the Department.

**7. Better Care Fund**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet had before them a report on the proposed use of the Better Care Fund in Oxfordshire, prior to submission to NHS England by 19 September 2014. This was an update to the plan previously agreed by Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2014, to reflect updated Government guidance and requirements issued in July and August 2014. Cabinet also considered a supplementary report updating the position from the original

report and recommending that the supplementary paper be submitted to Government as an overview plan that demonstrates the shared commitment to work together but also set out the particular problems that are faced in Oxfordshire.

Cabinet agreed the overview of the Better Care Fund Plan for Oxfordshire as set out in the Supplementary Report.

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

#### **8. Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet considered a report seeking endorsement of the Council's response to the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services. Cabinet approved the Action Plan for submission to Ofsted and requested the Performance Scrutiny Committee to undertake a 6 monthly review of progress.

#### **9. Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) Annual Report - Relevant Issues**

*(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

Cabinet, considered the first of an annual report on relevant issues for the County Council arising from the Annual Report of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB). The report outlined the progress achieved in relation to the objectives of the 2013-15 OSCB Business Plan and looked ahead to future challenges.

Cabinet noted the annual report of the OSCB and the progress made in relation to its objectives.

### ***Cabinet Member: Environment***

#### **10. Strategic Economic Plan And The Local Growth Deal(SEP) Update**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet had before them a report that provided the Cabinet with an update on Oxfordshire's recently announced Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocation to 2021 and the process for future LGF funding rounds. Cabinet gave approval to further develop the approved schemes and to support match-funding being identified in the Council's capital programme for 2015/16.

#### **11. Highways Asset Management Plan**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet considered an updated strategy for maintenance of the public highway in the form of a Highway Asset Management Plan. The draft document was approved as Council policy.

**12. A34 Major Improvements Schemes**

*(Cabinet, 16 September and 21 October 2014)*

In September and October Cabinet considered reports setting out the current position with regard to major improvement schemes to the A34. Cabinet approved the Stage 2 – Full Business Case for the Milton Interchange scheme and the Chilton Interchange scheme and gave delegated authority to the Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Leader to award the contracts for construction once tender assessment is complete and provided the costs are within the budget envelope.

**13. Changes to Parking Policy**

*(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

West Oxfordshire District Council had contacted the County Council seeking authority to undertake vehicle removals within West Oxfordshire as allowed for in the agency agreement delegating Civil Parking Enforcement Powers to the District Council and as a result the Oxfordshire Parking Policy had been reviewed. Cabinet approved the amended Policy and in particular the use by West Oxfordshire District Council of delegated powers to remove vehicles;

**14. Frideswide Square Construction Works**

*(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

Cabinet approved the revised design of the Frideswide Square transport and public realm improvements in Oxford.

***Cabinet Member: Finance***

**15. Service & Resource Planning Report 2015/16 - September 2014**

*(Cabinet, 16 September 2014)*

Cabinet noted a report that was the first in a series on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2015/16, providing councillors with information on budget issues for the next financial year and the medium term. The report presented the assumptions, on which the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is based, the financial strategy that informs the budget setting process, known and potential financial issues for 2015/16 and beyond which impact on the existing MTFP, and proposed a process for Service & Resource Planning for 2015/16 including a timetable of events.

**16. 2014/15 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report - August 2014**

*(Cabinet, 21 October 2014)*

Cabinet considered the latest report on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2014/15 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of August 2014. Capital

Programme monitoring and an update to the Capital Programme was included in Part 3. Part 4 set out a change to un-ringfenced grant funding in 2014/15.

Cabinet noted the report and approved the virement requests; delegated the approval of virements relating to the restructuring of Commercial Services and the implementation of savings relating to the consolidation of print services; approved the write off of invoices; approved the new joint reserve for the Thames Valley Control Centre; approved the contribution to capital from the Catering Investment Fund to part fund the capital scheme for the delivery of Universal Infant Free School Meals; approved the developer contributions funding to King Alfred's Academy to secure additional school places; approved the outline business cases for the three City Deal schemes and gave delegated authority for the approval of land purchase and advanced utility diversions ahead of full business case approval by Cabinet to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy; approved the budget increase on the A423 Southern bypass Kennington and Hinksey Hill roundabouts scheme; approved the forward funding of the Didcot Station Car Park Expansion; approved the inclusion of the £2m contribution to the Advanced Manufacturing Hub in Culham; approved the updated capital programme; and made recommendations to Council which are included elsewhere on the agenda.

**IAN HUDSPETH**

Leader of the Council

October 2014