

Minutes of a meeting of the CABINET on Thursday 3 October 2019

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Committee members:

Councillor Turner (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)	Councillor Linda Smith (Deputy Leader)
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Clarkson
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Rowley	Councillor Upton

Officers:

Gordon Mitchell, Chief Executive
Caroline Green, Assistant Chief Executive
Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing Services / Director Housing Companies
Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy & Needs Manager (Affordable Housing Supply Lead)
Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer
Jennifer Thompson, Committee and Members Services Officer

Also present:

Councillor Andrew Gant

Apologies:

Councillors Brown and Tidball sent apologies.

In the absence of the Leader, Cllr Ed Turner took the Chair with the consent of the Cabinet.

61. Declarations of Interest

None.

62. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

63. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Board's agenda

None.

64. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

65. Items raised by Board Members

None.

66. Scrutiny Committee Report

Councillor Gant, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, spoke to the Committee's report on the commissioning of services at Floyds Row.

Cllr Gant explained the reasons for the Committee's three recommendations to Cabinet, as set out in the committee report.

The Cabinet Member accepted all the recommendations. She commented that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government sought bids for disparate funding 'pots' on often unrealistically tight timescales. The council needed, and was preparing, to be ready to very quickly submit bids with more accurate project plans and costings.

67. Commissioning of services at Floyds Row

The Head of Housing had submitted a report to seek approval to increase the capital budget envelope for the Floyds Row project; to delegate authority to commission further capital works; and to commission the service contract to operate services from this new project.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Housing, introduced the report. She explained that although the costs had escalated as the scale of the necessary building works became clear the project still provided best value in terms of costs per bed, and the best option for service users and the council.

Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager, outlined the proposed service provision and the proposed timescale for opening phase 1 and phase 2. The Council was seeking longer term funding from MHCLG but this was not assured. One- and two-year contributions to running costs from Oxfordshire's county and other district councils were secured.

Cabinet members discussed the build costs; the proposed services and controls on access; funding; and noted that this new model of provision was an addition to other existing services in the city. They supported the recommendations in the report and asked for update reports on the funding and operation of Floyds Row to be provided in spring 2020 and autumn 2020.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Recommend** that Council revise the capital budget for this project, to take the capital envelope of the project to £1,892,300, including contingencies, as outlined in Appendix 3 Option A, increasing the budget by £1,134k. Noting grant funding already secured of £275k capital funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and £100k from Public Health England, which will reduce the funding requirement from the Council's

2019/20 capital programme accordingly, and noting that additional external funding contributions are being progressed from a variety of sources, including the MHCLG; Oxfordshire District and County Councils; the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and other charitable sources;

2. **Recommend** that Council make budget provision for the gross revenue costs of providing Floyds Row in the sum of £1.069 million in 2019-20 funded by grants and contributions;
3. **Delegate** authority to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Law and Governance, to enter into contracts to complete the full capital works to convert the building (phases 1 and 2), on the basis that in the opinion of the Head of Finance, that this continues to represent best value;
4. **Delegate** authority to the Regeneration and Major Projects Service Manager, in consultation with the Heads of Housing and Finance, to enter into a lease of Floyds Row for a peppercorn rent, on the basis as summarised in this report;
5. **Delegate** authority to the Head of Housing, to enter into a Service Contract as set out in this report, for the delivery of services at Floyds Row from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021;
6. **Note** that the current Street Outreach Team contract with the Council will be varied to include the interim service arrangements (worth c.£400k) up to end March 2020 within existing budget and funding envelopes;
7. **Delegate** authority to the Head of Housing to undertake the re-procurement of the Street Outreach and Floyds Row commissioned services during 2020/21, noting a further report will be brought to Cabinet in late 2020, to recommend the award of contract; and the annual report on rough sleeping and single homelessness commissioning spend, will be brought to Cabinet in March 2020;
8. **Agree** to provide the grant funding proposed in this report in order to facilitate the initial trial period of operation of the Floyds Row assessment centre; and
9. **Note** the progress with the development of this venue and new services, as part of a wider transformation programme. Noting that interim Somewhere Safe to Stay and Winter Shelter services will commence from Simon House from late October 2019, with some services moving to Floyds Row in January 2020, with the current programme expecting the completion of Floyds Row by end March 2020.
10. **Request update reports** from the Head of Housing on the funding and operation of Floyds Row in spring 2020 and autumn 2020.

68. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2019 as a true and accurate record.

69. Dates of Future Meetings

Cabinet noted that meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- 09 October 2019
- 13 November 2019
- 11 December 2019

All meetings start at 6pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.35 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 9 October 2019