

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Preparing for Future Financial Pressures

(Cabinet, 27 January 2015)

In response to government announcements about future public spending cuts the Leader of the Council presented the findings of a report from Ernst and Young on the options for the future configuration of local government in Oxfordshire.

Cabinet agreed to refer the report and a further suggestion made during the meeting to Council in order that all Members can debate the issues.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

2. Flood Risk Management Consultation Responses

(Cabinet 16 December 2014)

Cabinet considered a report presenting the outcomes of the consultation into the County Councils draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and proposed amendments arising from feedback received.

Cabinet noted the feedback from the consultation, approved the changes to the Strategy Action Plan and adopted the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

3. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report for Quarter 2

(Cabinet, 27 January 2015)

Cabinet noted a report that provided details of performance for quarter two (2014-15) for the Cabinet to consider. The report is required so that the Cabinet can monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas and be assured that progress is being made to improve areas where performance is below the expected level.

4. Community Risk Management 2015-16 Action Plan

(Cabinet, 24 February 2015)

Cabinet had before them for approval the Action Plan 2015-16 which had been subjected to full internal and external consultation for a period of 12 weeks. Cabinet agreed to accept all of the project proposals as set out below: The proposals for the 2015 - 2016 Action Plan are as follows:

Project 1: Implement Emergency Medical Support Services in collaboration with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

Project 2: Review adverse weather resilience arrangements with the emergency planning team and other partners.

Project 3: Trial emergency cover review recommendations in the Carterton area.

Project 4: Identify opportunities to work with partners to improve health, safety & wellbeing in local communities.

5. Staffing Report, Quarter 3 2014/15

(Cabinet, 24 February 2015)

Cabinet agreed a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2014. It gave details of the agreed staffing numbers and establishment at 31 December 2014. The report also provided information on vacancies and the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

6. Housing Related Report

(Cabinet, 27 January 2015)

Cabinet had before them a report that outlined the findings from the public consultation on housing related report and which set out proposals on the way forward following that consultation and consideration and approval by the members of the Health Improvement Board on 20 October 2014 and of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 13 November 2014.

Cabinet approved the proposed plan for re-commissioning of housing related support services, as revised following the consultation.

7. Adult Social Care Policy Framework

(Cabinet 24 February 2015)

Cabinet considered a report on the new Adult Social Care Policy framework. The report highlighted its impact and requested decisions on some key areas where the framework either proposed change to current practice or confirmed practice not previously included in formal policy.

Cabinet agreed the framework and authorised others to carry out reviews when appropriate while retaining oversight and responsibility, agreed various charges and procedures relating to charges, to accept complaints from people paying for their own care and support including through a Direct Payment, accepting that this may involve asking organisations providing care to investigate or sign posting to an appropriate place to investigate (for example the Local Government Ombudsman), not to charge carers a contribution to the cost of their support and continues to provide equipment free of charge before full assessment to aid independence and reduce or delay needs for care.

8. The Big Plan – Learning Disabilities Strategy, 2015/18

(Cabinet 17 March 2015)

Oxfordshire County Council is the lead commissioner of learning disability health and social care services, through a county council and clinical commissioning group pooled budget.

Cabinet had before them a report covering our commissioning plans for delivering services to people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire, including changes made as a result of the consultation.

Cabinet considered the results of the public consultation on Oxfordshire's joint Learning Disability Strategy 2015 – 2018 and approved the way forward.

9. Care Home Fees 2015

(Cabinet 17 March 2015)

The services that care homes provide within Oxfordshire play an important role in helping to meet the needs of vulnerable adults. The Council has to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the social care market to meet its current and future commissioning requirements.

Cabinet considered a report that described the process the Council had undertaken to review the amount it pays for care homes and gave agreement to the Target Banding Rates to be applied for 2015-16.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

10. Child Sexual Exploitation Update – OSCB Report and Report on CSE

(Cabinet, 16 December 2014)

Cabinet had before them a report to update members on progress on tackling CSE and to provide assurance on how we are responding to this issue. Also attached was the annual report of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board which sets out progress on the key areas of the action plan.

noted the work that has been undertaken in relation to combatting CSE; and support the recommendation for briefings to be provided for elected members to enable them to better recognise and respond to concerns about grooming and exploitation.

11. Strategy for Special Educational Needs Infrastructure to 2030

(Cabinet, 16 December 2014)

Cabinet considered a report setting out a proposed strategy to meet the rising demand for specialist provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, aged 2 to 25 years, in the short term and until 2030

Cabinet endorsed the Council's proposed strategy for meeting the demand for specialist provision for children and young people with SEN and Disabilities, aged 2 to 25 years, in the short term and until 2030.

12. Closure of Northfield School Hostel

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 8 December 2014)

The Cabinet Member considered and approved a proposal led by Oxfordshire County Council to formally remove the boarding provision at the "hostel" run as part of Northfield School, Oxford.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 10 January 2015.

13. Closure of Hearing Impairment Resource Base, Rush Common School, Abingdon

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 5 January 2015)

The Cabinet Member considered and approved a proposal to formally close the Hearing Impairment Resource Base at Rush Common School in Abingdon. From September 2014 there are no children attending this resource base.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 10 February 2015.

14. Proposal to Expand Hook Norton Primary School

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 9 February 2015)

The Cabinet Member considered and approved a proposal to increase the formal published admission number for Hook Norton CE Primary School from 30 to 45, on a permanent basis starting from September 2015.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 10 February 2015.

15. Proposal to Close West Kidlington Nursery School and Extend the Age Range of West Kidlington Primary School to Effect a "Merger"

(Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, 9 March 2015)

The Cabinet Member considered and approved a proposal to close West Kidlington Nursery School and alter the age range at West Kidlington Primary School to enable the establishment of a Nursery class. This will effect a "merger" between the two currently separate establishments.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision was exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 4 April 2015.

Cabinet Member: Environment

16. Follow Up to the Call In of a Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment: Proposed Pelican Crossings – A415 Marcham Road and Ock Street, Abingdon

(Cabinet, 16 December 2014)

At their meeting on 3 November 2014 the Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the decision of the Cabinet Member of Environment made on 9 October 2014 following proper notice of call in. The Committee agreed to refer the decision back to Cabinet for it to consider in the light of the following aspects of the decision:

- (a) That neither the Officers report nor the Cabinet Members decision appeared to be based on the Department for Transport Guidance into the assessment of pedestrian crossing sites and;
- (b) The Cabinet Member did not take due account of the impact of the changes on the wider local traffic network.

Cabinet considered a report and further representations and agreed to approve implementation of proposals for two proposed Pelican crossings on A415 Marcham Road and Ock Street, Abingdon as advertised and to monitor closely the safety performance and traffic delays following the completion of the works.

17. LTP4 and Oxford Transport Strategy

(Cabinet, 27 January 2015)

Following internal, stakeholder and public consultation on goals and objectives last summer Cabinet considered and approved a report seeking approval to the consultation draft of the Plan that, will go forward for public

consultation in February/March, returning for final Cabinet approval and adoption by Full Council (as it is a statutory document) by summer 2015.

18. Compulsory Purchase Orders – Required to Deliver the City Deal

(Cabinet, 27 January 2015)

The Council's Major Infrastructure Delivery Commercial Team is managing the delivery of a number of major highway improvement schemes. Some of these schemes require additional land to enable delivery of the proposed improvements which will reduce congestion, improve movement, access and safety and encourage use of sustainable transport. Cabinet considered a report that provided a list of schemes (with supporting compulsory purchase order land details) that require additional land.

The report further requested approval for the Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to exercise delegated authority for use of Compulsory Purchase powers for the purchase of land for these schemes, in the event that this land required cannot be purchased by negotiation.

Cabinet gave approval to the delegation in respect of the following schemes:

- Chilton Interchange
- Featherbed and Steventon Lights
- Harwell Phase 1
- Harwell Phase 2 - Hagbourne Hill
- Ducklington Lane Corridor Improvements, Witney

Cabinet Member: Finance

19. 2014/15 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report –

(Cabinet, 16 December 2014 and 24 February 2015)

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 2014/15 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of October 2014. Capital monitoring was included at Part 3. Fees and Charges are included in Part 4.

In December parts 1 and 2 included projections as at the end of October 2014. Cabinet noted changes to the Treasury Management lending list, recommended Council to approve the virement to reduce the in - year income and contribution to the Parking Account, approved the virement request relating to the Shared Lives budget, approved the write off of rental income totalling £16,453 and £15,212 relating to a Section 106 agreement as set out in paragraphs 65 and 66, approved the changes to the Capital Programme, approved the removal of the capital scheme at Bicester Market Square from the capital programme and approved the allocation of £1.250m S106 funding as a contribution towards the construction of the A40/Downs Road Junction by the West Witney developer.

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In February, 2015 Parts 1 and 2 included projections as at the end of December 2014. Cabinet noted changes to the Treasury Management lending list, approved virements, approved the write off of client income totalling £31,638 relating to unpaid client contributions for residential care and the write of £50,002 relating to capital works at a school, approved the creation of the Oxford Western Conveyance Reserve and the initial contribution of £0.350m, approved the fees for hiring the Riverside Centre, approved the release of the revised capital budgets of £4.100m for Cuttleslowe roundabout and £4.824m for Wolvercote roundabout to proceed to detailed design and procurement, approved the entry of the A44 – A40 Loop Farm Link Road into the capital programme and the release of a £0.676m project development budget and approved the changes to the Capital Programme.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

March 2015