

# Minutes of a meeting of the CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD on Thursday 11 May 2017

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## Committee members:

Councillor Price (Chair)  
Councillor Brown  
Councillor Kennedy  
Councillor Smith

Councillor Turner (Deputy Leader)  
Councillor Hollingsworth  
Councillor Rowley

## Officers:

Peter Sloman, Chief Executive  
Tim Sadler, Executive Director Sustainable City  
Jackie Yates, Executive Director Organisational Development and Corporate Services  
Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services  
Lucy Cherry, Leisure and Performance Manager  
Patsy Dell, Head of Planning, Sustainable Development & Regulatory Services  
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services  
Lindsay Cane, Acting Head of Law and Governance  
Sarah Claridge, Committee Services Officer

## Also present:

Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair, Scrutiny Committee

## 166. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Sinclair, Simm and Tanner.

## 167. Declarations of Interest

None

## 168. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None received

## **169. Councillors Addresses on any item for decision on the Board's agenda**

None received.

## **170. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues**

None received.

## **171. Items raised by Board Members**

None received.

## **172. Scrutiny Committee Reports**

### **a) The Local Financial Impacts of Brexit**

Cllr Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report. He said that there was no evidence that any bankruptcies or business closure were linked to Brexit.

Cllr Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development said the Economic steering group was keeping a watching brief on the impact of Brexit on businesses. He recommended that someone from the Scrutiny Committee be appointed to the steering group.

### **b) The Council's use of Public Spaces Protection Order powers**

Cllr Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report. He said the committee had discussed the number of cycling infringements and options for how the Council could persuade cyclists to obey the law.

Cllr Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development said that once the work at the end of Queen St had been completed, new cycling restriction signs would be installed. This would make it clearer what the rules are and would make enforcement of the cycling part of the City Centre PSPO possible.

### **c) Scrutiny Response: South Oxford Science Village**

Cllr Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report. He said the Scrutiny Committee was in agreement with the proposal.

The Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services clarified the Scrutiny recommendation. It is not a case of submitting the application "as soon as possible" as the timing of submitting the planning application is contingent on other

scenarios playing out for example it depends on when the Chalgrove Airfield application is submitted.

Cllr Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development said the National Infrastructure Commission is looking in-depth at national infrastructure options. They think the proposal of opening up the Cowley branch line and the combination of commercial development and housing being offered by the South Oxford Science Village application as very appealing.

There is also another development being worked on South of Horspath Road for 2,000 homes. If both applications were successful, Oxford's unmet housing need would be met.

#### **d) Scrutiny Response: Fusion Lifestyle's Annual Service Plan 2017/18**

Cllr Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report. He thanked officers for attending the Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Scrutiny Committee discussed the data collected and whether usage or visits were the better measure.

He said the Scrutiny Committee would like to see both Fusion's annual service plan and performance document at the same meeting so that comparisons could be made. The Fusion service plan begins in April and is already seen late so another few months won't make any difference.

Cllr Smith, Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport said this was entirely possible as the Scrutiny Committee sets its own work plan however the annual service plan would continue to be endorsed by the Board at its May meetings.

The Leisure and Performance Manager said the Council gets monthly performance data from Fusion, but officers only get 5 working days to clear the performance reports before they are sent to leisure user groups. There was also the possibility for the Scrutiny Committee to look at the performance reports which go to the Leisure Partnership Board on a quarterly basis.

### **173. Fusion Lifestyle's 2017/18 Annual Service Plan for the management of the council's leisure facilities.**

The Head of Community Services submitted a report which endorsed Fusion Lifestyle's 2017/18 Annual Service Plan for the continuous development, management and operation of leisure services in Oxford— as recommended by the Leisure Partnership Board.

The Head of Community Services outlined the background of the service plan. He said the leisure centres are very busy and there are challenges for Fusion around wear and tear and cleanliness.

Cllr Smith, Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport presented the report. She outlined the focus areas for the following year:

- To increase participation by 5%;
- To reduce carbon emissions by 5% each year for example by replacing light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs and to buy a pool cover for the Hinksey Pool. However there are logistics issues about the shape of the pool.
- To promote free swimming classes for the under 17s. We plan to review the timetable for swim school classes with Fusion officers to implement this.
- A crèche facility at Ferry Leisure Centre is also a priority.

Cllr Smith thanked the Leisure and Performance Manager for all her hard work managing the Fusion contract.

Cllr Price said the usage targets looked extremely challenging; how realistic are they especially the 12,000 increase in BME visits? The Head of Community Services said Fusion has a good track record which does suggest they will achieve them. They had agreed the targets so they must be fairly confident they can meet them.

Cllr Hollingsworth said there were limitations on collecting data. Are we trying to get existing users to attend more frequently or new users starting? It is not mentioned in the report. The Head of Community Services said more work was needed to improve data capture of usage figures, particularly at the Ferry Leisure Centre.

Cllr Turner asked about the healthy options in the vending machines. Cllr Smith said it had been piloted at the Leys Leisure Centre and when the contract for the café at Ferry ends later this year, we can change the offer in the vending machines. Both healthy and unhealthy foods will be available.

Cllr Kennedy asked about pool maintenance at Hinksey Pool. She said there were maintenance issue that had not been fixed and asked whether it was possible for Fusion to show how they have improved their maintenance schedule. The Head of Community Services apologies for this and said he would look into it.

The Chief Executive said he was happy with customer satisfaction, the Council scored 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 22 local authority leisure centres

Cllr Price asked for a progress report on the Horspath Sports village to the Board in September.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Endorse** the Fusion Lifestyle Annual Service Plan for 2017/18 as recommended by the Leisure Partnership Board.

## **174. Disposal of 156 Walton Street**

The Head of Housing Services submitted a report which sought approval for the marketing and sale of the freehold of 156 Walton Street on the open market and the

use of the resulting receipt to purchase additional affordable homes for households in need.

Cllr Rowley, Board Member for Housing presented the report. He said this was a one off decision to sell off a council house in an expensive area to buy housing in other areas. The property is vacant and run down and is worth a lot of money.

The money from the sale will go towards buying housing in Oxford. It will be rented at the local housing allowance rate to provide affordable housing

A further report will be submitted to the Board in July 2017.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Approve** in the disposal of the freehold of 156 Walton Street and delegate authority to the Head of Housing to approve the actual terms following a marketing exercise.
2. **Note** that a further report will be submitted to a future CEB setting out the preferred route for purchasing the additional properties once options and the most expedient route have been fully understood.

## **175. South Oxford Science Village Planning Application**

The Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services submitted a report which sought approval to join Magdalen College and Thames Water in the submission of a planning application for the proposed South Oxford Science Village at Grenoble Road, to fund the determination of the application including pursuing any appeal processes that may ultimately be necessary

Cllr Bob Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development presented the report. He said the first instalment of the money had been budgeted for and this report was requesting another \$222,000 for the next phase of the application process.

Cllr Turner suggested the Board try and foresee potential future project costs during the budget process to avoid mid-term budget requests.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director, Sustainable City, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to join Magdalen College and Thames Water in the submission of a planning application for the South Oxford Science Village and, if necessary, to pursue the application at appeal.
2. **Approve** pursuing the South Oxford Science Village site through the South Oxfordshire Local Plan process, including examination; and if necessary, through a planning appeal or call-in inquiry.

3. **Give project approval** for the sum of up to £220,000 representing the Council's share of the costs in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of the Council's constitution to cover additional technical studies and a planning application, and a potential call-in inquiry or appeal. This is in addition to the approved current budget provision of £560,000, which covers promoting the scheme through the Local Plan, and provides the basis for a potential planning application.

## **176.Minutes**

The Board resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 as a true and accurate record.

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.38 pm**