

Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 13 September 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Oxfordshire-Cherwell Partnership Transition Plan

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

In February 2022, Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council agreed to give notice to terminate the s.113 partnership between the two Councils. Cabinet considered and agreed a report setting out the decisions made on each service, the transition arrangements away from the current partnership and the financial implications of the termination.

Cabinet Member: Corporate Services

2. Digital Inclusion Strategy

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet was asked to approve the Oxfordshire Digital Inclusion Strategy, designed to ensure that the benefits of the digital technologies were available to all, and agree the actions that the County Council will undertake.

Cabinet agreed the recommendations including the recommendation from the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee to submit an annual update of the process to scrutiny and Cabinet.

3. Oxford ‘Street Voice ‘Citizen’s Jury

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet received an update on the independent research project undertaken by the consortium of researchers from Oxford University to consider a broad range of transport issues and agreed to ask Overview and Scrutiny to consider a dedicated event to consider the findings in committee.

Cabinet Member: Finance

4. Business Management & Monitoring Report – May 2022

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet considered a report summarising the performance and finance position for the Council with recommendations on virements, Review of Charges and Business Rate funding. It was the first report under the new Outcomes Framework of the Fair Deal Alliance. Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

5. Capital Programme Update & Monitoring Report – May 2022

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet considered a report recommending reprofiling of major infrastructure projects, allocations of grant funding and a full review of the Capital Programme in light of pressures and increasing inflation costs.

Cabinet approved the recommendations which also included changes to Capital Programme governance to strengthen internal structures and procedures.

Cabinet Member: Highway Management

6. Cowley LTN Experimental TRO

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO) covering the Cowley schemes were due to come to an end in September. Cabinet was asked to choose one of two options, these being to: either incorporate the ETRO into a TRO; or to remove the schemes altogether.

The meeting received a petition against the LTN and heard around 30 speakers for and against. Cabinet approved the incorporation into a TRO and agreed to undertake further community and stakeholder engagement in order to further refine and improve the scheme, with any changes to be implemented by Spring 2023.

Cabinet Member: Public Health & Equality

7. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2022-23

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet considered a report setting out how the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) action plan for 2022-23 had been developed to support the Council's EDI framework known as 'Including Everyone'. There was a particular effort this year to be more specific in timelines and benchmarks. Cabinet approved the action plan.

8. Provision of Services for Adults and children affected by Domestic Abuse

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet received a report highlighting the intention to commission Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse services in time for a contract start date of April 2023. These included provision for safe accommodation and support, specialist support from the IDVA service and Perpetrator support services to assist in the prevention and reduction of harm for individuals and their children affected by domestic abuse.

Cabinet approved the commencement of the procurement and agreed the progress of the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021,

including the Needs Assessment and Overarching Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022.

9. Oxfordshire Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet approved a report on the proposed five year Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) strategy to set out the Council's commitment to support a sustainable sector, through co-production with the VCS, district and city council colleagues and Oxfordshire County Councillors. A steering group will include ten VCS organisations and the district and city councils.

Councillor Lygo also agreed that critical views from the consultation and the report from the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be taken on board as this will be a flexible strategy.

Cabinet Member: Travel & Development Strategy

10. Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Oxfordshire Railfreight Ltd. has proposed a rail freight interchange close to the site of the former Ardley railway station. Given the scale and significance of the development, officers considered that Cabinet should have the opportunity to approve the Council's response to the first public consultation by the promoter.

Cabinet approved the response conveying their concerns about the implications in this proposal for the local road network, the employment market, onward transport of goods and access for employees.

11. Didcot Garden Town HIF1 - Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet in July 2020 agreed the preferred options to proceed with the preliminary design and planning application for this Scheme. A subsequent report in June 2021 approved the "in principle" use of statutory powers. Cabinet was now asked to approve the Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders deemed necessary as outlined in the report.

Cabinet approved the recommendations, noting that there were various gateways at which it would be possible to review progress and funding but that would be on the premise that the Council was not putting any more money in.

Scrutiny Reports

12. Reports received from scrutiny committees

(Cabinet, 19 July 2022)

Cabinet received reports and accepted recommendations on the following:

- Report of the Carbon Reduction Targets Working Group, commissioned by the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Report of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny of Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.
- Report of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Voluntary Sector Strategy.
- Report of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- Recommendations of the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee re the 2022/23 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

Cabinet will send formal responses on each of the reports.

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

September 2022