

# MINUTES OF THE CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 8 August 2016

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**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Price (Chair), Turner (Deputy Leader), Hollingsworth, Kennedy, Rowley, Simm, Smith and Tanner.

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan (Ward Councillor, Headington) and Councillor Angie Goff (Ward Councillor, Wolvercote)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** David Edwards (Executive Director City Regeneration and Housing), Jackie Yates (Executive Director Organisational Development and Corporate Services), Mark Jaggard (Planning Policy Manager), Richard Wyatt (Senior Planner), Jeremy Thomas (Head of Law and Governance) and Sarah Claridge (Committee Services Officer)

## 36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received by Cllrs Sinclair and Brown

## 37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 38. ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (15 MINUTES TOTAL)

None received

## 39. COUNCILLORS ADDRESSES ON ANY ITEM FOR DECISION ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA

Cllr Altaf Khan spoke on the Headington Neighbourhood Plan (minute 40). He congratulated residents on the work done which included a public consultation. A decision is needed to meet the deadline, so a referendum on the plan can be held alongside the County elections in May.

## 40. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES (10 MINUTES IN TOTAL)

Cllr Goff addressed the Board on the loss of the number 17 bus service. She explained that the County Council's cut to the bus subsidy meant that the bus company was no longer going to operate the 17 bus from Cutteslowe to the city centre and hospitals. A lot of elderly people relied on this service to get around and were now going to feel isolated.

The County Council has offered a bus (for up to 16 people) and a reduced service of 2 days a week would cost £10,000 a year to run. The Cutteslowe Community Centre has agreed to co-ordinate the service if the City Council could fund the £10, 000 for the first year.

Cllr Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning and Regulatory said that the City Council was reviewing several options for replacing the service and discussions were on-going.

Cllr Smith asked whether Ward Councillors had considered using their ward member spend and CIL money to fund the bus service. Cllr Goff said that purchasing benches had been discussed so people could rest to their way to the bus stops but not the funding of the service. Cllr Hollingsworth reminded Councillors that CIL money is not available for bus services.

#### **41. ITEMS RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS**

None received

#### **42. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None received.

#### **43. HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Head of Planning and Regulatory submitted a report seeking endorsement for the consultation required by regulations for the Headington Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning and Regulatory Services presented the report. He thanked officers for the work done. The timing of the decision was important to fit the election timetable, which is not absolute but as long as there are no legal challenges it should be met.

He reiterated that the Board was being asked to just endorse the process and it was not the time to comment on the document, but to agree that all legal hurdles had been met and the draft plan could move to the next stage.

The Planning Policy Manager explained that it was the first Neighbourhood Plan in the city.

The Vice Chair of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee thanked officers for all the work they had done to assist the committee in the development of the draft plan.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Agree** that the legal tests have been met.
2. **Endorse** the consultation on the submitted Headington Neighbourhood Plan

3. **Proceed** with the neighbourhood planning process by submitting with the outcome of the consultation exercise, the draft plan for independent examination

#### 44. FURTHER LOAN FACILITY TO LOW CARBON HUB IPS

Cllr Rowley arrived at the meeting.

The Chief Executive has submitted a report to consider the approval of a loan to the Low Carbon Hub (IPS) to support the construction of the hydroelectric renewable energy scheme at Sandford and to mitigate the clawback risk around the Intelligent Energy Europe grant arrangements.

Cllr Turner, Board Member for Finance, Asset Management and Public Health presented the report. He explained that the Council had been approached by the Low Carbon Hub for additional funding as the scheme is more expensive than planned. A £100,000 loan would be paid back at 1% interest by June 2019.

The Council has been awarded EU funding to provide a series of renewable energy projects before November 2016. Without the Sandford scheme the Council would not meet its obligations with the EU and would be required to repay approx. £193,000. To avoid this, the Sandford scheme and loan should go ahead.

Cllr Tanner endorsed the work of the Low Carbon Hub at promoting renewable energy projects. He gave credit to Oxford City Council for funding the scheme.

Cllr Price outlined the impressive track record the Low Carbon Hub had at raising finance for its projects and the importance of mitigating the risk of the EU grant clawback.

Cllr Hollingsworth praised the Low Carbon Hub for bringing investment into the local community which is good for the economy.

The Head of Law and Governance asked the Board to note the confidential appendix on assurances around state aid. The Board noted the appendix.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Agree** a loan to the Low Carbon Hub IPS of up to £100k at an interest rate of 1% for 3 years specifically to support the construction of the hydroelectric scheme at Sandford.
2. **Delegate** the authority to enter into an appropriate Loan Agreement with the Low Carbon Hub (IPS) to the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **45. MINUTES**

Minute 29 Paragraph 2 to be amended to read: "The Council's subsidy was due to be zero in 2017 and a profit share arrangement will commence".

The Board resolved to APPROVE the amended minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 as a true and accurate record.

#### **46. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

If the Board wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Board to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Board may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### **47. CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX\_ LOAN FOR THE CARBON HUB**

The Board noted the confidential appendix in open session.

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.18 pm**