

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet



held on Friday 6 October 2017 at 10.30 am
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, Robert Sharp and Elaine Ware

Officers: Gerry Brough, Pat Connell, Steve Culliford, Andrew Down, William Jacobs and Mark Stone

Also present: Simon Hewings (Capita Accountancy)

Number of members of the public: Nil

Ca.29 Apologies for absence

Councillors Charlotte Dickson and Mike Murray had sent their apologies for absence.

Ca.30 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 August 2017 and agree that the chairman signs them as such.

Ca.31 Declarations of interest

None

Ca.32 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

Ca.33 Public participation

None

Ca.34 Didcot Garden Town delivery plan

Cabinet considered the report of the head of development, regeneration and housing. The report set out the consultation response to the Didcot Garden Town draft delivery plan and set out proposed changes. Cabinet was asked to approve the delivery plan.

Cabinet recalled that Didcot had been granted garden town status by the government, following a joint bid by the council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The delivery plan document had been produced to set out actions to transform Didcot into a garden town, to detail the funding required for key projects, and to act as a prospectus to government to justify the need for funding to establish a delivery team, provide support for the governance arrangements, and initiate and deliver key projects. The options before Cabinet were to approve the delivery plan as amended or to require further changes. Scrutiny Committee had commended the report and supported the delivery plan.

Cabinet considered that the approval of the delivery plan would be positive for Didcot and was pleased that it had received support from all parties. Cabinet thanked the officer team for their work on the garden town and welcomed the appointment of Elizabeth Paris as chair of the Didcot Garden Town Board.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) approve the contents of the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan, as set out in appendix 1 to the head of development, regeneration and housing's report, and adopt it as a corporate policy document that sets out the council's aspirations for managing Didcot's future economic, housing and population growth;
- (b) require officers to incorporate the delivery plan into the council's planning policy framework, through the production of a Didcot Garden Town development plan document and/or appropriate supplementary planning documents;
- (c) agree to appoint Elizabeth Paris, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, as the Chair of Didcot Garden Town Board for a period of up to four years;
- (d) agree that sub-groups operating under the auspices of the Didcot Garden Town Board are governed by an agreed set of operating guidelines, similar to those set out in appendix 2 to the report, and that determining the final nature of these be delegated to the Didcot Garden Town Board, in consultation with the council's head of legal and democratic services and lead Cabinet members;
- (e) agree that the Places for People "Placemaking Hub Framework Contract" (appendix 3 to the report) will be used to appoint future technical advisers to the Garden Town Board, in all areas apart from Lot 4 (Engineering Consultancy) where a wider competition should be run to appoint a suitable consultancy adviser in this service area;
- (f) authorise the chief executive, in consultation with both council leaders, to address the Didcot Garden Town staffing matters within the forthcoming restructuring proposals; and

- (g) agree that previously received Department for Communities and Local Government's capacity grant funding relating to Didcot Garden Town, which has still to be committed, will be made available to the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Group to facilitate implementation of the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan, subject to approved delegated authority levels and the application of normal council spending controls and reporting.

Ca.35 Treasury outturn 2016/17

Cabinet considered the head of finance's report, which monitored the outturn of the council's treasury management function in 2016/17. This showed that the council had achieved a higher rate of return than the target income for the year. The returns had also exceeded the market benchmarks.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee had welcomed the report and was satisfied that the treasury activities had been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy; Cabinet concurred.

RECOMMENDED: to

- (a) approve the head of finance's treasury management outturn report for 2016/17; and
- (b) approve the actual 2016/17 prudential indicators within the head of finance's report.

The meeting closed at 10.42 am