

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 February 2018 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 4.50 pm.

Present:

Councillor Zoé Patrick – in the Chair

Councillors:

Sobia Afridi	Mike Fox-Davies	Charles Mathew
Lynda Atkins	Stefan Gawrysiak	Glynis Phillips
Jamila Begum Azad	Mark Gray	Susanna Pressel
Hannah Banfield	Carmen Griffiths	Laura Price
David Bartholomew	Pete Handley	Eddie Reeves
Dr Suzanne Bartington	Jenny Hannaby	G.A. Reynolds
Maurice Billington	Neville F. Harris	Judy Roberts
Liz Brighouse OBE	Steve Harrod	Alison Rooke
Paul Buckley	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Dan Sames
Kevin Bulmer	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Gill Sanders
Nick Carter	John Howson	John Sanders
Mark Cherry	Ian Hudspeth	Les Sibley
Dr Simon Clarke	Tony Ilott	Emily Smith
Yvonne Constance OBE	Dr Kirsten Johnson	Roz Smith
Ian Corkin	Bob Johnston	Lawrie Stratford
Helen Evans	Liz Leffman	Alan Thompson
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Emma Turnbull
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	Michael Waine
Ted Fenton	D. McIlveen	Liam Walker
Nicholas Field-Johnson	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber
Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Jeannette Matelot	

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

185/18 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 were approved and signed.

186/18 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

The Chairman reported on the opening of the Westgate Library in central Oxford on Monday 18th December, together with a host of events that had taken place in various parts of the library for that week. She invited all members on behalf of the Cabinet Member to attend the official opening event with the Minister for Libraries on Thursday 22nd February.

The Chairman further extended a warm welcome to all councillors who would like to have a tour of the Oxford History Centre which was based in Cowley, and had a large number of archives, for either researching family history or the division they represented.

Council paid tribute and observed a minute's silence in memory of former county councillor Nellie Whorley (also known as Queenie Comfort) who had served on the County Council from May 1985 to May 1993.

187/18 PAY POLICY STATEMENT - REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 7)

In 2012 a stand-alone Remuneration Committee was set up to report each year directly to full Council and to make recommendations regarding the Council's Pay Policy Statement. The Council had before them the report of the Remuneration Committee (CC7) which updated the Council's Pay Policy Statement and set out future proposals of the Remuneration Committee in relation to this area.

RESOLVED: (on a Motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Webber and carried nem con) to:

- (a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;
- (b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 2 to this report.

188/18 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2018/19 - 2021/22

(Agenda Item 8)

The Council had before it a report (CC8) which outlined the service & resource planning process for 2018/19 to 2021/22 and set out the Cabinet's proposed budget for 2018/19, together with the medium term financial plan and capital programme and a number of statements/policies that the Council was required to approve for the 2018/19 financial year.

The report was divided into four sections; the Leader of the Council's Overview (section 1), the Corporate Plan (section 2) the Director of Finance's

Statutory Report (section 3) and the Budget Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 4).

The Council also had before it budget proposals in the form of: Revised Annexes due to the settlement (Additional Papers pack 1) Amendments by the Labour Group to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget (CC8 Labour), Amendments by the Liberal Democrat Group to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget (CC8 Lib Dem) (Additional Papers Pack 2), together with further amendments set out in the schedule of Business. All papers could be found on the Council's Website.

The Chairman explained to the meeting that following consultation with the Group Leaders, it had been agreed that, subject to the consent of Council recommendation (a) (Corporate Plan) set out in the Schedule of Business should be debated and voted on separately from the Budget proposals. Accordingly, the motion was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: (nem con) to take recommendation (a) separately.

With the consent of Council, Councillor Hudspeth moved and Councillor Brighouse seconded recommendation (a) as set out in the revised recommendations in the Schedule of Business.

During debate councillors expressed views that there was no explicit link between the Corporate Plan and the budget; that the corporate plan should be shorter and more focused, include performance measurement; be more strategic and have greater emphasis on future plans and how these would be achieved and demonstrate leadership. It was also commented on that the plan missed out further education.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 46 votes to 4, with 11 abstentions.

RESOLVED: (by 46 votes to 4, with 11 abstentions)

(a) to consider and comment on the Draft Corporate Plan 2018 – 2021 as set out in Section 2.0, such comments to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27 February, before it is formally adopted by Council in March;

Councillor Hudspeth then moved and Councillor Bartholomew seconded the Cabinet's recommendations on Service & Resource Planning 2018/19 – 2021/22. In moving the motion, Councillor Hudspeth paid tribute to Lorna Baxter and Katie Jurczynszyn for all their work in preparing the budget.

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Evans seconded an amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out in the Additional Papers Pack 2 (CC8 Labour). Councillor Brighouse thanked the Director of Finance and her team for their help and support.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 35 votes to 15, with 13 abstentions.

Councillor Webber moved and Councillor Roz Smith seconded an amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out in the Additional Papers Pack 2 (CC8 Lib Dem). In moving his motion, Councillor Webber paid tribute to Lorna Baxter and her team for their help and support.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 34 votes to 14, with 15 abstentions.

Following a lengthy debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried by 36 votes to 27.

Voting was as follows:

Councillors voting for the motion (36)

Atkins, Bartholomew, Bartington, Billington, Bulmer, Carter, Clarke, Constance, Corkin, Fatemian, Fenton, Field-Johnson, Fitzgerald O'Connor, Fox-Davies, Gawrysiak, Gray, Griffiths, Handley, Harrod, Heathcoat, Hibbert-Biles, Hudspeth, Ilot, Lindsay-Gale, Mallon, Matelot, Mathew, Patrick, Reeves, Reynolds, Sames, Sibley, Stratford, Thompson, Waine, Walker.

Councillors voting against the motion (27)

Alfridi, Azad, Banfield, Brighouse, Buckley, Cherry, Evans, Fawcett, Hannaby, Harris, Howson, Johnston, Johnson, Lygo, McLveen, Phillips, Pressel, Price, Roberts, Rooke, G Sanders, J Sanders, E Smith, R Smith, Turnbull, Webber and Williams.

It was accordingly:"

RESOLVED: (36 votes to 27)

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (b) *have regard to the report of the Director of Finance (at Section 3) in approving recommendations (c) to (f) below;***
- (c) *(in respect of revenue) approve:***
 - (1) *the council tax and precept calculations for 2018/19 set out in section 4.3 and in particular:***
 - (i) *a precept of £352,041,895;***
 - (ii) *a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,426.19;***
 - (2) *a budget for 2018/19 as set out in section 4.4;***
 - (3) *a medium term plan for 2018/19 to 2021/22 as set out in section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial plan as set out in section 4.2; and,***

subject to Cabinet approval on 12 February 2018, as Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, includes £4.5m capacity funding (noting a further £0.5m will be received in 2017/18);

- (4) the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (provisional allocation) for 2018/19 as set out in section 4.8; and*
- (5) virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget for 2018/19 as set out in section 4.5;*

(d) (in respect of balances and reserves) approve:

- (1) the Chief Finance Officer's recommended level of balances for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 of section 4.7; and*
- (2) the planned level of reserves for 2018/19 to 2021/22 as set out in section 4.7.1;*

(e) (in respect of treasury management) approve:

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 as set out in section 4.9;*
- (2) the continued delegation of authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;*
- (3) that any further changes required to the 2018/19 strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;*
- (4) the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix A of section 4.9;*
- (5) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Appendix B of section 4.9;*
- (6) the Specified Investment and Non- Specified Investment Instruments as set out in Appendix C and D of section 4.9; and*
- (7) the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out at Appendix E of section 4.9;*

(f) (in respect of capital) approve:

- (1) the Capital Strategy as set out in Section 4.10; and*
- (2) a Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2027/28 as set out in section 4.10.1 which:
 - (i) subject to Cabinet approval on 12 February 2018, as Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, includes £150m funding for Infrastructure and £60m for Affordable Housing;*
 - (ii) includes the Highways Structural Maintenance Programme 2018/19 and 2019/20 in section 4.10.3.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing