

COUNTY COUNCIL – 10 JULY 2018

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Councillor Priority Fund

(Cabinet, 17 April 2018)

Cabinet approved the setting up of a councillor priority fund and agreed guidance, process and criteria for the running of the fund.

2. Joint Working Arrangements between Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council

(Cabinet, 4 June 2018)

Local Government reorganisation in Northamptonshire has required the Leadership of Cherwell District Council (CDC) to reflect upon its future and consider what is best for its residents. As a result they are 'minded to' formally end their successful partnership with South Northamptonshire Council (SNC). While the functions of SNC are expected to be absorbed into a new unitary council, CDC will need to develop a new operating model that provides a stable platform for the continued improvement of services to residents and a sustainable financial strategy.

Prior to recent events in Northamptonshire, informal discussions between CDC and Oxfordshire County Council had already taken place on shared priorities for the locality. These include the sharing of accommodation and joint posts, with the aim being to put residents at the heart of delivery and to achieve improved services for communities through a closer working partnership.

Cabinet agreed a report that set out an outline business case for formalising shared service activity and for a programme to develop joint working arrangements. Cabinet approved the principle of joint working and the establishment of a joint Chief Executive post. Cabinet approved a set of guiding principles for joint working and delegated to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader, the finalisation of a s113 Agreement and agreement of the terms of reference of an informal member-led Partnership Working Group.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

3. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report for Quarter 3

(Cabinet, 20 March 2018)

Cabinet considered a report that gave details of performance for quarter three 2017-18. 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. Staffing Report, Quarter 4 2017/18
(Cabinet, 22 May 2018)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 31 March 2018 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care

5. Adult Social Care Contributions Policy
(Cabinet, 22 May 2018))

Cabinet approved a report setting out a revised Adult Social Care Contributions Policy that outlined how the Council would ensure a fair approach to assessing the financial contributions made by people with eligible care needs towards the cost of the social care services they receive.

Cabinet Member: Environment

6. Area Highway Operations in the City Council Authority Boundary - Agency Agreement
(Cabinet, 20 March 2018)

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to enter into an Agency Agreement with Oxford City Council to enable them to undertake, and be responsible for, the routine and reactive maintenance of and undertake minor schemes on all classified urban roads within the City boundary, including trees and public rights of way.

Cabinet approved the Agency Agreement with Oxford City Council for highway maintenance on the classified road network in Oxford subject to review and monitoring and delegate authority to officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to give final approval to the Agency Agreement.

7. Proposals for the Creation of a Major Road Network - Consultation
(Cabinet, 20 March 2018)

At the end of 2017, the Department for Transport published consultation proposals for the Creation of a Major Road Network (MRN) for England.

The proposed MRN would complement the existing Strategic Road Network (SRN, which in Oxfordshire comprises the M40 and A34), with a similar

approach to be taken to funding and programming upgrades/improvements to the major roads proposed to be included. Unlike the SRN, the management and control of the MRN would remain with the County Council.

Cabinet approved a response to the consultation questions that set out what the main considerations and issues are for Oxfordshire.

8. Thames Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019

(Cabinet, 17 April 2018)

Thames Water are currently consulting on their Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019 which looks ahead over the next 80 years to 2100. The consultation documents outline the proposed demand management and water supply options that Thames Water are considering.

Cabinet endorsed the key issues raised within the report by officers as the response to this consultation, including the request for immediate and regular discussion with Thames Water on the proposed reservoir in terms of its catchment and location.

9. Oxford - Gathorne Road Wingfield House - Proposed Restoration of Parking Permits

(Cabinet, 22 May 2018)

Cabinet considered a report relating to the proposed provision of residents and visitors parking permits to Wingfield House, 2A Gathorne Road, Headington, Oxford, following the rescission of the previous decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment on 8 February 2018.

Cabinet agreed not to approve the proposed changes to the CPZ Order and therefore not to provide residents and visitors parking permits to Wingfield House.

10. Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Site Allocations - Issues and Options Consultation

(Cabinet, 19 June 2018)

Following adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy, the County Council must now prepare Part 2 of the Plan, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Site Allocations. The programme for preparing the Sites Plan in the Council's Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, December 2017 sets a target date of November 2020 for adoption. The first key stage is public consultation on site options (issues and options consultation), which is timetabled for June – July 2018.

Cabinet authorised the Director for Planning & Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to approve the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document for publication for public consultation.

Cabinet Member: Finance

11. 2017/18 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report

(Cabinet, 20 March 2018)

Cabinet considered a financial monitoring report for 2017/18 that focused on the delivery of the 2017/18 budget based on projections at the end of January 2018. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances. Capital Programme monitoring and update was included at Part 3.

Cabinet approved virement requests and bad debt write offs, noted the Treasury Management lending list and approved the updated Capital Programme. In addition Cabinet approved the inclusion of £0.825m towards additional pupil places at King Alfred's School.

12. Provisional 2017/18 Revenue and Capital Outturn

(Cabinet 19 June 2018)

Cabinet considered a report that presented and provided commentary on the provisional revenue and capital outturn position for 2017/18 prior to the formal closure of the accounts.

Cabinet noted the provisional revenue and capital outturn for 2017/18 along with the year-end position on general balances and earmarked reserves; noted virements; approved the transfer of over and under spends to general balances; recommended Council to approve the use of £0.1m underspend on Transition fund for open access children's services which will be transferred to the Budget Priorities Reserve until required; and agreed that the surplus on the On-Street Parking Account at the end of the 2017/18 financial year, so far as not applied to particular eligible purposes in accordance with Section 55(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, be carried forward in the account to the 2018/19 financial year.

Cabinet Member: Local Communities

13. Transition Fund for Community Initiatives for Open Access Children's Services – March 2018

(Cabinet, 20 March and 17 April 2018)

In February 2016, the Council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a 'one off' fund to provide pump priming to support the provision of open access children's services.

In September 2017 Cabinet agreed the proposed use of the underspend of £232,674 for further rounds of grant funding with a cross party group of councillors bringing proposals back to Cabinet for decision.

Cabinet approved the recommendations of the working group that had considered the applications under the fifth and sixth round of bids against the agreed criteria outlined in the guidance notes. Six bids were agreed with variations and changes agreed to two previously agreed projects. The Cabinet Member for Local Communities was given delegated authority to approve minor changes and variations to projects in his delegated decision meetings; he was also authorised to determine an application by East Oxford Primary School and a request from Cutteslowe Community Association.

14. Revised Equalities Policy – Including Revised Objectives – Post Consultation Stage

(Cabinet, 22 May 2018)

Cabinet approved The Equality Policy and Strategy 2018-2022 that set out how the Council is approaching its responsibilities for ensuring that the principles of equality, diversity, fairness and inclusion are applied to our own workforce and the services we commission and deliver to residents. A draft of the policy went out for public consultation between January - March 2018 and the policy had been amended following feedback.

Cabinet Member: Public Health & Education

15. School Exclusion Working Group Report

(Cabinet, 17 April 2018)

A working group of Education Scrutiny Committee members has investigated the increased use of exclusion across schools in Oxfordshire with the aim of identifying the underlying reasons for this and to make recommendations to help reduce the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions in the future.

Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Working Group and asked the Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Education, to prepare a response for the next meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee with a progress report to Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in the Autumn.

16. Consultation on the Closure of Northfield School

(Cabinet, 4 June 2018)

Cabinet considered a report that sought their approval to consult on the future of Northfield Special School, pending the outcome of the Council's Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Review.

Cabinet agreed to support a public consultation on the following two options:

- (a) Close the Northfield School, placing current students in alternate and more suitable provision, pending the outcome of the SEND Review
- (b) Continue to operate Northfield School as is, pending the outcome of the SEND Review.

17. Home to School Transport and Travel Policy

(Cabinet, 19 June 2018)

The Council had proposed and consulted upon a number of changes to its home to school transport policies applying to Post 16 students and to those of statutory school age. Cabinet approved the changes and agreed a revised Home to School Transport and Travel Policy

N.B. This decision was called in for review by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2018.

18. Change to Policy on 25 Hour Early Tears Funded Places

(Cabinet, 19 June 2018)

Cabinet approved a change to the policy on Full Time admissions for Reception Aged 4 Year Olds to remove the 25-hour funding offer for children deferring or not taking up a school reception place, with effect from 1 April 2019 following the decision of the Department for Education to cease funding this provision at the end of March 2019.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

July 2018