

Divisions-N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 13 JULY 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council

1. COVID-19: Progress and Planning Update

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered and approved a report describing the current local COVID-19 situation; summarising the response to COVID-19 over the previous six months, ongoing activity and the recovery status of Council services; and recommending that the local and organisational lessons learnt from the pandemic should be used to help direct long-term recovery planning and inform future corporate direction.

Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highway Management

2. Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA) Schemes

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet agreed to authorise officers to finalise and submit an Expression of Interest for the Government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas funding initiative; and agreed a capital allocation of up to £6m in 2022/23 to provide additional council grant to bus operators, if operators can demonstrate this is required to make the scheme feasible.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council

3. Tenant Fees Act 2019 (and Associated Legislation) - Financial Penalty Enforcement Policy

(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet considered and approved a new mechanism for the Trading Standards Service to take action against property agents for breaches of relevant housing legislation by means of civil financial penalties, as outlined in the supporting Enforcement Policy (adopted from the model implemented nationally by the National Trading Standards Estate and Lettings Agency Team).

Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care

4. Delivery of Supported Living Units Through Investment in the Resonance Supported Homes Fund

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet had before it a report outlining a proposal to invest £5m capital funding in the Resonance Supported Homes Fund in order to deliver up to 25 units of

supported living accommodation for people with learning disabilities and autism. Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

Cabinet Member: Children and Family Services

- 5. Developing a Strategic Framework for Oxfordshire County Council Libraries and Heritage Services**
(Cabinet, 20 April 2021)

Cabinet considered a proposal to change the design specification of the new build children's home from six to four beds.

Cabinet approved the proposal, subject to ensuring that the design of the property is future-proofed for wider Council uses, and confirmed the Council's commitment to high quality residential child care within the County

Cabinet Member: Community Services and Safety

- 6. Report on the Outcome of the LGA Peer Review of Libraries and Cultural Services**
(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered a report on the feedback from a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review on Oxfordshire Libraries and Heritage Services Libraries and agreed to incorporate the recommendations into the council's business planning and development of the strategy.

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services

- 7. Workforce Report and Staffing Data - Quarter 4 - January - March 2021**
(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet noted a report that provided an update on key HR activities during Quarter 4, details of key people numbers and analysis of main changes since the previous report.

Cabinet Member: Education & Cultural Services

- 8. Developing a Strategic Framework for Oxfordshire County Council Libraries and Heritage Services**
(Cabinet, 20 April 2021)

Cabinet considered and agreed a report seeking approval for the development of a clear vision and strategic framework for the planning and delivery of libraries and heritage services to strengthen the contribution they make to wider community outcomes.

Cabinet Member: Environment**9. Oxford Zero Emission Zone Pilot Formal Consultation**
(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet considered a report outlining a final proposal for the Oxford ZEZ Pilot which was published as part of a period of formal consultation between Friday 20 November 2020 and Sunday 17 January 2021.

Cabinet noted the content of the report and outcomes of the recent public consultation on the Oxford Zero Emission Zone Pilot; and approved the final Zero Emission Zone Pilot scheme at Annex 6 and authorised the scheme to be implemented.

10. Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy
(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet considered a report setting out to realise the government goal of an end to the sale of petrol and diesel vehicle sales by 2030 by providing a comprehensive, accessible and efficient charging infrastructure essential in enabling the rapid adoption of electric vehicles.

Cabinet adopted the recommended policies and key actions for the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2020- 2025).

11. Oxfordshire Environment Partnership - Statement of Intent
(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet considered and approved a report setting out the intention of the County Council to support the establishment of a new County wide environment advisory group (as part of Oxfordshire Growth Board Governance and subject to endorsement by the Oxfordshire Growth Board) and to agree the Oxfordshire - Cambridge Arc environmental principles (subject to endorsement at the OxCam ARC Plenary meeting).

12. England's Economic Heartland Final Transport Strategy
(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet endorsed the England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Transport Strategy in broad terms but was concerned to note that the previous consultation response "...that there should be greater recognition in the strategy of the need for cross boundary working with surrounding sub-national transport bodies on connectivity and scheme proposals that have impacts across both areas," appeared to have been ignored.

Cabinet also agreed to continue our representation on the EEH Board and Strategic Transport Forum (STF) to ensure alignment with our emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

13. Objection to West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
(Cabinet, 16 March 2021)

Cabinet considered and endorsed the officer recommendation to raise an objection to the R19 West Berks Minerals and Waste Local Plan pre-submission draft.

14. Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire
(Cabinet, 20 April 2021)

Cabinet agreed the final Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term sustainable Development as the basis for informing future county council plans and strategy development, notably the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy.

Cabinet Member: Finance**15. Capital Programme Monitoring Report – January 2021**
(Cabinet, 16 March 2020)

Cabinet had before them a report that set out the latest monitoring position for 2020/21 capital programme based on activity to the end of January 2021 and that provided an update on latest ten-year capital programme to 2030/31.

Cabinet noted the latest capital monitoring position for 2020/21 in Annex 1; and the latest forecast for additional costs to the Capital Programme associated with COVID-19 of £2.7m.

16. Provisional Capital Outturn 2020/21
(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered and noted a report setting out the performance against the planned capital programme for 2020/21, reflecting the figures to be included in the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

17. Treasury Management 2020/21 Out-turn
(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the Treasury Management performance in the financial year 2020/21. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Cabinet noted the report, and recommended Council to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2020/21.

Cabinet Member: Highways Delivery and Operation**18. Highway Maintenance Contract Extension**

(Cabinet, 20 April 2021)

Cabinet considered a decision on whether to grant a two-year extension to its highways contract subject to both parties committing to a programme of service improvement, cost reduction and social value enhancement.

Cabinet supported an extension to the highway maintenance contract by two years to the end of March 2025.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management**19. National Bus Strategy - Proposal for an Oxfordshire Enhanced Bus Partnership**

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered and committed to establishing an Enhanced Partnership across Oxfordshire under the Bus Services Act 2017 and gave formal notice of the Council's intention to prepare an Enhanced Partnership and invite all local bus operators to confirm their intention to participate.

20. Releasing Development Strategy in Didcot and Surrounding Villages in the Vicinity of HIF1 Schemes

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet had before it and approved recommendations to implement a strategy to assist with the delivery of new development in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire districts to allow some growth to come forward in a controlled manner prior to HIF 1 funded infrastructure being open for public use based upon specified requirements.

21. Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 - In Principle Use of Statutory Powers

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered and approved a series of proposals to facilitate this programme the primary focus of which is to provide additional highway capacity and connectivity to resolve long-standing capacity constraints that are preventing new homes and jobs allocated in local plans from coming forward in a timely manner. Additionally, the infrastructure will include high quality and completely segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities. Coupled with creating the right environment for enhanced bus services in the area, the new infrastructure will provide residents with real mode choice.

22. Housing Infrastructure Fund 2 - In Principle Use of Statutory Powers

(Cabinet, 22 June 2021)

Cabinet considered and agreed a series of recommendations related to the provision of additional highway capacity and connectivity to encourage/facilitate modal shift, enabling more sustainable forms of travel to meet the Council's

zero carbon transport network ambitions focussing this around public transport and active travel.

Cabinet Member: All Cabinet Members

23. Business Management & Monitoring Report

(Cabinet, 16 March, 20 April and 22 June 2021)

Cabinet noted a series of reports that set out Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC's) progress towards Corporate Plan priorities for 2020/21 up to April 2021

The reports contained three annexes:

- Annex A gave the current performance against targets and summarised progress towards overall outcomes set out in our Corporate Plan.
- Annex B set out the Leadership Risk Register which had been developed as part of the Council's work to strengthen risk and opportunities management.
- Annex C gave a financial update

In March Cabinet approved

- payments relating to the planned use of the Public Health Savings to fund appropriate expenditure in other services, and the payment from the COVID-19 Budget to the services for the period November 2020 to March 2021;
- bad debt write-offs; and
- charges for 2021/22.

In April Cabinet noted the report and in June approved:

- the annual review 2020/21;
- the summary of the financial position for 2020/21 along with the year-end position on general balances and earmarked reserves;
- and that the underspend £5.9m should be transferred to balances.

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

June 2021