

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 13 August 2007

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors John Goddard (Chair), David Rundle (Vice-Chair), Mohammed Altaf-Khan, Antonia Bance, Jim Campbell, Sajjid Malik, Patrick Murray and Matthew Sellwood.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Brian Dinsdale (Interim Chief Executive), Michael Lawrence, Mark Luntley and Sharon Cosgrove (Strategic Directors), Sarah Fogden (Financial and Asset Management Business Manager), Lindsay Cane and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Pat Jones, Andrew Davies and Julia Woodman (Legal and Democratic Services Unit), Matthew Bates, Sarah Harrison and Mark Jaggard (Planning Services Business Manager), Colin Barlow (Leisure and Cultural Services Business Unit), Rob Sproule (Business Systems Business Unit), Craig Buckby (Neighbourhood renewal Business Unit), Chris Pyle (Oxford City Homes Business Unit), John Kulasek, Martin Lyons and Anna Winship (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit) and Louisa Dean (Media and Communications).

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jean Fooks and Caroline Van Zyl.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bance, Campbell and Rundle declared personal interests in the future of the Cowley Community Centre, as they were members of the Credit Union, a tenant at the centre (minute 86).

Mark Luntley, Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, declared an interest in the same item as a member of the Credit Union.

73. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were put to Councillor Rundle (Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder) in respect of Peers Sports Centre (minute 77).

1. Question from Chris Coghill (Treasurer, Littlemore Early Morning Swimmers)

Why has the Board decided to close the Peers Sports Centre without detailed consultation with the academy over its requirements and without a serious study of sports centre provision across the city?

Summary of response from Councillor Rundle

There have been several studies over the past few years to develop a view on future leisure needs. There is work being undertaken currently to gain political consensus on the strategic needs across the city.

The the future of Peers Sports Centre is linked to the Academy issues on which we expect a decision later this year. If, as expected, the Academy goes ahead the Centre will no longer be under County Council ownership from September 2008. It is understood that the Academy would demolish the Centre and build a new one, but without a swimming pool. We therefore need to find other provision for pool users. We should be asking what the Academy can do for the local community and we will raise your concerns and seek some kind of access package for the local community. I will propose an amendment to the recommendations to reflect this.

2. Question from Councillor John Tanner

If the decision to close the Littlemore Sports Centre by January 2006 is confirmed today, what consultation arrangements will be made with users, local residents and other interested parties, before the closure is implemented?

(Councillor Tanner also asked for it to be recorded that he regretted that he had not been allowed to speak on the item when the report was being discussed.)

Summary of response from Councillor Rundle

What we are considering is a managed withdrawal from the dual use agreement with the County Council for the running of Peers Sports Centre. No date has been set for withdrawal, but illustrations were given in the report of the savings to be made if it were to be closed in January 2008.

Once an "in principle" decision was made for a managed withdrawal then consultation could begin. Meaningful consultation could only take place once real choices were known and it was important to go through the various stages of the process in a logical order. I will be moving an amendment to the recommendations in the report to reflect this.

74. VALUE FOR MONEY SCORE WITHIN THE USE OF RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a recommendation of the Finance Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the recommendations from the Finance Scrutiny Committee on proposals for improving the Council's value for money score within the Use of

Resources Assessment be agreed, and it be noted that a report about how this would be taken forward was due to be submitted to the Board in September.

(No member voted against.)

75. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER: STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES – ENHANCED TWO-TIER WORKING

The Board considered a recommendation of the Finance Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the recommendations from the Finance Scrutiny Committee regarding the recent White Paper on shared services and enhanced two-tier working be agreed.

(No member voted against.)

76. CALL-IN: ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REVIEW

The Board considered recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee in respect of the call-in of minute 26 of the Board and the report submitted to the Board on 19 June 2007 report (both previously circulated and now appended). It also considered the comments of Councillor Van Nooijen, Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the Community Scrutiny Committee be thanked for the clarification provided;
- (2) that in respect of the recommendations of the Antisocial Behaviour Review Group: -
 - a. recommendation 5.7 be agreed, noting that this recommendation was for the Police to act upon;
 - b. recommendation 5.11 be agreed;
 - c. recommendation 5.16 be agreed, noting that Councillor van Zyl had been attending meetings of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and was recognised as the portfolio holder with responsibility for children and young people;
 - d. recommendation 5.17 be agreed, noting that the CCTV pilot scheme was progressing as quickly as possible and that details of the timetable would be sent to relevant ward councillors as soon as possible (if that had not already been done).

(No member voted against.)

77. CALL-IN: FUTURE OF PEERS SPORTS CENTRE

The Board considered recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee in respect of the call-in of minute 26 of the Board and the report submitted to the Board on 19 June 2007 report (both previously circulated and now appended). It also considered the views expressed by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the South East Area Committee on 9 August 2007 and the comments of Councillor Phelps, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the principle of a managed withdrawal from the dual use agreement at Peers Sports Centre be agreed, subject to consultation with users about accommodating them at other public leisure facilities;

(Councillors Bance, Malik and Sellwod voted against the above resolution.)

- (2) staff employed at Peers Sports Centre on 'open ended' contracts who were affected by the above decision, be redeployed;

(Councillors Bance, Malik and Sellwood abstained.)

- (3) it be noted that Councillor David Rundle (portfolio holder for stronger communities) would be having discussions with the County Council and the emerging Academy Trust about the clear needs of communities in the area and the need for a community access agreement to meet those needs;

- (4) the views of the Environment Scrutiny Committee and South East Area Committee be noted.

(No member voted against resolutions 3 and 4.)

78. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

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

Resolved that: -

- (1) Council be RECOMMENDED to adopt the Supplementary Planning Document on Telecommunications;
- (2) the Planning Policy Manager be authorised to make any necessary editorial corrections.

(No member voted against.)

79. THE CITY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER: PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). An amended version of the City Council's draft response (Appendix 1 to the report) was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved that the response to the White Paper (as amended) be approved for submission to the Secretary of State.

(No member voted against.)

80. DATA CENTRE RELOCATION AND SHARED SERVICES

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

Resolved that: -

- (1) the potential need to locate the Council's core ICT facilities away from St Aldate's Chambers, should the proposed redevelopment of St Aldate's Chambers proceed, be noted;
- (2) the exploration of a shared service arrangement with Cherwell District Council be endorsed, based around a shared data centre with the further potential for shared delivery of ICT services;
- (3) it be noted that a full options appraisal would be submitted to the October meeting of the Board, with recommendations for future implementation.

(No member voted against.)

81. INSURANCES CONTRACT – PROJECT APPROVAL AND CONTRACT AWARD

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) project approval be granted for the provision of insurance policies for the Council;
- (2) the contract be awarded to Zurich Municipal plc to provide insurance services for three years starting on 1 October 2007, with an option to extend for up to a further two years.

(No member voted against.)

82. PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT (PRG)

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Council be RECOMMENDED to increase the capital budget by £202,296 and the revenue budget by £202,296, in respect of the award of the Performance Reward Grant;
- (2) the sums received be allocated as follows: -

£43,843 for systems thinking costs (revenue);
£43,844 for the HR/payroll project (capital);
£316,905 for Housing projects (50% revenue, 50% capital).

(No member voted against.)

83. FIRST QUARTER REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2007/08

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Interim Chief Executive emphasised the importance of delivering projected savings for the year and explained actions being taken to ensure that targets were achieved.

Resolved that the overall financial position be noted.

(No member voted against.)

84. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Councillor Pressel be appointed as the Council's representative on the City of Oxford Charities until December 2008;
- (2) Councillors Tanner and Williams be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Oxford Leon Trust for a four year period;
- (3) agreement be given to the change of status of the Council's

representative on the Oxford Playhouse Trust to that of Trustee with voting rights, rather than non-voting observer, subject to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services being satisfied that the organisation had sufficient public liability insurance in place to indemnify the Council's representative from liability;

- (4) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to approve the appointment of a representative to the Oxford Airport Consultative Committee for the 2007/08 Council year, should a nomination be forthcoming.

(No member voted against.)

85. OXFORD RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL – STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF GRANT FUNDING

The Neighbourhood Renewal Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board noted that the Community Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 9 August 2007 but decided not to make any recommendations. Patrick Tolani, Director of Oxfordshire Racial Equality Council, asked the Board to seek an impartial opinion on how OREC was performing before making a decision.

Resolved that officers be authorised to proceed as set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report (to proceed to stage 2 of the withdrawal of funding protocol, as set out in Annex 4 to the report).

(No member voted against)

86. COWLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE FUTURE MANGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Strategic Director, Housing, Health and Community, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the comments made at the Cowley Area Committee held on 1st August 2007, as set out in Annex 1, be noted;
- (2) that the actions set out in Paragraph 13 of the report be endorsed;
- (3) Council be RECOMMENDED to allocate £20,000 from reserves to cover the costs of carrying out an options site appraisal on the Cowley Community Centre site for 2007-08 only, noting that the funding would be returned to reserves if the site was disposed of;
- (4) Council be RECOMMENDED to allocate a maximum of £36,407 from reserves to cover management cost of the centre and the payment of the Community Association's Utility Bill, noting that the funding would be

returned to reserves from earning interest on investing the proceeds of the sale should the site be disposed of;

- (5) it be noted that the payment of the utility bill was made without admission of any liability for sums owed and was made in the particular circumstances surrounding the closure of this community centre. No precedent was intended and no reliance should be placed upon that one off payment by any other organisation or individual in similar circumstances;
- (6) officers investigate the development of a policy relating to the Council providing support for voluntary and community organisations in debt, and submit a report on this to the Board by December 2007.

(Councillors Bance and Malik abstained.)

87. INSTALLATION OF FIRE DOORS – TENDER APPROVAL

The Head of Oxford City Homes submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the lowest tender for the installation of fire doors be accepted.

(No member voted against.)

88. RE-ROOFING – TENDER APPROVAL

The Head of Oxford City Homes submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the lowest tender for the re-roofing of blocks of flats be accepted.

(No member voted against.)

89. SECURITY DOORS AND CONTROLLED ENTRY – TENDER APPROVAL

The Head of Oxford City Homes submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the lowest tender for the installation of security doors and controlled entry be accepted.

(No member voted against.)

90. BISF PROPERTIES RE-ROOFING AND CLADDING – TENDER APPROVAL

The Head of Oxford City Homes submitted a report (previously circulated and

now appended).

Resolved that the lowest tender for there-roofing and cladding of BSIF houses be accepted.

(No member voted against.)

91. MINCHERY FARM EMPLOYMENT SITE – PROPOSED DISOSAL

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the Asset Manager be authorised to proceed with the marketing of the site and submit a further report with details of the proposed purchaser(s) and recommended terms for a freehold disposal, as required under Contract Rule 20.20 (c).

(No member voted against.)

92. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND NEW LEASE OF SITE OF THE ODEON CINEMA, GLOUCESTER GREEN

This item was withdrawn.

93. 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 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 I2A of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason for exemption</u>	<u>Minute No</u>
C2	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	101
C3	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	102
C4	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	103

94. ALBION PLACE DEVELOPMENT AND ABBEY PLACE CONSULTATION

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered the report alongside the exempt from publication appendix in part 2 of the agenda.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate (and if appropriate enter into on behalf of the Council) an agreement with Capital Shopping Centres (CSC) on the construction of 14 two bedroom flats on the Council's Albion Place site on the terms set out in the report;
- (2) agreement in principle be given to include Abbey Place within the proposed Westgate Development subject to the following preconditions:-
 - a) finalising the proposed Development Agreement with CSC on terms acceptable to the Executive Board;
 - b) appropriate consultation taking place with the Abbey Place tenants;
 - c) obtaining Secretary of State approval for disposal of the land;
 - d) any other conditions that the Executive Board feels necessary to include in this conditional decision;
 - e) compliance by the Council with all of its legal obligations towards its tenants in the Abbey Place flats;
- (3) officers within Oxford City Homes be authorised to proceed with the consultation process required under Schedule 2 part V of the Housing Act 1985 ("the Act") pending a potential application to the Secretary of State for approval of the proposed scheme to enable the Council, if required, to seek possession of the dwellings at Abbey Place under Ground 10A of the Act. Such an application to the Secretary of State would only be made in the event that on a future date the Executive Board were to decide to proceed with the Westgate Development in a manner which incorporates the Abbey Place flats into the development scheme.

(Councillor Sellwood voted against the above resolutions.)

95. AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no recommendations for the Board to consider.

96. PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTIONS

There were no such questions.

97. DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such decisions.

98. FUTURE ITEMS

No matters were raised under this item.

99. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Board held on 16 July 2007 be approved as a correct record.

100. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND NEW LEASE OF SITE OF THE ODEON CINEMA, GLOUCESTER GREEN

This item was withdrawn.

101. ALBION PLACE DEVELOPMENT AND ABBEY PLACE CONSULTATION

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted an exempt from publication appendix (previously circulated and now appended) to the report referred to in minute 94.

Resolved that it be noted that the appendix was considered with the report referred to in minute 94.

102. DISPOSAL OF 11 NEW ROAD

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted an exempt from publication report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) it be agreed, in the circumstances described in the report, to waive the requirement to seek approval to openly market the property under Contract Rule 20.20 (b);
- (2) the disposal of the freehold interest in 11 New Road be agreed in accordance with the terms set out in the report.

(No member voted against.)

103. HAWKSMOOR ROAD GARAGES - DISPOSAL

The Financial and Asset Management Business Managers submitted an exempt from publication report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) it be agreed, in the circumstances described in the report, to waive the requirement to seek approval to openly market the property under Contract Rule 20.20 (b) should be waived;
- (2) the disposal of the freehold interest in Hawksmoor Road Garages be agreed in accordance with the terms set out in the report.

(No member voted against.)

The meeting began at 9.00 am, the resolution to exclude press and public was taken at 10.45 am, and the meeting ended at 10.51 am.