

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 19 December 2012

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Turner (Deputy Leader), Cook, Coulter, Curran, Lygo, Seamons, Sinclair and Tanner.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Lindsay Cane (Law and Governance), Angela Cristofoli (Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager), Nigel Kennedy (Head of Finance), Peter McQuitty (Head of Policy, Culture and Communications), William Reed (Law and Governance), Tim Sadler (Executive Director Community Services) and Steve Sprason (Head of Corporate Assets)

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

75. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

76. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports were submitted.

77. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013-14 TO 2016-17 AND 2013-14 BUDGET FOR CONSULTATION - A FAIR FUTURE FOR OXFORD

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2013/2014 to 2016/17. It also presented the 2013/14 Budget for consultation.

Councillor Ed Turner introduced the Budget and explained the background. He highlighted the fact that the Council has delivered £7 million of efficiency savings, which was a testament to the hard work and commitment of staff across the organisation. Overall, officers had now done a great job in preparing a budget that reflected priorities laid out by Councillors.

Councillor Price pointed out that the Budget before the Board was a budget until 2016/17, and that of necessity it contained assumptions about Government funding. It contained some contingencies and aimed to be realistic. As well as being about money, the budget reflected political priorities, in that it sought to

tackle the worst problems of deprivation within the City, and to defend poorer communities in an effective manner.

Councillors Coulter, Sinclair and Curran all commended the budget for its commitment to both the elderly and the young within Oxford.

Councillor Jean Fooks asked for further information about the Dial A Ride Scheme. Councillor Turner explained that the money in the budget for this was a contingency to enable officers to negotiate an increased service for Oxford – the City Council would invest only for services additional to those provided by the County Council.

In answer to a question, Lindsay Cane (Legal Services) confirmed that any agreement between the County Council and District Councils about the Dial a Ride service was a contractual one – there was no statutory duty for District Councils to be involved with this.

In answer to further questions from Councillor Fooks, Councillor Turner explained that it was not possible to provide outturn figures for the current year's budget because the year had not yet finished. Councillor Curran added that, as far as Educational Attainment was concerned, it had been intended to have 10 schools participate, however 12 had shown interest, of which 3 had not yet signed up to the scheme (mostly because of personal changes at the school). A briefing about the Youth Ambition Programme had recently gone out, and bids for the Social inclusion Fund would open shortly.

Councillor Turner further explained the various means (both electronic and other) by which the Council would consult with residents and stakeholders about this budget.

Resolved

That the following is recommended to Council:-

- a) Agree the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2013-14 to 2016-17 and the 2013-14 General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital budgets for consultation as set out in Appendices 1-7 of the report;
- b) Agree to consult on an increase in Council Tax of 2% for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 28 of the report;
- c) Agree to consult on an increase in council housing rents for 2013/14 of 4.61% utilising the national convergence formula, as set out in paragraph 61 of the report;
- d) Agree to consult on an increase in council house service charges for 2013/14 of 3% and remove the service charge limiter subject to a cap on the increase of £1 per week per annum on the increase as set out in paragraph 61 of the report;
- e) Agree to consult on amendments to fees and charges as laid out in Appendix 7 to this report
- f) Agree to consult on the level of exemptions and discounts on empty homes and unoccupied properties as outlined in paragraph 21,

noting that Exemption Class C is amended (as shown in bold below) so that the proposal is as follows:-

25% exemption for a time limit of **3 months**, then full charge.

78. CONSULTATION CORPORATE PLAN 2013-17

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Corporate Plan 2013/17, and seeking approval to authorise its release for consultation.

Councillor Bob Price presented the report to the Board, explaining that the consultation period would run from 20th December 2012 until 30th January 2013. He thanked Peter McQuitty for his work on this document. Councillor Price also offered Councillor Fooks, as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, the opportunity to add her signature to the final version.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Agree copy and targets for the main body of the Corporate Plan 2013/2017;
- (2) Authorise its release for consultation.

79. ROSE HILL COMMUNITY FACILITY

The Head of Corporate Property, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager and the Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report concerning the preferred option for the future delivery of community, recreation and associated facilities at Rose Hill.

Councillor Ed Turner presented the report to the Board. He explained that a consultation day had been arranged at Rose Hill, it attracted a total of 587 votes from all age groups, and that there was overwhelming support for a new community facility at Rose Hill (Option 1 in the ballot).

Councillor Curran thanked Ward Councillors for their valuable input. He also paid tribute to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Team that had worked so hard. It had been refreshing to see young people, in particular, so interested and so involved with the consultation day.

Resolved:-

- 1) To note the contents of this Report, particularly the preferences expressed by the Community in terms of the future provision of Community facilities in Rose Hill;
- 2) To approve Option 1, the provision of a new build and integrated Community Centre, Pavilion and Advice Centre as detailed herein as the preferred option for the re-provision of an integrated community facility for Rose Hill;

- 3) That the approved new build option be on the basis that it contains a social club provision on the ground floor, in a location and to a specification to be agreed;
- 4) To note that detailed due diligence in respect of the existing Community Centre and Advice Centre sites will progress with a view to the obtaining of planning consent for residential development.

80. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

81. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

None

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.45 pm