

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 3 March 2010

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

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

156. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

157. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Three members of the public submitted question to the meeting which are dealt with under the relevant agenda item below.

158. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) New Build Competition Pool

The Communities and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) outlining the Committee's response to the call-in of the decision taken by the Board at its January meeting.

Question from Jane Alexander

The Scrutiny Committee has referred the issue of the proposed new pool and associated other pool closures back to the City Executive Board for a number of reasons. One of these is their concern that users of Temple Cowley Pool had not been adequately consulted, as highlighted in the many supporting documents that fail to identify the actual users of the pool as the real key stakeholders. It is good to hear that the Council, having voted last May to close Temple Cowley, are belatedly listening to the many Temple Cowley users and will incorporate the feasibility of improving the pool as well as a wider consultation as part of the Feasibility Study. Will the proposed Consultation Exercise over the closure of Temple Cowley Pool make any difference to the Council's decision last May to close it - if so, what quantitative and qualitative results from this exercise would be needed?

Question from Nigel Gibson

The Scrutiny Committee has referred the issue of the proposed new pool and associated other pool closures back to the City Executive Board for a number of reasons. One of these is the obvious lack of robustness of the Business Case supporting the decision last May to build a new pool and close Temple Cowley Pools. One of the key areas is the lack of sufficient environmental consideration, either in terms of how Temple Cowley Pools could be developed with a much reduced carbon footprint, or the total impact on the carbon footprint of the proposed new Pool.

Most people visiting Temple Cowley Pool walk or use public transport. The Business Case supporting the closure of Temple Cowley Pool makes no mention of what additional public transport provision will be necessary just to sustain the current attendance at Temple Cowley Pool (160,000 visits pa) at the proposed new facility - when will this information be published, along with the additional cost to the public (what they will have to pay for public transport that they don't need to at present) and the overall increase in the total carbon footprint for all travel modalities?

Composite response from Councillor Price

The "preferred option" was decided upon in May 2009 and was considered to be best value for money at that time. The initial business case made to date is the seen as the beginning phase of a fully researched business case which will be brought back to the Board for a final decision to be made. Full consultation with the wider public will be undertaken and no option has been ruled out at this stage. Usage patterns and Carbon data are not available for any meaningful analysis to be carried out.

Resolved, upon consideration of the following:-

- (a) Scrutiny report to the Board from the Communities and Partnership Committee meeting on 10th February;
- (b) Report of the Head of City Leisure to the Communities and Partnership Committee on 10th February;
- (c) Recirculated report of the Head of City Leisure considered by the Board on 13th January;
- (d) Board's minute of 13 January that was called in to Scrutiny:-

(1) To confirm the Board's decision of 13th January, namely:-

- (a) To approve the final feasibility and design fees expenditure and note that this would be funded by a virement from another capital scheme in 2009/10 and form part of the Council's Capital Budget in 2010/11;

- (b) To approve the outline business case and that further development of the business case and financial appraisal in line with different design options for the new competition pool be undertaken;
 - (c) That delegated authority be given (subject to consultation with the Leader and the Board member) to the Executive Director, City Services to appoint the Design Team and Project Manager for the new competition pool; and
 - (d) To approve the start of the associated consultation processes;
- (2) To note that officers intended to report back on progress on the competition pool project to the Board's June meeting;
- (3) On the Scrutiny Committee's request that the Board reconsider its decisions in respect of consultation and funding:-
- (a) On consultation, to note the consultation that had been carried out so far, that a meeting with user groups would take place on 11th March and that the Board had earlier approved a consultation exercise and that a plan for this was being pursued;
 - (b) On funding, to advise the Scrutiny Committee that the Board would receive a report in June that further developed the business case and financial appraisal.

(b) Building Resilience – Preventing Violent Extremism

The Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) outlining recommendations concerning the funding for preventing violent extremism and the work of the Oxfordshire Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy and Commissioning Group.

Resolved:-

- (1) To note the recommendations of the Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee; and
- (2) To authorise the Board Member for Social Inclusion and Young People to report the recommendations to the next meeting of the Oxfordshire Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy and Commissioning Group.

159. REPLACEMENT WINDOWS – TENDER ACCEPTANCE

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

Resolved that the lowest tender for the replacement of windows, at a reduction in the schedule of rates price of 15.25%, submitted by Nationwide Windows be accepted but, should the contract with Nationwide Windows fail to proceed, then the next lowest tender from Anglian Windows be accepted.

160. DISPOSAL OF LAND ADJOINING 205 COWLEY WAY

The Head of Corporate Assets submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval to dispose of the freehold interest in land adjoining 205 Cowley Road as well as seeking approval for a temporary builders compound to enable the development.

Questions from Andrew Crawford

- (1) Is the Board aware of the very significant traffic and congestion issues already associated with Manzil Way in particular the existing access and egress to the East Oxford Health Centre? These problems affect not just vehicles but also vulnerable pedestrians accessing the Health Centre.
- (2) Is the Board aware that these issues will be exacerbated further by the letting of the 28 apartments above the Health Centre from April 1st 2010?
- (3) Is the Board aware that the Council's own Planning Department were not aware (as at March 1st 2010) that the intention was to create a compound with access from Manzil Way?
- (4) Is the Board aware that (as at March 1st 2010) the County Highways have not yet determined the adequacy and safeness of access and egress to the building compound or at least have not yet communicated this to the City Council's Planning Department?
- (5) Has the Board considered changing the layout and therefore possible reducing the size of the builders yard by instead have Site Access directly from the Cowley Road close to or alongside the current public toilets?
- (6) Does the Board believe that having an untarmaced road (as currently planned) on a Building site for up to 2 years will minimise the spread of mud etc on to the public highway?

Answer from the Head of Corporate Assets

The loss of the public open space will be mitigated by a full traffic management plan which was currently being considered by planners. It was hoped the plan would address many of the concerns highlighted in the questions.

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve, in principle, the freehold disposal of land adjoining 205 Cowley Road as shown hatched on the plan attached at appendix one to the report;
- (2) To approve, in principle, the granting of a licence to allow the developer to create a temporary builder's compound on the area of land shown edged black on the plan at appendix two to the report;

- (3) To authorise the advertising of the intended disposal of Public Open Space in accordance with the requirements Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972;
- (4) To note that further reports would be submitted to the Board to consider objections received (if any) resulting from resolution (3) above, and the detailed terms of any disposal, as appropriate; and
- (5) In the absence of there being any objections the Head of Corporate Assets be authorised to agree the detailed terms and conditions of disposal.

161. CITY CENTRE STREET SCENE MANUAL: PART ONE

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval of the City Centre Street Scene Manual: Part One.

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve the City Centre Street Scene Manual: Part One as the City Council's approach to City centre streets and spaces;
- (2) To authorise the Head of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Board Member, to make any necessary editorial corrections (for example as a result of consultation) to the document before publication; and
- (3) To endorse the City Centre Street Scene Manual: Part One for use in decision making regarding street scene issues.

162. GRANT ALLOCATIONS TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR 2010/11

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval for the allocation of grants for the 2010/11 financial year.

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve the recommendations for the additional funding to Advice Centres, as set out at appendix one to the report; and
- (2) To approve the recommendations for 2010/11 grant applications, as set out in appendix two to the report.

163. ALLOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS MONIES

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval to allocate funds to various projects.

Resolved:-

- (1) To RECOMMEND Council to agree the allocation of the Homelessness, Overcrowding and Worklessness Directorate (HOWD) grant for 2010/11 as follows:-
 - a) Rough Sleepers' Street Services and Reconnection Team (CRI) - £238,218
 - b) Reconnection and Referral Co-ordinator (Under 25s) (CRI) - £37,245
 - c) Severe Weather Beds - £4000
 - d) 2 Education, Training and Employment Workers (Aspire) - £64,000
 - e) 1 Life Skills Worker (Simon House) - £39,024
 - f) 1 Specialist Alcohol Worker (O'Hanlon House) - £34,223
 - g) 1 Tenancy Sustainment Worker (O'Hanlon House) - £34,223
 - h) 1 Multiple Needs worker (Elmore Community Services) - £39,278
 - i) 6 Subsidised Beds for Under 25s (Simon House) - £4,165
 - j) 6 Subsidised Beds for Under 25s (Lucy Faithful House) - £4,662
 - k) Joint funding of the Joint Housing Team and Supported Lodgings Scheme, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council - £30,000

- (2) To agree the allocation of Oxford City Council's homelessness grant budget for 2010/11 as follows:-
 - a) O'Hanlon House Day Centre - £133,432
 - b) One Foot Forward - £42,992
 - c) Elmore Community Services - £42,230 (6 Months initially)
 - d) The Gap - £95,938 (6 Months initially)
 - e) The Gatehouse - £9,502
 - f) Steppin' Stone - £51,250
 - g) Simon House - £11,637
 - h) Emmaus Oxford Furniture Store - £28,505
 - i) Aspire Oxfordshire - £25,543

- (3) To RECOMMEND Council to approve delegated authority to the Head of Community Housing and Community Development to allocate the balance of the HOWD budget (£110,962) and the homelessness grants budget (£1,250).

164. HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY SINGLE CONVERSION UPDATE AND THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking endorsement of Local Investment Plan elements affecting Oxford.

Resolved:-

- (1) To agree the draft Oxfordshire Local Investment Plan as it affected Oxford;
 - (a) To agree Oxford's five year list of schemes to be included in the Local Investment Plan; and
 - (b) To authorise the Executive Director City Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree changes to this information in the Oxfordshire Local Investment Plan before it was finalised before the 31 March 2010.

165. UNCOLLECTABLE DEBTS – WRITE-OFF REPORT

The Head of Customer Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) seeking approval for the write off of uncollectable debts.

Resolved to approve the write off of debts detailed in the report.

166. CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval of the Consultation Framework for 2010/13.

Resolved to approve the Consultation Framework as a draft Policy Framework document for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

167. 3RD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) giving performance information for the Board to note. The Board also considered a report (previously circulated, now appended) of the Performance Monitoring Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved to note the performance information.

168. CORPORATE PLAN 2010/13 – REFRESH

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) presenting the draft Corporate Plan for 2010/13.

Resolved to approve the draft plan and targets for those sections of the Corporate Plan 2010/2013 that require extensive updating, noting that the Plan formed part of the Council's Policy Framework and would be recommended to full Council in due course.

169. THIRD QUARTER REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

The Heads of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) giving information on the Council's overall financial position to 31st December 2009 as well as the latest forecast for the current financial year.

Resolved to note the overall financial position.

170. LAND AT CUTTESLOWE PARK – DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The Head of Corporate Assets submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) detailing objections received in respect of the intention to dispose of Public Open Space at Cutteslowe Park.

Resolved to agree that having seen and considered the objections raised, a disposal for the stated purpose of the open space at Cutteslowe Park, as identified in this report, should proceed.

171. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

172. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 15th February be approved as a correct record.

The meeting started at 5.00pm and ended at 6.55 pm