

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 22 October 2008

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Bob Price (Chair), Ed Turner (Vice-Chair), Antonia Bance, Mary Clarkson, Colin Cook, Sajjad Malik, John Tanner, Bob Timbs and Oscar Van Nooijen.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Mel Barrett and Tim Sadler (Executive Directors), Sarah Fogden (Finance), Chris Lee (Media and Communications) and Jeremy Thomas and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING:

Penny Gardner, Anna Winship and Debbie Williams (Finance), Michael Crofton-Briggs (City Development), Graham Stratford and Julia Tomkins (Community Housing and Community Development), Ian Wright (Environmental Development), Chris Pyle (Oxford City Homes) and Steve Sprason (Property and Facilities Management).

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Cook apologised for his late arrival.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Timbs declared a personal interest in item 16 (the Business Transformation Strategy). He worked for Unipart and the company was mentioned during the discussion. However, the business under consideration was the transformation strategy, not Unipart.

97. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that a question submitted by the Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) would be dealt with by way of a written response as there was no representative of CPRE present at the meeting.

98. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STRATEGIC LEISURE (CONSULTANTS) PRICING REVIEW

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

Resolved to: -

- (1) simplify Active Slice and Aqua Slice Memberships to core activities only as part of the membership entitlement i.e. fitness suite, swimming (public sessions) and fitness classes (studio) - excluding racquet sports;

- (2) review the increase in price for the staff slice memberships through the JCC process - to be progressed jointly by the Head of Leisure and the Head of Human Resources;.
- (3) further evaluate car park charges at Ferry and the Ice Rink before any decision is made;
- (4) use the report to inform the annual price increases for the service in 2009/10.

99. RECYCLING FOR FLATS, MAISONNETTES AND RETIREMENT HOMES

The Head of City Works submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Resolved to approve the business case in respect of recycling for flats, maisonnettes and retirement homes to allow the project to proceed.

100. DISABLED ADAPTATION WORKS

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

Resolved that the lowest tender for disabled adaptation works in the sum of £360,870.80, as submitted by Facilitas SMC, be accepted and that tender approval be given.

101. SOUTH EAST PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW ON GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

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

Resolved to: -

- (1) endorse the draft response to the consultation, as set out in Annex 1;
- (2) authorise the Head of City Development to forward the response to SEERA as the formal view of the City Council.

102. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH EAST

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

Resolved to endorse the comments in the report for forwarding to GOSE as the City Council's response to the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East.

103. PEGASUS THEATRE – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION (REVISED REQUEST)

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

Resolved to: -

- (1) RECOMMEND Council that a sum of £100,000 be awarded to Pegasus Theatre Trust (PTT) as further contribution to the capital redevelopment of the theatre from the 2009/10 capital programme, subject to a further report being submitted to Council on capital funding availability in 2009/10;
- (2) approve funding, subject to the contributions being made under suitable terms and conditions as follows;
 - a. confirmation of agreed funding from Oxfordshire County Council and Arts Council England;
 - b. the continued achievement of fundraising strategy milestones;
 - c. development of robust contingency/risk management plans for the fundraising strategy;
 - d. any funding awarded being either not paid or will be repaid by Pegasus Theatre if their “My Place” bid is successful;
- (3) authorise the Executive Director, City Regeneration, to determine the mechanism for payment of funding allied to conditions being successfully met.

104. OXFORDSHIRE 2030 STRATEGY

The Executive Director, City Regeneration, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). .

Resolved to: -

- (1) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders, to agree the final content of the consultation draft of the Oxfordshire 2030 Strategy;
- (2) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Executive Board members, to discuss with the other Oxfordshire districts the role of District Councils and Local Strategic Partnerships in delivering the pledges and actions in the draft documents.

105. POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved: -

- (1) to approve the updated policy and approve the incorporation of the Flexible Loans Scheme and the Home Improvement Agency into the policy;
- (2) that an article be published in the next issue of "Your Oxford" providing an easy to understand guide to the main features of the scheme;
- (3) that a progress report be submitted in six months' time.

106. ANNUAL GRANT PROSPECTUS 2009/10

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown and a recommendation of the Partnership and Communities Scrutiny Committee in respect of greater involvement of Members in the commissioning and evaluation of grants.

Resolved to: -

- (1) approve the Annual Grants Prospectus 2009/10 as a framework for allocating the indicative £1,633,759 grants budget to community and voluntary organisations subject to the addition of the following words at the end of the second paragraph of the Prospectus introduction:

"For clarity, organisations which have been commissioned to provide a service by the Council should not apply for additional funding from the open bidding pot for the same project. They may, however, apply through open bidding for another separate project."

- (2) establish a Member Steering Group to provide oversight of the grants process, noting that the Steering Group would meet in December and February and that each area committee would be asked to nominate a member;
- (3) thank Councillor Bance and officers for their excellent work in developing a good, effective process for aligning grant funding with corporate priorities.

107. LORD MAYOR'S DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Resolved to approve the following improvements to the Lord Mayor's Deposit Guarantee Scheme: -

- (1) additional bonds to be made available, with the annual limits set as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) the issue of bonds which include cover for up to one month's rental loss by the landlord.

108. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITY OF OXFORD CHARITIES AND OXFORD LEON TRUST

The Head of Legal and Committee Services submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Resolved to: -

- (1) nominate Councillors Bance, Fooks and Humberstone as trustees to the City of Oxford Charities to fill the places falling vacant over the next few months;
- (2) offer the position of trustee to the Oxford Leon Trust to a member of the opposition parties;
- (3) authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to confirm appointments following consultation with opposition political groups.

109. LAND SOUTH OF GRENOBLE ROAD - POSSIBLE SOUTH OXFORD URBAN EXTENSION

The Interim Head of Property and Facilities Management submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Resolved to: -

- (1) endorse the undertaking of preliminary work to establish if the Council's objective of the early delivery of Grenoble Road can best be achieved through collaborative working with Magdalen College and Thames Water, subject to a detailed report back on whether such an arrangement would represent best value;
- (2) note that specialist external consultancy support will be procured to advise the Council as to the optimum way forward.

110. BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2008-12

The Head of Business Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved to note and approve the Business Transformation Strategy, as set out in the report.

111. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ISSUES FOLLOWING COLLAPSE OF ICELANDIC BANKS

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Resolved to: -

- (1) note the action being taken under the current Treasury Management Strategy to ensure compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and maintaining the best level of security on the Council's investments in the current financial climate, and to RECOMMEND to Council to approve the retrospective changes to the Treasury Management Strategy, as set out in the report, subject to the amendment of paragraph 59 of the report and the lending list at Appendix A to permit unlimited deposits with the Debt Management Office (instead of a limit of £20 million);
- (2) ask for a revised report to be submitted to Council emphasising the need for security of investment and flexibility.

112. FUTURE ITEMS

No issues were raised under this item.

113. MINUTES

Resolved to: -

- (1) agree the minutes (previously circulated, now appended) of the meeting held on 3 September 2008;
- (2) note that information would be circulated to members on progress in respect of the following: -
 - o provision of free blue wheelie bins (minute 77)
 - o continuation of leisure provision at the Oxford Academy (minute 78)
 - o award of contract for the supply and installation of playground equipment (minute 81)
 - o award of contract for the supply of a Town Hall café and catering (minute 83).

114. 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>Minutes</u>
C1	Information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	115 and 116

115. BONN SQUARE – PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of City Development submitted an exempt from publication report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered comments made by Councillor Brown.

Summary of decision

The Board noted the progress in respect of the redesign of Bonn Square, authorised officers to consider and pursue as appropriate claims against third parties in respect of additional costs incurred in completing the scheme, and noted the scheme's impact on the capital programme.

The meeting began at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.33 pm.