

## Minutes of a meeting of the CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD on Tuesday 15 May 2018

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### Committee members:

Councillor Brown (Chair)

Councillor Rowley

Councillor Tidball

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Smith (Deputy Leader)

Councillor Turner

Councillor Clarkson

### Officers:

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services

Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer

Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services

John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

### Apologies:

Councillors Hayes and Upton sent apologies.

### 1. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 2. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public on the item on the agenda

None.

### 3. Councillor Addresses on the item on the agenda

None.

### 4. Loan Guarantee re Oxford Harlequins Rugby Football Club.

The Head of Financial Services and Head of Community Services had submitted a report to consider a loan guarantee to the Rugby Football Union in respect of a £100k loan to Oxford Harlequins Rugby Football Club.

Cllr Smith introduced the report. A visit to the Oxford Harlequins Rugby Club in the previous year had shown that the facilities weren't fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century; she was pleased that the improvements described in the report, made in partnership with others, would make a significant improvement to them. The timing of this additional meeting of the City Executive Board would enable the refurbishment of the club's changing rooms to be complete by the beginning of the next rugby season.

The Head of Financial Services said that detailed discussion with the club about the terms of a loan guarantee were progressing. He was confident of reaching an

agreement which could be acceptable to both him and the Executive Director for the Sustainable City. On the basis of progress to date he had no hesitation in commending the report's recommendations to the Board.

In discussion it was noted that if, at some point, the club failed, the asset of the grounds and facilities would revert to the Council. It was also noted that support for the guarantee was considered appropriate because it was in relation to a council asset.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

**Make a recommendation** to Council to provide a loan guarantee to the Rugby Football Union in respect of a loan of up to £100k to Oxford Harlequins Rugby Football Club for funding improvements to changing room facilities at Horspath Athletic Grounds, on terms agreed in advance by both the Council's Head of Financial Services and the Executive Director for Sustainable City.

**5. Dates of Future Meetings**

**The meeting started at 3.00 pm and ended at 3.20 pm**

**Chair .....**

**Date: Tuesday 22 May 2018**