

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Cabinet



held on Friday 23 June 2023 at 10.30 am
in Meeting Room 1, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Open to the public, including the press

Present in the meeting room:

Cabinet members: Councillors Bethia Thomas (Chair), Sue Caul, Mark Coleman, Andy Crawford and Debra Dewhurst

Officers: Steve Culliford (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Remote attendance:

Cabinet members: Councillor Andy Foulsham

Officers: Patrick Arran (Head of Legal and Democratic), Jayne Bolton (Community Wellbeing Manager), Andrew Busby (Head of Development and Regeneration), Aileen David (Principal Place Officer), Andrew Down (Deputy Chief Executive – Partnerships), Simon Hewings (Head of Finance), Ore Idowu (Trainee Solicitor), Karen Lister (Strategic Property Manager), Jeremy Lloyd (Broadcasting Officer), Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive – Place), Tim Oruye (Head of Policy and Programmes), Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations), Cheryl Reeves (Community Enablement Team Leader) and Mark Stone (Chief Executive)

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors Neil Fawcett (Vice-Chair), Debby Hallett and Helen Pighills had each sent their apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the public minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 March 2023 and agree that the chair signs them as such.

3. Declarations of interests

Councillor Andy Crawford declared an interest in item 8, the integrated care strategy, as his wife was chair of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Urgent business and chair's announcements

Cabinet noted the emergency evacuation arrangements for this meeting venue.

5. Public participation

None

6. Recommendations and updates from other committees

Cabinet received a recommendation from the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

RESOLVED: to refer the recommendation of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee below to the task group preparing the draft Joint Local Plan for information and reflection:

“That, as part of the local plan, the council should highlight areas suitable for electric vehicle charging stations for mixed vehicles, cars and freight/lorries.”

7. Partnership grant policy 2024/25 - 2028/29

Cabinet considered the head of policy and programmes' report. This sought approval for a new partnership grant policy, to provide five years' funding to successful organisations, subject to annual budget approval by Council.

The policy would provide for revenue grant support to organisations providing information and advice services across the district to residents who were most in need. The scheme would favour organisations actively exploring partnership or collaborative working with other voluntary organisations to avoid duplication of services and improve efficiency.

Cabinet supported the proposed policy that committed to awarding funding to organisations for up to five years, subject to annual budget review and approval. This would give the funded organisations more security, allowing them to plan with confidence to meet the needs of residents. Cabinet noted that officers would prepare the application process and launch the scheme in July 2023, with the potential funding being in place from April 2024. Members thanked officers for their work on the policy.

RESOLVED: to approve the Partnership Grant Policy 2024/25 – 2028/29, as set out at appendix 1 to the head of policy and programmes' report to Cabinet on 23 June 2023.

8. Integrated care strategy

Councillor Andy Crawford declared an interest in this item as his wife was chair of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He remained in the meeting during the consideration of this item.

Cabinet considered the head of policy and programmes' report. This recommended the endorsement of an Integrated Care Strategy. The report explained that the Integrated Care Board was the new National Health Service (NHS) body that received funds from NHS England and planned and bought services for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. The Health and Care Act 2022 set new statutory requirements for the Integrated Care Board, one of which was to produce an Integrated Care Strategy.

The strategy had been developed by the Integrated Care Partnership, which consisted of health and care partners across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West. The strategy set out priorities to support improved health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on prevention. The vision was for residents to have the best possible start in life, to live happier, healthier lives for longer, and to get the right support when they needed it. To achieve the vision, the partnership had developed the Integrated Care Strategy, including

a set of priorities that partners would work towards. The strategy had been subject to consultation; Cabinet was asked to endorse it.

Cabinet considered that it was important to endorse the strategy, believing it to be a key step towards the integration of local health and care services. It would also release funding for these services as new housing was delivered.

Cabinet looked forward to seeing the action plan to implement the strategy. However, members asked how the partnership could be held accountable for its performance. Officers reported that there were two options. Firstly, South Oxfordshire District Councillor David Rouane had been appointed as the Oxfordshire district councils' representative on the Integrated Care Partnership and so could feedback this council's views. Secondly, the council's Scrutiny Committee had within its terms of reference the ability to hold other public service providers to account. The committee could review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area, invite reports from them, and request them to address the Scrutiny Committee about their activities and performance. Officers agreed to raise this with the Scrutiny Committee's chair.

RESOLVED: to endorse the Integrated Care Strategy, as set out in appendix 1 to the head of policy and programmes' report to Cabinet on 23 June 2023.

9. Future Oxfordshire Partnership - terms of reference and memorandum of association

Cabinet considered the report of the deputy chief executive – partnerships. This set out proposed changes to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding. The changes were needed to reflect:

- the government's requirement that Oxfordshire County Council was responsible for the delivery of the remaining £30 million infrastructure funding;
- the adoption of the strategic vision for Oxfordshire; and
- the cessation of work on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

In answer to questions from Cabinet members, the proposed changes did not remove or weaken any of the council's planning powers. The council still had sovereignty of its local plan decision-making.

Cabinet supported the proposed changes as they clarified responsibilities. Members noted that these changes would need approval from all six principal councils in Oxfordshire.

RESOLVED: to approve the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's revised Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding, the revisions taking effect following approval by each of the six Oxfordshire councils.

10. Exclusion of the public, including the press

RESOLVED: to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following items 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 paragraphs 3 and 5 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.

11. Minutes

The exempt minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 March 2023 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

12. Great Western Park Health Centre

Cabinet noted an update on progress with a new health facility at Great Western Park and authorised additional work to further this project.