

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 4 April 2012

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Cook, Coulter, McManners, Smith, Tanner and Timbs.

91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Lygo and Turner.

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest of the type mentioned were made by the councillors referred to below:-

Councillor Smith – personal interest – homelessness grants insofar as any grants were for the benefit of the Night Shelter – Council appointee to various related outside bodies – minute 97 refers

93. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

As provided for in Constitution Procedure Rule 12.7 questions from members of the public were received, taken as read and answers given. The questions and answers are attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

94. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Two Scrutiny reports (previously circulated, now appended) as follows were submitted:-

- (1) Scrutiny Select Committee report on public health
- (2) Scrutiny report on Corporate Plan targets (minute 97 refers)

Resolved, on the Scrutiny Select Committee report on public health:-

- (1) To endorse each of the recommendations of the Select Committee, namely:-
 - (a) To support the expansion of the “Tweenager” project (costings to be explored further) initially in regeneration areas across the City, utilising Community Centres as well as Leisure Centres wherever possible, and that this be linked to the budget proposal for a 3 year post to deliver greater use of Oxford City Council facilities by schools;
 - (b) To actively and financially support a further extension of outreach work and free taster sessions by Fusion within Community Centres and other community facilities, including the provision of information on leisure and well-being initiatives and further to explore concessions at leisure

centres for those people who wished to progress further following a taster session;

- (c) To agree the principle of supporting communities to help themselves and to explore further through the Council's partnerships the possible establishment of a community health project run by a local community for the benefit of that local community;
- (2) To invite the Select Committee to draw up an action plan containing timescales for taking forward the recommendations;
- (3) To thank all of the officers and councillors who had been involved in the project to date.

95. HOUSING STRATEGY - CONSULTATION OUTCOME

The Head of Housing and Communities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To RECOMMEND Council to adopt into the Council's Policy Framework the Housing Strategy for 2012-2015 that forms Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) Subject to the adoption by Council of the Housing Strategy, to approve the Housing Strategy Action Plan for 2012-2015 that forms Appendix 3 to the report to deliver the Strategy.

96. HOUSING BENEFIT RISK BASED VERIFICATION POLICY

The Head of Customer Services submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to adopt the process of risk based verification for housing benefit and Council Tax benefit claims in accordance with the policy the report describes.

97. PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS GRANT ALLOCATIONS TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2012/13

The Head of Housing and Communities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To RECOMMEND Council to allocate the Communities and Local Government's Homelessness Directorate grant and to decide in the Board's own right to allocate the Council's budget for the purpose of meeting the Council's homelessness objectives as follows:-

Communities and Local Government's Homelessness Directorate grant

- (a) Street Services and Reconnection Team (Broadway Homelessness and Support) - £235,000
- (b) Reconnection and Referral Co-ordinator (Under 25s) (in the process of assigning it to a provider) - £37,245
- (c) Reconnection Rent (O'Hanlon House) - £512
- (d) Six subsidised Beds for Under 25s (Simon House) - £4,243
- (e) Six subsidised Beds for Under 25s (Lucy Faithful House) - £4,179
- (f) Mental Health Practitioner at Luther Street – £25,000
- (g) Two Education, Training and Employment Workers (Aspire) - £60,519
- (h) One specialist Alcohol Worker (O'Hanlon House) - £8,555
- (i) One Multiple Needs Hostel worker (Elmore Community Services) - £40,757
- (j) Service Broker – Big Issue Foundation - £25,000
- (k) Homelessness Liaison Police Officer (for two years with an operating budget of £5,000 for each year) - £90,000
- (l) Elmore Team ASB Services - £8,690
- (m) Additional Home Choice Gold Top-up - £20,000
- (n) Continuation of Enhanced Options - £50,000
- (o) Fraud Investigation - £80,000
- (p) Supplementing Discretionary Housing Payments - £100,000

City Council's Homelessness Grants budget

- (a) O'Hanlon House Day Centre – homeless hostel for 25+, jointly commissioned with Supporting People - £133,432
- (b) One Foot Forward – homeless hostel for 16-25 year olds, jointly commissioned with Supporting People - £42,992
- (c) Elmore Community Services – Complex Needs Floating Support Service for clients in Oxford City Council temporary and permanent stock - £40,757
- (d) Elmore Community Services, Anti Social Behaviour Service – £11,310
- (e) The Gatehouse – café for the homeless - £9,502

- (f) Steppin' Stone – day centre providing emergency provision and meaningful activity - £55,000
 - (g) Simon House Hostel – provision of respite beds at an abstinence based hostel - £11,596
 - (h) Emmaus Oxford Furniture Store – recycling store attached to the Emmaus Community £25,000
 - (i) Aspire Oxfordshire – social enterprise providing work opportunities for homeless and ex-homeless people - £112,690
- (2) That the Head of Housing and Communities be given delegated authority to allocate the £252,300 unallocated balance of the Communities and Local Government grant money and to make changes if necessary to the allocations of the City Council's homelessness grants budget.

98. ANNUAL LETTINGS PLAN - ALLOCATIONS PERCENTAGE 2012/13

The Head of Housing and Communities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To RECOMMEND Council to agree the Housing Lettings Plan for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) To note performance against the Housing Lettings Plan for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) To ask the Strategic Director, City Regeneration and the Head of Housing and Communities to brief Oxford's MPs on the effect of Government housing policies on housing need in Oxford, and so to advise those local organisations offering housing advice.

99. PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR PITCHES STRATEGY - CONSULTATION OUTCOME

The Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to approve the Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Strategy that forms Appendix 4 to the report for immediate implementation.

100. CULTURE STRATEGY - CONSULTATION

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve for consultation in the way and to the timescale referred to in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report the draft Culture Strategy appended to the report;
- (2) To record the Council's thanks to Laura Worsfold, Culture Team Leader who had recently left the Council's employ and who had played an instrumental part in the draft Strategy now before the Board and who had developed arts and culture partnerships to mutual benefit.

101. FUSION ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN 2012/13

The Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To endorse Fusion Lifestyle's 2012/13 Service Plan for the management of the Council's leisure facilities as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) In relation to paragraph 3.1 of the report, and the standard references to 5% increases in participation for various target groups, to ask the Head of Leisure and Parks to establish benchmarks for participation by those groups in order that the Council could gauge progress against informed targets.

102. ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to approve the Environmental Development Enforcement Policy that forms Appendix 1 to the report for immediate implementation.

103. THE GREEN DEAL - DELIVERY

The Executive Director, City Services submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Council should take a partnership approach to the implementation of the Green Deal and work with partners to form what Green Deal Plus arrangements for the reasons referred to in paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- (2) To authorise officers to make grants available from Green Deal funding in the Council's budget in line with the criteria set out in paragraph 3.7.1 of the report.

104. RAMSAY HOUSE, ST EBBE'S STREET - LETTING

The Head of Corporate Assets submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

In relation to paragraphs 8-12 of the report the Executive Director, City Services reported that the £300,000 capital budget for the replacement comfort cooling system could be met from planned maintenance and that there was therefore no need for the Board to make a capital bid to Council.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Agree to the proposed letting of the second floor of Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street to Natural Motion Limited on the terms contained in the not for publication appendix to the report and otherwise on terms and conditions to be approved by the Head of Corporate Assets:
- (2) Grant authority to the Head of Corporate Assets to vary the proposed tenant terms provided the transaction continued to represent best consideration;
- (3) Agree that the £300,000 cost of a replacement comfort cooling system be met from the planned maintenance programme.

105. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2011-2014 - AMENDMENTS

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to :-

- (1) Approve the amendments to the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2011-14 for submission to the Secretary of State as referred to in 6 – 13 of the report;
- (2) Agree that the Local Development Scheme 2011-14 (as amended) will take effect four weeks after submission unless the Secretary of State intervenes and requests more time or more work to be done;
- (3) Authorise the Head of City Development to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

106. CORPORATE PLAN 2012 - 2016 - TARGETS

The Head of Business Improvement and the Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To RECOMMEND Council to agree the proposed Corporate Plan targets for 2012-2016 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) In relation to the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee report, to decide as follows:-
 - (a) Recommendation 1 – agreed but with a higher target for apprenticeships
 - (b) Recommendation 2 – agreed
 - (c) Recommendation 3 – agreed
 - (d) Recommendation 4 – agreed insofar as deletion of the target was concerned and to consider what target, if any, might replace it
 - (e) Recommendation 5 – not agreed because in all the circumstances the target was considered realistic
 - (f) Recommendation 6 – not agreed because the target was considered to be sufficiently realistic
 - (g) Recommendation 7 – agreed
 - (h) Recommendation 8 – agreed but with different revised targets to those suggested
 - (i) Recommendation 9 – agreed that the nature of the target needed to be refreshed
 - (j) Recommendation 10 – agreed insofar as deletion of the target was concerned but not to set a revised target at this stage
 - (k) Recommendation 11 – not agreed insofar as the nature and place of the target was concerned but to agree to change the targets themselves over the four year period of the Plan
 - (l) Recommendation 12 – not agreed at the target levels recommended
 - (m) Recommendation 13 – agreed
 - (n) Recommendation 14 – agree to change the 2014/15 residual household waste target from 440kg to 430kg and to introduce a new target for household waste recycled and composted
 - (o) Recommendation 15 – agreed
 - (p) Recommendation 16 – agreed
 - (q) Recommendation 17 – not agreed because the target was considered to be realistic

- (r) Recommendation 18 – not agreed because there had been insufficient time to consider and respond to this recommendation but to record that once the Council's educational attainment work was more fully formed a target would be appropriate
- (s) Recommendation 19 - not agreed because there had been insufficient time to consider and respond to this recommendation

107. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the appointment of the Head of Law and Governance as the Council's Senior Responsible Officer for the purposes of the regulation of investigatory powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act;
- (2) Authorise the Head of Law and Governance to appoint a co-ordinating officer for the purposes of the regulation of investigatory powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act;
- (3) Note the Council's amended Regulation of Investigatory Powers policy document as set out in the Appendix to the report.

108. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

109. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February were approved as a correct record.

110. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the items in the exempt from publication part of the agenda in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (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 and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Summary of business transacted by the Board after passing the resolution contained in minute 110

The Board received and noted the contents of not for publication appendix to the report on the letting of Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street (minute 111 refers). It agreed to the letting of the premises to Natural Motion Limited.

111. RAMSAY HOUSE, ST EBBE'S STREET - LETTING

Resolved to note the contents of the not for publication appendix to the report on the letting of Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street (minute 104 refers) and to agree to the letting of the premises to Natural Motion Limited.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.25 pm

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