

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 3 April 2006

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Hollingsworth, Baker (Vice-Chair), Brown, Christian, Clarkson, Paskins Tanner and Turner.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Caroline J Bull (Chief Executive), Sharon Cosgrove, Michael Lawrence and Mark Luntley (Strategic Directors), Jeremy Thomas and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit) and Louisa Dean (Media and Communications).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Michael Crofton-Briggs, Mark Jaggard and Nicholas Worledge (Planning Services Business Unit), Andrew Davies, Bronwen Geddes, Peter McQuitty and David Steel (Strategy and Review Business Unit), Trevor Dixon (Environmental Health Business Unit), Peter Dobson (City Works Business Unit), Margaret Mernagh, Steve Holt and John Wade (Leisure and Cultural Services Business Unit), Val Johnson, Craig Buckby and Oliver de Soissons (Neighbourhood Renewal Business Unit), John Hill (Built Environment Business Unit), Dave Scholes and Martyn Mumford (Housing Services Business Unit)

268. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Armitage and Sellwood.

269. DEATH OF PETER MOSS – FORMER LORD MAYOR OF OXFORD

The Leader of the Council announced that Peter Moss, a former Lord Mayor of Oxford, had died suddenly at the weekend. The Board observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

270. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of personal interests were made: -

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Reason for declaration</u>
Turner	290	Treasurer of the Oxford Bonn Link. Council appointed member of the Rose Hill and Donnington Advice Centre and the Rose Hill Community Association

271. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Councillors Christian and Pressel asked the following questions relating to charging for residents' parking permits, in accordance with Procedure Rule 13(iii):

Councillor Pressel

How will the Board ensure that Oxfordshire County Council is made aware of the Central, South and West Area Committee's vehement opposition to the introduction of charging for residents' parking?

Councillor Christian (speaking as a ward councillor)

Will the Board express its unanimous opposition to the introduction of charging for residents' parking in Oxford, which would place an unfair burden on the residents of my ward?

Councillor Hollingsworth (in Councillor Turner's absence) said that the questions would be dealt with under the relevant item later on the agenda (minute 273 refers).

272. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

The Board considered recommendations of Scrutiny Committees and associated reports (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee in relation to the draft Social Inclusion Strategy be dealt with under the relevant item later on the agenda (minute 279).

273. RESIDENTS' PARKING – COUNCIL MOTION

The Strategic Director, Physical Environment, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved: -

- (1) to write to the County Council:-
 - (a) expressing the Board's vehement opposition to any proposals to introduce charges for residents' parking in Oxford, both as a matter of principle and because there was no financial justification for doing so (it was explained that although the costs/income of running the residents' parking scheme alone could be interpreted as showing a deficit, when taken together with the other parts of the Parking Wardens services in the City Centre the account as a whole showed a significant surplus);
 - (b) deploring the lack of genuine consultation by the County Council on proposals to charge for residents' parking and urging that a

comprehensive public consultation exercise be undertaken;

- (c) asking for the County Council's current view on charging for residents' parking;
- (2) to write to County Councillors representing Oxford electoral divisions asking them for a response stating their views on the issue of charging for residents' parking and asking that they consider how well those views reflected the overwhelming local opposition to the introduction of charging.

274. BROAD STREET STUDY

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved to: -

- (1) welcome the Broad Street study undertaken by Kim Wilkie;
- (2) support the conclusions of the study which included:-
 - creating a pedestrian square at the eastern end;
 - opening up the platform outside the Bodlian Library;
 - allowing limited vehicle access from the western end;
 - reducing the clutter of street signs;
- (3) use the study to inform future decisions made about proposed changes in the City Centre;
- (4) support the work of the Broad Street Steering Group;
- (5) ask the Steering Group to consult widely on the proposals;
- (6) suggest to the Steering Group that it consider the following:-
 - removal of private car parking from Broad Street;
 - planting of trees in the centre of Broad Street;
 - whether the traffic lights recently installed at the end of Cornmarket Street were beneficial.

275. OXFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2006/09

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that:

- (1) the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2006-2009 be approved for submission to the Secretary of State;
- (2) the Planning Policy Manager be authorised to alter the text of the Local Development Scheme before submission to the Secretary of State to the extent felt necessary in light of advice from the Government Office for the South East and the Planning Inspectorate, and to make any necessary editorial corrections.

276. LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT – CENTRAL OXFORD AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations made by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, which considered the report on 30 March.

Resolved: -

- (1) that Council be RECOMMENDED to adopt the Air Quality Action Plan for the Central Oxford Air Quality Management Area;
- (2) in response to recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee:-
 - (a) to agree that a letter be sent to the County Council concerning:
 - the removal of car parking in the High Street in an effort to reduce traffic congestion in the City Centre;
 - consultation for the early implementation of pollution reducing measures such as idling buses switching off their engines;
 - (b) to note that none of the measures from the Action Plan could be implemented immediately;
 - (c) to ask the Taxi Licensing Officers to investigate the implementation of random checks for private hire vehicles to supplement the existing 6 monthly checks, to ensure that vehicles were maintained to high standards at all times.

277. OXFORD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The Strategy and Review Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the establishment of a cross-Council Climate Change Action Team to implement the delivery of the Oxford Climate Change Action Plan be welcomed;
- (2) the progress made to date in developing the implementation plan be supported;
- (3) the Climate Change Action Team be requested to continue to develop the implementation plan and provide an update to the Executive Board in September 2006.

278. EXTERNAL FUNDING

The Strategy and Review Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the arrangements for improving the Council's performance in external funding, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (2) the Area Co-ordinators be fully briefed on the proposals contained in the report so that they are able to give sound advice in response to local enquiries about external funding.

279. SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

The Strategy and Review Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations made by the Community Scrutiny Committee, which had considered the report on 7 March 2006.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the report and attached Social Inclusion Strategy be noted and the priorities for action and underpinning principles in the Council's approach to promoting social inclusion be endorsed;
- (2) the Social Inclusion Strategy and the incorporated Action Plan for 2006/07, as appended to the report, be approved;

- (3) Councillor Paskins and officers be thanked for their excellent work on this strategy, resulting in the issue being a core part of everything the Council does;
- (4) in response to recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee it was noted that:-
 - most of the points raised had already been picked up and were being dealt with by officers;
 - a report was being prepared for the next Housing Scrutiny Committee on homelessness/rough sleeper issues;
 - the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Turner) stated that he personally did not favour the introduction of a "local connections" policy for Oxford, preferring to lobby the Government to ensure that other local authorities did not operate policies that promoted inequality and social exclusion.

280. OX1 AND OXFORD INSPIRES – DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Strategy and Review Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the following awards be approved in principle:-
 - £65,000 in 2006/07, £60,000 in 2007/08 and £60,000 in 2008/09 to OX1, noting that the additional allocations for 2006/07 was earmarked for core funding of OX1 and the remainder was allocated for the establishment of a Business Improvement District in Oxford;
 - £100,000 per year in 2006/07 and 2007/08 to Oxford Inspires;
- (2) the Strategic Director, Physical Environment, be authorised to make the payments once she was satisfied with the terms under which financial support was given.

281. NEW RECYCLING FOR OXFORD

The Interim City Works Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations made by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, which had considered the report on 30 March 2006.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the outcomes of the consultation exercise be noted;

- (2) it be agreed in principle to proceed with the implementation of the new recycling scheme, subject to the modifications outlined in the report;
- (3) Major Project Approval be granted for vehicle purchase and running costs for the scheme, noting that these requirements would be the same regardless of changes to the final detail of the scheme;
- (4) a final decision on the exact shape of the new recycling scheme be delayed until the Oxford Waste Partnership had made clear its preferred option (in June 2006);
- (5) it be noted that a further report would be submitted to the June 2006 meeting of the Executive Board concerning the final details of the new recycling scheme and seeking Major Project Approval for the remaining expenditure;
- (6) officers be asked to undertake all possible preparatory work on the purchase of wheelie bins so that they would be ready to place an order immediately after the final details of the scheme were agreed in June 2006;
- (7) in respect of the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to:-
 - note that clarification had been given on the nature of the consultation;
 - note that further comments and suggestions from the public would be considered up to and beyond the implementation date in order to make the scheme as successful as possible;
 - agree to build as much flexibility as possible into the scheme, including keeping open the option of charging for the use of additional branded sacks as one possible consideration;
 - note that the extent of enforcement powers would be clarified prior to implementation of the new scheme, although it was anticipated that education would be paramount and enforcement only used as a last resort.

282. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR LEISURE – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Strategic Director, Physical Environment, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Council be RECOMMENDED to adopt the Leisure Strategies appended to

the report, as amended in the light of consultation;

- (2) accurate information be made available to users regarding plans for work on the diving pit as part of the wider maintenance work needed at the pool.

283. STAFFING FOR PARKS

The Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the programme and allocation of expenditure for increasing staffing presence in parks, as agreed in the Council's Budget, be approved.

284. COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL CORE EVENTS

The Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the proposed expenditure of the budget for events and the procedure for booking events be approved, subject to noting the following amendments made to the report: -

- Deletion of paragraph 8 of the report (which stated that certain events would not take place - although that did not necessarily mean those events would go ahead);
- Amend paragraph 11 of the report to read as follows: -
"Prior to booking an event, smaller groups (e.g. residents' associations) will not be consulted to gain permission to hold an event in the Park (except SENDRA and the Oxford Preservation Society). The Area Committee process will be used as a means of communication to provide information regarding future booked events."

285. JUNIOR FREE SWIM

The Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) details of the Junior Free Swim Scheme be approved, noting that this included: -
 - the issue of a new Slice Card to ensure accurate performance monitoring of the scheme;

- the operation of a time-limited period during times of high demand, with the exception of Hinksey outdoor pool;
 - the increase in specific sessions to facilitate adult users
 - the reduction in the Slice Card rates to reflect free swimming for young people;
- (2) expansion of the Junior Free Swim Scheme to include under 17 year olds be approved, noting that there was no residential requirement for the scheme;
 - (3) officers be congratulated on the speed with which the scheme had been implemented following the Council's decision on 20 February 2006 to allocate funding;
 - (4) it be noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services would write to members explaining the legal issues concerning residency in Oxford and comparisons with the concessionary travel scheme.

286. UPGRADE TO LEISUREFLEX AND IT SYSTEMS

The Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Major Project Approval be given for the upgrading of the Leisureflex management information system within leisure centres at a total cost of £150,000;
- (2) a supplementary capital budget of £150,000 be approved to enable the scheme to proceed;
- (3) the Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorised to determine the funding for the project from: -
 - any underspend on the Leisure and Cultural Services revenue budget for 2005/06;
 - the deletion of a scheme or schemes of equivalent value from the approved capital programme;
 - a reduction in the Leisure and Cultural Services revenue budget for 2006/07.

287. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS FOR NON-HOUSING PROPERTIES

The Built Environment Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Major project approval be granted for the revenue funded part of the improvement programme, and the Built Environment Business Manager be authorised to carry out the projects detailed in Appendix A to the report during 2006/07;
- (2) it be noted that request for approval for the capital funded part of the programme had been withdrawn.

288. COMMON HOUSING REGISTER FOR OXFORD

The Housing Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the principle of establishing a Common Housing Register in Oxford be endorsed;
- (2) Oxford City Council sign a Partnership Agreement with Registered Social Landlords;
- (3) the Partnership Agreement would replace any bi-lateral Nomination Agreements with that Registered Social Landlord;
- (4) any social landlord developing new social housing in the City be invited to sign the Partnership Agreement, if it had not already done so.

289. CITY CENTRE ENFORCEMENT: LITTERING, WASTE AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES

The Strategic Director, Physical Environment, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the proposed approach to using the additional funding allocated for city centre enforcement be endorsed;
- (2) Major Project Approval be granted for the scheme, which had a value of £100,000 over the lifetime of the project;
- (3) the Strategic Director, Physical Environment, be asked to circulate to all

Members, in written form, the details given orally at the meeting on enforcement work undertaken to date;

- (4) the Strategic Director, Physical Environment, be asked to consider how best to raise the profile and increase public awareness of the enforcement work being undertaken by the Council;
- (5) a report be submitted to the Board in 6 months time on progress and outcomes of the scheme.

290. REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the Position Statement, as set out in section 21 of the report, be adopted;
- (2) a Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVO) Steering Group be established to implement the mechanisms and timetable set out in the report, ensuring that all CVO support was included, and to assess staff resources;
- (3) it be noted that that there would be no top-slicing of grant budgets to fund additional staff and that officers had been instructed to implement the proposals using existing staff resources;
- (4) it be noted that a further report would be submitted to the Board in May 2006 on the allocation of the revenue grant budget for 2007/08 between themes and area committees, and on staffing proposals for the CVO support unit.

291. ALLOCATION OF AREA COMMITTEE FUNDING ON THE BASIS OF SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

The Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) additional funding for Area Committees , as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, be allocated on the basis of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation data, rather than equally across all the Area Committees;
- (2) the information in Annex 1 to the report be circulated to Area Committees in diagrammatic form (a map).

292. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2006/07

The Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that Council be RECOMMENDED to: -

- (1) adopt the prudential indicators and limits for 2006/07 to 2008/09, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07, set out in Appendix B to the report, and the treasury prudential indicators;
- (3) approve the Investment Strategy 2006/07 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix B) and the detailed criteria included in Appendix C, specifically approving: -
 - the criteria for specified investments;
 - the criteria for non-specified investments.

293. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the approach, as set out in the report, be endorsed;
- (2) the Board's appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by Councillor Hollingsworth and the Chief Executive, in putting forward the City Council's case for Oxford City Council to become a Unitary Authority, be placed on record;
- (3) a late response be sent in respect of the consultation on the proposed reorganisation of Oxfordshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), pointing out that in view of the rapidly changing situation regarding local government reorganisation, it would make sense to defer decisions on reorganisation of the PCTs until the new local government boundaries had been decided, so that boundaries could be complementary.

294. AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted recommendations made

by Area Committees.

Resolved that: -

- (1) further to a recommendation of the Central, South and West Area Committee it was agreed that a report reviewing the implementation of the area streetscene initiative be prepared within the next 2 months;
- (2) further to a recommendation of the North Area Committee concerning the appearance of boxes owned by utility companies it was agreed that the arrangements with utility companies and the powers available to the Council to take action would be clarified;
- (3) further to a recommendation of the East Area Parliament concerning abandoned shopping trolleys it was noted that Street Wardens had successfully tackled this issue in other parts of the City and the Area Co-ordinator was advised to liaise directly with local supermarkets on this issue, seeking advice from Street Wardens on how they had achieved positive results if appropriate.

295. PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTIONS

There were no such questions for the Board to consider.

296. DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such decisions for the Board to consider.

297. FUTURE BUSINESS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a list (previously circulated and now appended) of future agenda items.

Resolved that the list be noted.

298. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the Board dated 13 March 2006 be agreed as a correct record.

299. DISPOSAL OF TWO PROPERTIES

The Housing Services and Oxford Building Solutions Business Managers submitted a joint report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) approval be given to the disposal of 225 London Road (3 bedroom house) and 111 Marlborough Road (2 bedroom house), on the open market;
- (2) capital receipts from the above property disposals be used to bring existing Council owned stock up to the Decent Homes Standard.

300. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 the press and public on be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason for exemption</u>	<u>Minute No</u>
C1	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	301

301. DISPOSAL OF TWO PROPERTIES

The Housing Services and Oxford Building Solutions Business Managers submitted an exempt from publication appendix (previously circulated and now appended) to the joint report referred to in minute 299.

Resolved that the information be noted.

302. VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING COUNCILLORS

Councillor Tanner moved, and it was agreed unanimously, that the Board's appreciation be recorded for the many years' valuable service to the City of Oxford given by Councillors Baker, Brown and Hollingsworth, who were not seeking re-election in May 2006.

The meeting began at 9.15 am, the press and public were excluded at 1.01 pm and the meeting ended at 1.03 pm.