

**Divisions- N/A**

## **COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 September 2023**

### **REPORT OF THE CABINET**

#### ***Cabinet Member: Leader***

#### **1. Delegated Powers – Quarterly Report**

*(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report referring to executive decisions taken during the period April to June 2023 inclusive. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services explained the background to the 2 decisions taken in relation to the Children's Services Department.

Cabinet noted the report.

#### **2. Updates to Terms of Reference for Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

*(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report proposing amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership following changes to the programmes within the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Members noted that, while the current changes to the terms of reference were appropriate, it was likely that further revisions would be necessary in due course.

Cabinet approved the revised terms of reference and memorandum of understanding which would take effect following approval by each of the six Oxfordshire councils.

#### ***Cabinet Member: Climate Change Delivery and Environment***

#### **3. Climate Action Programme Six Month Update**

*(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report giving a six-monthly update on work to address the Climate Emergency, including the delivery of the 22/23 Climate Action Programme workstreams. An updated programme for 2023/24 included actions from an internal audit on integration of climate action, and a number of new joint workstreams agreed with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The report illustrated the Council's performance resulting from its environmental strategies and priorities and referred to the recent staff reorganisation which would double the resources devoted to implementing the Council's policies on climate change.

Members welcomed the thoroughness and presentation of the report and noted the importance of working collectively with other organisations on climate change

delivery and towards a circular economy, and the potential for innovative financing including “green bonds”.

Cabinet noted the update report and approved the adjustments to the programme for 2023/24 and the Council’s Carbon Management Plan through to 2030.

### ***Cabinet Member: Finance***

#### **4. Business Management and Monitoring Report – May 2023**

*(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report presenting the May 2023 performance, risk, and finance position for the council. Members were given further details on the background to the performance indicators showing red in relation to the introduction of LED lighting, household waste recycling, adult social care debtors, and the Council’s financial position.

Members welcomed the popularity of the 20mph traffic scheme, the achievements of carers in the County recognised in the Oxfordshire Care Awards, and congratulated all the staff involved in achieving the nationally acknowledged CCA accreditation for customer services.

Members also welcomed the introduction of the Citizens’ Portal which would enable the information on the Council’s performance indicators to be widely available.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including funding of £2.0m from the Transformation Reserve to fund the council’s Delivery Unit and associated costs associated with transformation and driving efficiency; the extended capacity needed within the Information Management team to support the council’s ability to respond to Subject Access Requests (SARs); the use of £1.5m one – off funding to support pressures in Children’s Social Care in 2023/24, and the overall allocation of Homes for Ukraine grant funding and delegated authority to officers to finalise the arrangements.

#### **5. Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report**

*(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it the first quarterly capital programme update and monitoring report for 2023/24 which set out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of May 2023. The report also provided an update to the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2023, taking into account additional funding and new schemes. The updated programme incorporated changes agreed through the Capital Programme Approval Reports to Cabinet in May and June 2023 as well as new funding.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including additional funding for repair of potholes and the utilisation of the Sustainable Warmth Fund for Home Upgrade 2 grant in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## **6. Treasury Management Annual Performance 2022/23** *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report on the Council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2022/23. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' required that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee received a report on Treasury Management activities at least four times per year. This was the final report for the financial year 2022/23 and sets out the position at 31 March 2023.

Cabinet noted the report and the challenges experienced by officers in monitoring treasury management in the current economic climate..

### ***Cabinet Member: Travel and Development Strategy***

## **7. HIF2 A40 - Outcomes of Scheme Review** *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report which set out the outcomes of a review of the original A40 HIF2 scheme. The report set out the scope of the initial delivery phase and the recommendation that, subject to discussions with Homes England and further scheme development and engagement, that it is used as a basis for continued discussions and to undertake a public consultation following the Cabinet's decision, to allow for development and subsequent identification of a preferred option.

Members noted that, while the scheme did not provide a complete solution it would encourage the use of public transport and cycling. The congestion issues on the A40 were not acceptable and it was important that some measures be taken to address the issues, including the impact of the development of new housing in the area.

Cabinet approved the continued development of the initial delivery phase and recommendations for further scheme development and engagement.

### ***Scrutiny Reports***

## **8. Reports received from scrutiny committees** *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet received reports on, and committed to respond formally to, the following:

- Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Vision Zero (April 2023)
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: SEND and Staffing Changes in Children's Services (June 2023)

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**LIZ LEFFMAN**  
Leader of the Council

September 2023