

Remote meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 14 April 2021

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Committee members present:

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

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development)
Paul Leo, Interim Director of Housing
Nadeem Murtuja, Interim Executive Director for Communities
Tim Sadler, Transition Director / Chairman Direct Services Companies
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Susan Sale, Monitoring Officer and Head of Law & Governance
Tom Porter, Allocations Manager
Carolyn Devenney, Senior Furnished Tenancy Officer
John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

Apologies:

No apologies were received

Death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

The Chair welcomed those present and noted that this was the first meeting of the Cabinet since the Council and the country had learnt of the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. On behalf of the Council, the Cabinet extended its condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and to members of her family. The union flags on the Town Hall had been lowered to half-mast and would remain so until the morning after the funeral.

171. Declarations of Interest

None.

172. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

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

None.

174. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

175. Items raised by Board Members

None.

176. Oxfordshire Strategic Vision

The Executive Director, Development, had submitted a report which introduced a final version of the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire (the Vision). Cabinet had previously considered and supported a version endorsed by the Growth Board for consultation. The report updated Cabinet on the consultation process, results and briefly summarised the main changes to the Vision.

The Chair introduced the report, noting that it was being considered by all of Oxfordshire's District Councils and the County Council. It represented the start of a process which sought to build up a vision for the County as whole and which would be owned by the Growth Board. The City Council had been able to contribute to and improve the present text. The Council would continue to make the case for an inclusive and sustainable County, something which was now beginning to emerge from the text in a way in which it had not originally.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Agree** the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire; and
2. **Ask** that officers consider how to embed the Vision's ambitions for Oxfordshire in future plans and strategies of the council.

177. Environment Workstrand of the Growth Board

The Executive Director, Development, had submitted a report for noting which set out a proposal which had been agreed by the Growth Board on 22 March 2021 to establish an Environment Advisory Group, together with a set of Terms of Reference. Wider information was also provided concerning the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire, and the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Environment Principles.

The Chair introduced the report by paying tribute to the contribution of Councillor Tom Hayes, Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford, which had laid much of the groundwork for this area of Growth Board activity.

Councillor Hayes said that this workstrand followed naturally from the previous item, illustrating the Council's influence in contributing to the wider Oxfordshire picture, through the promotion of Council priorities, while working with partners, not all of whom necessarily shared the same values. He also noted the importance, reflected in the report, of 'good growth' which took proper account of the need to address the challenges of climate change. The Chair concluded by noting the continued need for

housing, particularly affordable housing, another important area of activity in relation to which environmental considerations needed to be taken into account.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Support** the establishment of a Growth Board Environment Advisory group;
2. **Endorse** the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Environment Principles as set out at Appendix 3, recognising that this statement of ambition applies to a diverse range of urban and rural communities, and that further evidentiary work will be required at a local level to understand their longer-term implications; and
3. **Support** the development of an Arc Environment Strategy which will provide for how the principles can be delivered

178. Furnished Tenancy Scheme

The Head of Housing Services had submitted a report to seek authority to procure and delegation to award a contract to deliver the Council's Furnished Tenancy Scheme.

Councillor Mike Rowley, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, introduced the report. The Council, as landlord, operated a furnished tenancy scheme which was taken up by 25-30% of tenants. The current contract was due to expire at the end of the month and the report sought to provide the authority to secure a new contract in accordance with best value principles. He confirmed that, to all intents and purposes, the scheme would be available to Oxford City Housing Limited as to the Council.

The Chair concluded by noting that she was proud that the City continued to operate such a scheme which was of such importance to so many tenants.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Give authority** to procure a supplier or suppliers who will provide household furniture, white good and carpets as part of a Furnished Tenancy Scheme; and
2. **Delegate** to the Director of Housing in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, authority to award a Furnished Tenancy Scheme contract to a supplier, selected by an evaluation panel, following a fully compliant procurement process.

179. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 as a true and accurate record.

180. Decisions taken under Part 9.3 (b) of the Constitution

The Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) had submitted a report asking Cabinet to note the decisions taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using the urgency powers delegated in Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the decisions taken as set out in the report

181. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

16 June

14 July

11 August

15 September

13 October

10 November

15 December

All meetings start at 6pm.

182. Matters Exempt from Publication

No matters were considered in confidential session.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.20 pm

Chair Date: Wednesday 16 June 2021