

# CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Wednesday 10 April 2013**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Turner (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Cook, Coulter, Curran, Lygo, Sinclair and Tanner.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Jeremy Thomas (Head of Law and Governance), William Reed (Law and Governance), David Edwards (Executive Director City Regeneration), Nerys Parry (Housing Services), Adrian Roche (City Development) and Jackie Yates (Executive Director Organisational Development and Corporate Services)

## **109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Price, Seamons and Smith.

## **110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received

## **111. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

## **112. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **113. DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Draft Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Adrian Roche presented the report to the Board and provided some further background and context.

A further amendment (*italics*) to the SPD, as a matter of clarification, was submitted as follows:-

“Large housing sites (capacity for 10+ homes)

2.13. Where a site has capacity for 10 dwellings or more, Policy HP3 of the Sites and Housing Plan will apply. *Policy HP3 requires on site provision of affordable housing. Applications are to be determined in accordance with the development unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Exceptionally there may be proper planning reasons justifying a departure from HP3 on the basis that those*

*planning reasons constitute material considerations indicating otherwise. In those circumstances the Council will ensure that there is no net reduction in affordable housing provided – i.e. provision on an alternative site is in addition to any affordable housing ordinarily required on that site. It is, however, to be stressed that determination of an application in such a manner would be a departure from HP3*

2.14 When applying Policy HP3 to the tenure split, including the cascade approach where triggered, the applicant will be expected to round up the number of affordable units overall, and social rented units, to the nearest whole number.”

Adrian Roche explained that the amendment set out above would only come into play in exceptional circumstances. The SPD was in any case going out for consultation.

The Board considered the report and proposed amendment and confirmed that it was committed to affordable housing onsite, as part of a mixed community, and that the aim was to maximise the number of affordable units that could be delivered. It noted that the SPD provided guidance that was useful when going into either an appeal or negotiations.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the Draft Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations SPD as amended above for public consultation;
- (2) Approve the Draft Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations SPD as amended as a material consideration in determining planning applications;
- (3) Authorise the Head of City development to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document prior to publication;
- (4) Ask officers to investigate means by which the Council could strengthen its commitment to onsite provision.

#### **114. ANNUAL LETTINGS PLAN - ALLOCATION OF PERCENTAGES 2013/14**

The Head of Housing submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Annual Lettings Plan - Allocation Percentages 2013/2014. Tom Porter presented the report to the Board and provided some additional background and context. The Chief Executive added that the City Council was already struggling to house homeless families within the City, and that the private rented sector had become a mainstream deliverer of housing for those people who at one time would have been buying properties. This was crowding out the private rented sector and putting pressure upon the Council as it sought to place people in homes in Oxford.

The Board considered the report and resolved to:-

- (1) Note the performance against the Annual Lettings Plan in Appendix 1 for 2012/13 (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013);
- (2) Recommend the proposed Annual Lettings Plan in Appendix 2 for 2013/2014 for approval by Council.

#### **115. INDEPENDENT HOUSING ADVICE SERVICE - TENDER SELECTION - DELEGATION TO OFFICERS**

The Head of Housing submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Independent Housing Advice Service – Tender Selection – Delegation to Officers. Jeremy Thomas clarified that the tender would be accepted on the basis that it is most economically advantageous to the Council balancing *both* quality and cost.

The Board considered the report and resolved to grant delegated authority to the Executive Director to accept the tender that is most economically advantageous to the authority, with the approval of the Executive Lead Member for Housing.

#### **116. ROUGH SLEEPING AND HOMELESSNESS GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

The Head of Housing Services submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Grant Allocations. Nerys Parry presented the report to the Board and provided some further background and context.

The Board considered the report, observed that it was helpful and informative, and that it was pleased to see that homelessness grant allocations were not being eroded.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Recommend that allocation of the Preventing Homelessness Grant for 2013/14 as laid out in the report;
- (2) Recommend the allocation of Oxford City Council's homelessness grant budget for 2013/14 as laid out in the report;
- (3) Delegate authority to the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Board member, to allocate the balance of the Preventing Homelessness Grant (£11,352) and any amendments to the homelessness grants budget.

#### **117. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH STRATEGY REFRESH - CONSULTATION**

The Head of City development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Economic Development and Growth Strategy refresh

consultation. David Edwards presented this report to the Board and provided some additional background and context.

Councillor Jean Fooks addressed the Board on this subject.

The Board considered the report and commended officers for their work on it. The Oxford Strategic Partnership was thanked for its work as well.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Endorse the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy as commissioned and agreed by the Oxford Strategic partnership;
- (2) Approve the City Council Action Plan in response to it.

## **118. GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Governance Review. Jeremy Thomas presented the report to the Board and provides some further background and context to it. A list of updated recommendations and Council procedures was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Ed Turner reminded the Board that this would be a recommendation to Council, which would take the final decision on the matter.

Councillor Jean Fooks addressed the Board on this matter.

The Board considered the report and commended Group Leaders of all parties for their work on it. There was consensus on many aspects of the review. It noted that any changes would take effect from the start of the new Council year in May, and would be reviewed after a year. The Board also thanked Jeremy Thomas and Bill Reed for their valuable contribution.

The Board resolved that the recommendations in the report (as amended in relation to scrutiny and certain of the proposed Council procedures) be agreed for presentation to Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 in an updated report following this meeting.

## **119. FUTURE ITEMS**

Nothing was raised under this item.

## **120. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**121. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

None

**The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 6.18 pm**