

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Cabinet



held on Friday, 12 August 2016 at 10.30 am
in the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Matthew Barber (Chairman), Roger Cox (Vice-Chairman), Eric Batts, Charlotte Dickson, Mike Murray, Robert Sharp and Elaine Ware

Officers: David Buckle, Simon Hewings, William Jacobs and Ron Schrieber

Also present: Councillors Debby Hallett, Sandy Lovatt and Reg Waite

Number of members of the public: Nil

Ca.52 Apologies for absence

None.

Ca.53 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 April 2016 as a correct record and agree that the chairman signs them as such.

Ca.54 Declarations of interest

None.

Ca.55 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

Ca.56 Statements, petitions, and questions relating to matters affecting the Cabinet

Councillor Debby Hallett, chairman of Scrutiny Committee and vice-Chairman of Joint Scrutiny Committee, outlined her objectives for Scrutiny as follows:

1 To increase the engagement of committee members, Cabinet, other councillors and officers in the Scrutiny process

She wanted Scrutiny members to take up training opportunities and asked the Cabinet to encourage majority group members to do so.

2 To improve the reputation of Scrutiny by adding value to the decision making process

This would be done by:

- Producing an annual Scrutiny report setting out achievements;
- Making substantive recommendations to add value to draft policies and strategies; and
- Discussing with heads of service how Scrutiny could add value to their service area without significantly adding to their workload.

3 To consider draft strategies/policies earlier in the process

She requested that Cabinet and officers ensured that Scrutiny was included in the timetable for considering draft strategies/policies rather than as an afterthought. She offered to discuss this matter with Cabinet members.

Cabinet agreed that officers should consider the value that Scrutiny could add to the decision making process and, where appropriate, seek its input as early as possible.

Ca.57 Recommendations from Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting held on 28 July 2016, Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the capital and new homes bonus grants schemes and the impact of recent policy changes. It recommended to Cabinet that, in order to simplify the process, authority to award community grants be delegated to a single council-wide committee or panel from a single fund.

RESOLVED: to consider Scrutiny Committee's recommendation and report back to the committee prior to making a decision.

Ca.58 Treasury management outturn 2015/16

Cabinet considered the head of finance's report on the treasury management performance during 2015/16.

It was noted the interest rate forecast as at March 2016, set out at Appendix A, would need to be updated in the light of the recent reduction in base rate and the expectation that rates would not increase in the short term.

Despite the current economic conditions the council had achieved a return of £130,000 on treasury investment income, 31% higher than the original budget and generated income of £0.5million on its investment properties, equivalent to a gross return of 6.6%.

RECOMMENDED to Council

- (a) To approve the treasury management outturn report for 2015/16; and
- (b) To approve the actual 2015/16 prudential indicators within the report.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am