

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Cabinet

held on Friday 4 August 2017 at 10.30am
at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, OX14 4SB



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

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

Officers: Steve Culliford, Phil Ealey, William Jacobs, Margaret Reed, Mark Stone, Sally Truman and Chris Webb

Also present: Councillor Yvonne Constance and Councillor Debby Hallett

Number of members of the public: Nil

Ca.14 Apologies for absence

Councillor Mike Murray had sent his apologies for absence.

Ca.15 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 June 2017 and agree that the chairman signs them as such.

Ca.16 Declarations of interest

None

Ca.17 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

Ca.18 Public participation

Councillor Debby Hallett had requested to address Cabinet on the items set out below.

Ca.19 Corporate delivery plan

Cabinet considered the report of the head of HR, IT and technical services, which sought approval of the corporate delivery plan. The plan set out in detail the actions required to deliver the corporate plan 2016-2020.

Scrutiny Committee had considered the delivery plan and made suggested amendments to improve the format. Councillor Debby Hallett addressed Cabinet, reporting that Scrutiny Committee's comments were largely on the format of the document and requesting that the goals were specific and measurable. The officer reported that these suggestions had been incorporated into the plan.

Cabinet welcomed the delivery plan and noted that it would receive regular progress reports.

RESOLVED: to approve the corporate delivery plan as set out in the report of the head of HR, IT and technical services.

Ca.20 Temporary accommodation provision 2017-2022

Cabinet considered the report of the interim head of development, regeneration and housing. This set out an approach to provide temporary housing accommodation for the period 2017 to 2022. The report proposed deleting the £920,000 capital budget to purchase four homes in Abingdon and instead to create a capital budget of £885,000 to convert the council's two hostels into self-contained units. This would reduce the projected revenue costs by £25,000 per annum.

The Scrutiny Committee had welcomed the proposal. Councillor Debby Hallett addressed Cabinet, reporting that Scrutiny Committee's recommendations had been incorporated and thanked the officers for their work on this.

Cabinet considered the options:

1. Refurbishing the two hostels in their existing configuration of shared accommodation.
2. Reconfiguring the Wantage hostel only into self-contained units, selling the Faringdon hostel and purchasing replacement units.
3. Reconfiguring the Faringdon hostel only, selling the Wantage hostel and purchasing replacement units.
4. Selling both hostels and purchasing equivalent accommodation.
5. Reconfiguring both hostels into self-contained units.

Cabinet preferred option 5 as existing shared bathroom and toilet facilities in the hostels were unsuitable for housing homeless families and individuals. The council had a duty of care to homeless applicants placed in temporary accommodation. Therefore, Cabinet considered that both hostels should be reconfigured into self-contained units.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) approve the approach to temporary housing accommodation provision as set out in the report of the interim head of development, regeneration, and housing;

RECOMMENDED: to Council to

- (b) delete the current capital budget provision of £920,000 for the estimated costs of purchasing four two-bedroom houses in Abingdon;
- (c) create a capital budget of £885,000 to convert the council's two hostels into self-contained units; and

- (d) note that by approving recommendation (c) above, this will result in a reduction in the revenue budget of £25,000 per annum.

Ca.21 Exclusion of the public, including the press

RESOLVED: to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business, under Part 1 of Schedule 12A Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Ca.22 Abbey Meadow outdoor pool, Abingdon

Cabinet awarded a contract to carry out the refurbishment works on the Abbey Meadow outdoor swimming pool in Abingdon, and its plant and changing areas.