

Minutes of a meeting of the CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD on Tuesday 16 October 2018

www.oxford.gov.uk



Committee members:

Councillor Brown (Chair)	Councillor Linda Smith (Deputy Leader)
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Hayes
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Upton	

Officers:

Gordon Mitchell, Chief Executive
Caroline Green, Assistant Chief Executive
Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Patsy Dell, Head of Planning, Sustainable Development & Regulatory Services
Sarah Harrison, Team Leader (Planning Policy)
Amanda Ford, Principal Planner
Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy & Needs Manager
John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also present:

Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of Scrutiny Committee

Apologies:

Councillors Turner, Clarkson and Simm sent apologies.

75. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Brown and Hollingsworth declared an interest by virtue of the proximity of their house to the Jericho Boaryard (Chapter 9 of the draft Local Plan refers).

76. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

Judith Harley addressed the Committee on the subject of the Local Plan (item 8) with particular reference to leisure facilities for Temple Cowley residents. A copy of the address is attached to these minutes. Councillor Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning and Transport, said that the consultation process preceding the current iteration of the plan had resulted in a wide range of views, some of which were mutually exclusive; this did not mean that views not incorporated had been 'disregarded'. A new pool and leisure centre had been provided at The Leys following the closure of the Temple Cowley pool and the suggestion that there was a need to replace it was therefore misleading. Cowley Marsh Park would be protected by the policies in the draft plan before the Board. In relation to William Morris Sports Field, it was important not to include anything in the plan which might be cause the Inspector to challenge on

the basis of being too restrictive. The substance of the plan needed to be evidence based. Councillor Smith, Board Member for Leisure and Housing, added that there was no evidence of need for additional leisure provision in Temple Cowley, going on to list the many and varied sport and leisure opportunities available throughout the City provided directly by (or facilitated by) the City Council or other organisations.

77. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Board's agenda

None.

78. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

79. Items raised by Board Members

None.

80. Scrutiny Committee Reports

Councillor Gant said that the Scrutiny Committee had met on 08 October and considered the draft Local Plan. On behalf of the Committee he thanked Councillor Hollingsworth and the officers for their contribution to a useful debate which had touched upon the important matter of housing numbers (and concern about recent Government assessments of need) and the desirability of being open to innovative transport opportunities. He was grateful for agreement to the Committee's recommendation in relation to Energy Statements for residential developments of less than 5 units and the other assurances given in Committee.

81. Draft Local Plan

The Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services had submitted a report to recommend that Council approves the Oxford Local Plan 2036 Proposed Submission Document for public consultation and, subject to the outcome of the consultation, if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, to submit the Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan to the Secretary of State for formal examination.

Councillor Hollingsworth introduced the report and began by placing on record his thanks to the team of officers led by Patsy Dell for their exemplary work in bringing the plan to this point. The workload had been considerable for a small team. He paid particular tribute to the contribution made by Sarah Harrison and Amanda Ford.

This was the penultimate stage before submission to the Secretary of State and public consultation, with the final Council opportunity to influence at its meeting to be held the following day.

Councillor Hollingsworth went on to draw attention to the 4 changes made as a result of the recent Scrutiny consideration of the draft, details of which had been published before the meeting.

The City Executive Board resolved to recommend to Council to:

1. **Approve** the Oxford Local Plan 2036 Proposed Submission Document for public consultation, subject to the changes identified above;
2. **Approve** all the supporting statutory documentation that includes the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), Equalities Impact Assessment, and Options Consultation Report;
3. **Authorise** the Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services (or any officer acting in that capacity), after consultation with the Executive Board Member, to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document, IDP, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment, and to agree the final publication style draft version before publication;
4. **Approve** the Oxford Local Plan 2036 Proposed Submission Document as a material consideration in determining planning applications; and
5. **Authorise** the Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services (or any officer acting in that capacity), after publication and after consultation with the Executive Board Member, to make any minor changes to the document deemed necessary as a result of the consultation, and then to formally submit the Oxford Local Plan 2036 to the Secretary of State for examination.

82. Investment in the National Homelessness Property Fund (NHPF)

The Head of Housing had submitted a report for the City Executive Board to note that the Council is making a further £5m social investment in the National Homelessness Property Fund (NHPF).

Councillor Smith introduced the report. She was pleased to commend the report and its recommendations to the Board as a good example of what the Council should be investing in to help meet the needs of homeless households in the City and, in doing so, reduce the costs which would otherwise have to be met in providing temporary accommodation.

The Chair said the report was very welcome and a good illustration of Council activity in support of those who are homeless which happened behind the scenes.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. **Note** that officers have used the authority previously delegated to them to agree to a further £5m investment in the National Homelessness Property Fund (NHPF); and
2. **Endorse** this approach, by which the Council is taking further action to help meet the housing needs of homeless households in Oxford, through improved access to suitable and affordable private rented accommodation.

83. Construction Contract Award

The Assistant Chief Executive had submitted a report to seek project approval and delegated authority for the Assistant Chief Executive to award a construction contract for up to 8 units of housing for the Council.

Councillor Rowley explained that since the report had been prepared officers had been able to determine a means of securing even better value from the project. It had

therefore been decided to defer consideration until November to allow a revised report to be prepared.

84. Footpath Crossing the railway line at Aristotle Lane

The Regeneration and Economy Programme Director had submitted a report to advise the Board of the satisfactory completion of all conditions to the previous resolution of the Board in February 2013 in relation to Network Rail's proposal that the Council release its rights over the footpath crossing the railway between Aristotle Lane and the Trap Grounds Allotments and to seek Board approval to complete the release.

Councillor Brown introduced the report, explaining that this was essentially a technical matter, bringing to conclusion one aspect of Network Rail's programme of rail improvements.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

Approve the surrender of such rights that the City Council has in respect of the footpath crossing the railway between Aristotle Lane and the Trap Ground allotments and delegate agreement of the detail of the documentation to the Regeneration and Economy Programme Director.

85. Minutes

The Board resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 as a true and accurate record.

86. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

14 November 2018
18 December 2018
22 January 2019
12 February 2019
13 March 2019
10 April 2019

All meetings start at 5pm.

87. Matters Exempt from Publication

No matters were considered in confidential session.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.30 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 14 November 2018

ADDRESS TO CEB ON DRAFT LOCAL PLAN FOR TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER, 2018

From Judith Harley.

Chair, Members of the CEB,

I wish to address you today about Agenda item 8, Draft Local Plan 2036, where you are advised to recommend that tomorrow's Full Council approves the Proposed Submission Document for public consultation, and approves all the supporting statutory documentation.

In July 2017 I addressed Full Council on the public consultation of the Draft Local Plan. I asked Councillors to listen to what local communities in Temple Cowley and further afield wanted – and needed – which is a swimming pool in Temple Cowley to serve the needs of the ever-increasing local population. Arguments about the new swimming pool in Blackbird Leys have been fully explored and exhausted; this does not serve our needs. We need a swimming pool, more leisure facilities, and more community spaces in Temple Cowley, and had hoped that the Oxford Local Plan 2036 would be a means of achieving this.

In July 2017 I asked the Council to support Temple Cowley residents in their proposal to re-designate the site of the Marsh Road City Council Depot, which we were told would be vacated within 5 years, for leisure – specifically for a new swimming pool and associated facilities – instead of its current designation for housing. We appreciate that there is a chronic housing shortage in Oxford but, as I have said at numerous Planning meetings, housing consideration should not override all other considerations. With increasing housing development all around us, including on the former Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre site, we need increasing leisure facilities in Temple Cowley. The Marsh Depot, conveniently sited next to Cowley Marsh Park, and on land originally belonging to Cowley Marsh Park, would be an ideal leisure site to complement the Park itself.

One of our local City Councillors, Councillor Saj Malik, told residents on the doorstep when campaigning for the 2016 local elections that he expected to see a new swimming pool on the Marsh Depot site within the next 10 years. Our previous Local MP, Andrew Smith, concurred with this sentiment on BBC radio, and told me in person that the Marsh Depot would make a good site for a swimming pool. Clearly, we have the backing of our local councillor and our former MP for this scheme.

During the public consultation for the Draft Local Plan I, and several other Temple Cowley residents submitted three specific requests, all to preserve and enhance our leisure and community facilities. These were:

1. Allocate the site of the City Council Depot in Marsh Road for community use and leisure, specifically to include a new swimming pool, to replace Temple Cowley Pools, when the Depot leaves.
2. Designate Cowley Marsh Park as a park, under policy SR5, to give proper protection.
3. Retain the William Morris Sports Field as a sports field, protected as open space by Policy SR2 as it is at present.

None of these have been included in the proposed documents before you. Last year's consultation leaflet stated: "We have listened to what local communities, businesses and other organisations told us and are now considering a range of options." From the current Draft Proposals before you it is clear that there is complete disregard for our local community's suggestions for the Local Plan. This makes a complete mockery of any consultation. I am disappointed, but not surprised by this.

The Local Plan 2036 is a significant policy document for the future, and it is future generations who will benefit most from our suggestions. Obesity in children has reached record levels and is rising; more local leisure facilities, as we have suggested, would combat this. This is a vital, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide integrated sports, leisure, and community facilities on the Cowley Marsh Park / Marsh Depot site, and an opportunity to encourage everyone to take healthy, sporting activity. The land on which the Depot stands was once part of the Park. It should be returned to the Park when the Depot leaves; once it is lost to housing it will never be regained.

Housing consideration should not override all other considerations. I am asking you to show some imaginative initiative and support local residents in their three proposals, above, for Local Plan 2036, especially in designating

the Marsh Road City Council Depot site for a new swimming pool and associated facilities, instead of its current designation for housing. Will you ask officers to make the necessary amendments to the proposed documents, and make the same recommendations to Full Council, before submitting them for further public consultation?

Thank you.