

Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 10 December 2024

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Including Everyone Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2025 – 2029

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

The Equality Act (2010) requires local authorities to publish equality objectives at least every four years to comply with the public sector equality duty. The previous Including Everyone framework was published in 2020. Cabinet considered a report on the proposed updated framework which was required to be published by the end of 2024.

The report highlighted the council's commitment to ensuring that all residents, regardless of their background, had equal access to opportunities and services. The proposed framework outlined several key objectives, including reducing inequalities, promoting diversity, and fostering an inclusive culture within the council and the wider community. Specific goals included improving representation of underrepresented groups, enhancing accessibility of services, and addressing systemic barriers to equality.

Cabinet agreed to adopt the refreshed Including Everyone Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion framework, 2025-2029 and endorsed the data-led approach to implementing the new Including Everyone framework through corporate key performance indicators (KPIs).

2. Local Enterprise Partnership Integration - Phase 2

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update following the integration of functions previously exercised by the Local Enterprise Partnership into the council on 1 April 2024.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including the retention of the existing council owned company OxLEP for the delivery of some economic functions subject to a revised contract, and the establishment of a Shareholder Committee comprising all members of the Cabinet, and an Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Board to support the Cabinet in the discharge of its economic development functions.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader with Responsibility for Climate Change, Environment and Future Generations

3. Climate Action Programme Six Month Update

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report which provided a six-monthly update on the delivery of the 2024/25 Climate Action Programme workstreams.

The report also provided an overview of the council's Carbon Management Plan 2030 delivery. Capital programme workstreams were progressing to support the decarbonisation and resilience of the council's fleet and property. This investment will reduce emissions by a further 64% compared to 2019/20 over the next three years.

Cabinet noted the biannual update on the delivery of the Climate Action Programme and the greenhouse gas emissions reports for wider Oxfordshire area which would be presented to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Board on 26 November 2024.

Cabinet Members: Children, Education and Young People's Services & SEND Improvement

4. Educational Psychology Assessment Service

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet received a report requesting approval to join appropriate Framework/s to provide Educational Psychology Services (EPS), to meet the needs of the local authority for the provision of high-quality Educational Psychologists.

Educational Psychology assessments and reports are required for children and young people who were being assessed for an Education, Health and Care assessment under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Cabinet approved: -

- a) Oxfordshire County Council ("the Council") joining appropriate single supplier framework agreements set up by external organisations to enable the Council access to call off contracts with the supplier/s for Educational Psychology services.
- b) the Council entering call-off contracts under such framework agreements in November/December 2024 and for a budgetary commitment for a period of 3 years.

Cabinet Member: Finance

5. Treasury Management Mid Term Review 2024/25

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' requires that committee to which some treasury management responsibilities are delegated, will receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks. Cabinet received a report which set out the position at 30 September 2024.

The report provided insights into the council's investment strategies, borrowing activities, and overall financial health. Cabinet reiterated the importance of maintaining a balanced and prudent approach to treasury management to ensure the council's financial stability and sustainability.

Cabinet noted the report and recommended Council to note the council's treasury management activity in the first half of 2024/25.

6. Business Management and Monitoring Report - September 2024

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet considered a report presenting the September 2024 performance, risk, and finance position for the council. The business management reports were part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance.

Cabinet noted the report and approved the financial adjustments as recommended. Cabinet also approved the introduction of new charges for monitoring of biodiversity net gain compliance and the increased charges in 2024/25 for the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

7. Capital Programme Approvals - November 2024

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report which set out change requests requiring Cabinet approval that will be incorporated into the agreed Capital programme and included in the next update for Cabinet in December 2024.

Cabinet approved the inclusion of East Oxford Mini Holland project into the capital programme with a value of £6.646m. £6.000m is to be funded from corporate resources, agreed by Council in February 2024, with the remaining £0.646m to be funded by S106 developer contributions.

Cabinet Members: Infrastructure & Development Strategy & Transport Management

8. Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Monitoring Report

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an overview of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) monitoring report. It summarised the background to the report and key issues. It also provided an overview of proposed changes to the LTCP.

The LTCP adopted by the council in July 2022, outlined the long-term vision for transport and travel in the county and the policies required to deliver this. The LTCP also included a set of headline targets to track delivery of the vision. This included targets to replace or remove one out of every four current car trips in Oxfordshire by 2030, deliver a net-zero transport network by 2040 and have zero, or as close as possible, road fatalities or serious injuries by 2050.

Cabinet noted the progress made on delivering the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan to date and approved the monitoring report for publication.

Cabinet Member: Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety

9. Outline allocation of cost of living and associated community wealth building funding for October to March 2024/25

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet considered a report which set out the intended approach to support those residents who are most negatively impacted by cost-of-living pressures over the remainder of the current financial year. This followed the government announcement of an extension to the Household Support Fund from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025. The report also provided the latest position on the impact of the cost of living, as well as providing a summary of Cost-of-Living expenditure for the first half of the year.

Cabinet approved the support package for the second half of the 2024-25 financial year and delegated authority to the Director of Public Affairs, Policy & Partnerships in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety, to amend the programme during the year in response to changing and emerging need, within the overall programme budget

Cabinet Member: SEND Improvement

10. Cabinet Response to Council Motion on SEND Services

(Cabinet: 19 November 2024)

Cabinet had before it a report on a proposed response to a motion on SEND services by Cllr Sally Povolotsky carried by the Full Council. Following an inspection of the local area partnership (the local authority and integrated care board) in Summer 2023, the LAP was found to have 'systemic weaknesses. As a result, a priority action plan (PAP) was developed to tackle the key issues raised by the inspection. The PAP was approved by the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2023. At its heart, the PAP has a commitment to making the voices of children and young people 'heard' as part of the improvement journey.

The motion passed by Full Council proposed several improvements, including increased funding for SEND services and better training for staff. There was a call for more collaboration between different agencies and stakeholders involved in providing SEND support. The importance of involving parents and carers in the decision-making process was highlighted.

Cabinet approved the response to the motion recommended in the report.

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

December 2024