

# CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 8 December 2010

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Price (Chair), Turner (Vice-Chair) Bance, Cook, Lygo, Malik, McManners, Smith, Tanner and Timbs.

## **97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members present.

## **98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

## **99. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Received from Jane Alexander and Nigel Gibson

“Over 60% of the General New Funds Projects Capital Budget, £7.365m, is for the proposed new swimming pool at Blackbird Leys; there is no evidence, that this new facility is wanted by either the people of Blackbird Leys or the general public – the exception is the elite Swimming Club who still close the Temple Cowley Pools leisure centre to the public, regularly, at weekends, to hold competitions and galas.

At a time of severe and increasing financial austerity, it makes no sense either financially or in terms of value for money to embark on a new project, especially as the design options for a new pool, currently out for consultation, push the price significantly above the claimed £8.5m capital budget – along with the Mace consultancy fees, the total cost will be over £10m.

Will the CEB consider the alternative financially prudent option to maintain Temple Cowley Pools & Fitness Centre through self-funding? It has been pointed out by Councillor Timbs on numerous occasions that the new gym facility paid for itself inside three years – this ‘profit’ could continue to be used to fund all maintenance and improvement, and thus keep the centre open for the lifetime predicted by the Council’s own Treloar report, up to at least 2030.”

Answer from Councillor Price

Both Council and the City Executive Board have received information on costings to refurbish the pool at Temple Cowley. It was decided that it would not be financially viable to refurbish the pool. Extensive consultation has been carried out – the result of which shows a great deal of support for a new swimming pool

to the South East of the City. The Board remained satisfied that that the Blackbird Leys scheme presents the most viable, value for money, long term option.

Received from Elaine Bellinger

“As a small business in Headington, what effect does the council think that by increasing parking charges by 100% will have on our local businesses?”

Answer from Councillor Price

The Board does not feel that the modest price rises proposed are unreasonable (from 60p to £1.10 and £1 to £1.50) and it is not anticipated that this will have a detrimental affect on businesses.

Received from Sietske Boeles on behalf of the Divinity Road Resident's Association

“One of the aims of the LTP3 is to reduce traffic congestion in Oxford. DRARA is concerned that traffic congestion will further increase as it seems that local plan policies designed to ensure that students don't bring cars into Oxford are unenforceable after the DVLA has decided not to give car ownership details to the universities and private providers of student accommodation.

County Council officers and local residents in the Divinity Road area have noticed with concern a large increase of unauthorised student cars parked in the vicinity of halls of residence close to Cheney Village, Warneford Hall and Sinnet Court We are concerned that a number of planning applications have been approved for student housing in East Oxford which could further exacerbate the traffic and parking congestion.

What measures will the city council take to ensure that these local plan policies (ED 6 & 8 and HS14) are realistically enforceable which are aimed to reduce traffic congestion? The enforcement of these local plan policies are in particular relevant for student dominated area's in East Oxford and parts of Headington such as Cheney Lane where no parking restrictions or CPZs exist or planned in the near future.

Answer from Councillor Cook

The Local Transport Plan is a County-wide document that is being consulted on by Oxfordshire County Council and as such representations concerning on-street parking should be made directly to the County Council.

The City Council will continue to work with the universities to tackle the problem of irresponsible parking by students and a scheme to achieve this is being worked on by officers. Officers would contact Ms Boeles to update her in due course.

## **100. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Two reports of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee were considered with the appropriate agenda items.

### **101. FINANCIAL REPORTING - QUARTER 2 REPORT**

The Interim Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) providing an estimate of the forecast outturn for the council's revenue, capital and HRA budgets for the financial year 2010/2011.

Councillor Turner advised that the remaining frozen 25% of Area Committee budgets had been unfrozen for the current financial year.

#### Resolved to:-

- (1) Note the forecast outturn position as at 30 September;
- (2) Instruct Executive Directors to contain budgets within existing resources; and
- (3) Request more detailed information in future reports on reasons for variances on the capital program.

### **102. PERFORMANCE REPORTING – QUARTER 2 REPORT**

The Head of Business Improvement submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) highlighting the Quarter 2 performance for 2010/11 and current known changes to the national performance framework.

The Finance and Performance Panel of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) presenting the Panel's views on the performance of the Council for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year.

#### Resolved to:-

- (1) Note the performance information and action being taken to address the indicators that are currently off target;
- (2) Note the current known position regarding the National Performance Framework and the early work being carried out by Officers in advance of notification of any changes; and
- (3) To accept the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel and ask for collaborative working between the Board and the panel to take forward a new style of reporting in future as national performance reporting requirements become known.

### **103. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT**

The Director for Finance and Efficiency submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) reporting the performance of the Treasury Management function for the period ending September 2010 as well as seeking authorisation to amend the strategy for 2010/11.

The Finance and Performance Panel of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee also submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) presenting the views on the Council's Treasury management performance for the first half of the year.

#### Resolved to:-

- (1) Note the performance of the treasury management function for the first six months of 2010/11
- (2) Adopt and approve the proposed changes to the Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11, in particular:-
  - Amendments to the Counterparty list as set out in paragraphs 20 to 30 and appendix 4 of the report
  - Amendments to the period of investment as set out in paragraphs 31 to 33 of the report; and
- (3) Note the intention to borrow in accordance with the Council's Capital Financing Requirement set out in paragraphs 34 to 37; and
- (4) To accept the recommendations of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Panel.

### **104. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION BUDGET**

The Director for Finance and Efficiency submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) presenting the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12 to 2014/15 and the 2011/12 Budget for consultation.

#### Resolved to:-

- (1) Agree the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12 to 2014/15 and the 2011/12 General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital budgets for consultation as set out in Appendices 1, 5 and 7 of the report;
- (2) Note the difficult financial situation and note actions taken to deliver a balanced medium term financial position for the next four years; and

- (3) Instruct officers to proceed with delivering efficiency savings as set out in Appendix 3 in line with prudent financial management

#### **105. OXFORD CITY COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2010-2013**

The Head of Policy, Communication and Culture submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) asking the Board to adopt the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Delivery Plan 2010-13.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Endorse and adopt the Oxford City Council Children and Young People Plan for 2010-13, subject to any changes in available budget that may arise from the forthcoming Budget Review; and
- (2) Receive a report on the Annual Review of the Plan.

#### **106. OXFORD CITY COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Head of Policy, Communication and Culture submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) asking the Board to adopt the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Adopt the Safeguarding Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures at Annexe 1 to the report; and
- (2) Keep under review the Policy and Procedures so that they may be updated as appropriate.

#### **107. OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) asking for the Board to agree a response to the draft Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 3.

Resolved to endorse the draft response attached as Appendix two to the report and authorise the Head of City Development to send to Oxfordshire County Council as the formal response of Oxford City Council.

## **108. PLANNING POLICIES – ANNUAL MONITORING**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) to approve the Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Secretary of State.

### Resolved to

- (1) Approve the Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10 for submission to the Secretary of State; and
- (2) Authorise the Head of City Development to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document prior to publication.

## **109. CITY CENTRE AND SUBURBAN CAR PARKS – PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES**

The Head of Direct Services submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking the Board's agreement to vary the tariffs for off street car parking in Central Oxford and in suburban car parks.

### Resolved:-

- (1) To approve the proposed variations to the Central Area car parks tariffs as set out in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the report;
- (2) To approve the proposed variations to the suburban car parks tariffs as set out in paragraphs 11 to 15 of the report;
- (3) To amend the Executive scheme of delegation so as to withdraw the delegation from the City Executive Board to Area Committees for the purpose of setting parking charges in suburban car parks; and
- (4) To request a further report to the Board six months after implementation of the price changes so that usage and the effect of the variations can be monitored.

## **110. CHARGING FOR PARKING IN AREAS ADJACENT TO PARKS**

The Head of Direct Services submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking the Board's agreement to introduce a chargeable parking regime in various locations owned by Oxford City Council and managed by Leisure and Parks.

The Parking Manager circulated (now appended) a revised financial appraisal of the proposed scheme.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the introduction of a pay and display parking regime at eight car parks as detailed in paragraphs 3-10 of the report;
- (2) Approve charges at the parking areas as set out in paragraph 26 of the report;
- (3) Approve the level of penalty charge at £100 discounted to £50 if paid within 14 days as referred to in paragraph 20 of the report;
- (4) Approve the promotion of a parking place Order to implement resolutions (1), (2) and (3) above;
- (5) Authorise the Parking Manager to determine in which circumstances permits or concessionary parking should be given and to consider and determine any objections to the parking place Order;
- (6) Request that officers make contact with the County Council to ask that parking arrangements around the affected car parks be reviewed as necessary in light of the introduction of charges;
- (7) Ask officers to examine the position of unauthorised long term parking at the Cowley Marsh site;
- (8) Ask officers to monitor any concessionary arrangements agreed and to adjust as necessary depending on usage locally, and in any case to report back six months from the introduction of the controls on their effects; and
- (9) RECOMMEND Council to approve capital expenditure of £109k on car park control equipment and signage in pursuance of the Board's decisions and that this sum be met from contingencies.

**111. CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTION OF FREE PRINTED MATTER**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking approval to commence the process to introduce a licensing scheme to control the distribution of free literature.

Resolved:-

- (1) That, in the Board's opinion, the area highlighted in appendix 4 to the report is being defaced by the distribution of free printed matter;
- (2) To approve the proposal to make an order designating relevant land of the authority and all relevant highways for which the authority is responsible, as set out in paragraph 4.4 and the map attached as appendix 4 to the report, to control the distribution of free printed matter within the areas highlighted in this report; and

(3) To request a further report from the Head of Environmental Development to the Board's March meeting containing:-

(a) The details of any objections duly made in response to the proposed order; and

(b) A fully costed scheme should the recommendation be to confirm the order to control the distribution of free printed matter.

## **112. OPTIONS FOR HARD WIRED ALARM SYSTEMS IN CITY COUNCIL OWNED SHELTERED AND SEMI-SHELTERED HOUSING**

The Head of Housing and Communities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) outlining proposals for the future of hard-wired alarm systems in elderly designated and sheltered properties following the start of the new Alert service contracts under Supporting People (SP) in October 2010;

### Resolved:-

- (1) That Hard-wired alarms in designated level 2 and 3 properties are disconnected after Supporting People and the new contractors for the Alert service have replaced the alarms for SP funded clients and made appropriate arrangements with self-funding clients. Any tenant moving into a designated level 2 and 3 property in the future (or indeed any council property) can be assessed for an alarm service by the new service contractor or pay for the service directly themselves. The cost of disconnection in these properties is minimal, requiring only removal of the hard-wired 'rack' in the block and pull-cords in properties. This will save an estimated £8,306 p.a. in maintenance costs and avoid expenditure on costs associated with upgrades to the equipment which is now very old;
- (2) To retain Hard-wired alarms in sheltered properties including in communal areas. This will see ongoing maintenance charges of £10,038 p.a. retained; and
- (3) To authorise officers to negotiate with SP for the retention of SP funded monitoring of hard-wired alarms in sheltered properties though the Alert service contract (i.e. SP funded for SP clients and self-funding for all others).

## **113. CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF TEMPORARY AGENCY STAFF TO THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNCILS**

The Head of People and Equalities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking project approval and the delegation powers to the Director of Finance and Efficiency to award a new contract for the supply of temporary agency staff.



Resolved:-

- (1) To Grant project approval and authorise the Council to enter into a single supplier contract for the supply of temporary agency staff for the next 4 years. This contract is to be available to the other Oxfordshire Authorities and named public sector organisations to use; and
- (2) That subject to all agency staff receiving a “living wage”, to delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Efficiency authority to award the contract for the supply to Oxford City Council of temporary agency staff.

**114. SAFER SURFACING AT PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES – AWARD OF FRAMEWORK CONTRACT**

The Head of Business Improvement submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking project approval to award three contracts forming a framework (call off) agreement for the provision of Safer Surfacing for Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities to Oxford City Council.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Grant project approval for the provision of Safer Surfacing for Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities to Oxford City Council.
- (2) Award three contracts which will form a framework agreement for the provision of Safer Surfacing for Playgrounds and other Recreational Facilities for a four year period commencing on 1st January 2011. The three suppliers are; Soft Surfaces Limited, S & C Slatter Limited and UAC Limited.

**115. TRANSFORMATION FUNDING**

The Director for Finance and Efficiency submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) proposing changes to the way transformation funding is allocated.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Delegate project approval for all new projects funded from the transformation budget from 2010/11 onwards (including projects over £100,000) to the Director of Finance and Efficiency in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader for projects over £100.000;
- (2) Approve the top slice of £50,000 from the 2011/12 transformation budget to pump prime efficiency proposals agreed by the Council’s new Efficiency Partnership Board and that the authorised officer for approving any spend is the Director for Finance and Efficiency.

- (3) Note the governance arrangements for managing the transformation funding and savings described in Appendix one to the report;
- (4) Note the plan for achieving the transformation savings target for 2010/11 and beyond.

#### **116. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION – PLANNING ASPECTS**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) providing an update on the planning aspects of HMOs.

Resolved to approve option 2 (detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report) namely to adopt Article 4 Direction with 12-month delayed effect.

#### **117. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE – UPDATE**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) providing a progress update.

Resolved to note the progress achieved to date and future actions.

#### **118. FUTURE ITEMS**

Nothing was raised under this item.

#### **119. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 October, 18 October and 10 November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 7.10 pm.