

# Minutes



## OF THE MEETING OF Council

Listening Learning Leading

**HELD AT 6.00PM ON 23 FEBRUARY 2012**

**AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD**

### **Present:**

Mr F Bloomfield (Chairman)

Ms A Badcock, Mr R Bell, Ms J Bland, Mr D Bretherton, Mrs D Brown, Mrs J Carr, Mrs C Collett, MBE, Mr S Connel, Mr B Cooper, Ms K Crabbe, Mr P Cross, Mrs M Davies, Mr L Docherty, Mr D Dodds, Mrs E A Ducker, MBE, Mrs E Gillespie, Mr M Gray, Mr T Harbour, Mrs E Hards, Mr N Harris, Mr P Harrison, Mrs E Hodgkin, Dr C Hood, Mr T Joslin, Mr M Leonard, Mrs A Midwinter, Mrs J Nimmo-Smith, Rev'd A Paterson, Ms A Purse, Mr C Quinton, Mr A Rooke, Mr B Service, Mr R Simister, Mrs P Slatter, Mr D Turner, Mrs M Turner, Ms R Wallis, Mr M Welply and Mrs J Wood

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr G Andrews, Mr J Cotton, Mrs P Dawe, Mr M Harris, Mr S Harrod, Mr M Hiles

### **Officers:**

Mr S Bishop, Mr D Buckle, Mr S Corrigan, Mr A Down, Mr S Hewings, Mr W Jacobs, Mrs M Reed and Mrs A Robinson

### **33. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2011 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

### **34. Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman reported that a team comprising Ed Nieburg from Corporate Strategy and Carolyn Organ from Planning had won the Young Local Authority of the Year Awards for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils.

The Chairman gave notice of his charity dinner in aid of his chosen charities to be held at Phyllis Court Club, Henley on Thames on Friday 30 March 2012.

He reported that the charity concert held at Cornerstone had raised £2,500 and that the charity Christmas sale had raised £800 for his chosen charities. He advised

councillors of a further street collection in aid of Compassion in World Farming in Henley on 17 March 2012 and encouraged local councillors to participate.

### **35. Treasury management mid year monitoring report 2011/12**

Council considered Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 13 February 2012 on the treasury management activities for the first six months of 2011/12.

**RESOLVED:** to note the treasury management mid year monitoring report 2011/12 attached to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012.

### **36. Treasury management strategy 2012/13**

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 13 February 2012, on the approval of the treasury management strategy, the annual investment strategy and the prudential indicators.

Mr D Dodds, Cabinet member for finance, highlighted a change in the strategy which would allow opportunities to widen the portfolio spread to include investments linked to property.

**RESOLVED:** to approve:

1. the treasury management strategy 2012/13, incorporating the annual investment strategy, which is contained within appendix A of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
2. the prudential indicators and limits for 2012/13 to 2015/16, which are contained within appendix A and annexe 2 of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012.

### **37. Revenue budget 2012/13 and Capital Programme to 2016/17**

Mr D Dodds, Cabinet member for finance, presented the Cabinet's proposals for the revenue budget 2012/13 and capital programme to 2016/17.

Mr D Dodds moved and Mrs E A Ducker seconded a motion to approve Cabinet's recommendations as follows:

That Council:

- a. sets the revenue budget for 2012/13 at £12,154,358, as set out in appendix A1 to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
- b. agrees that the capital scheme listed in paragraph 23 to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012 remains in the capital programme;

- c. approves the capital programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 as set out in appendix C to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D of that report;
- d. sets the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix F to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
- e. approves the medium term financial plan to 2016/17 as set out in appendix G to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
- f. allocates the interest earned on community investment balances in accordance with the proposal in paragraph 42 of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012.

Mr D Turner moved and Mrs E Hards seconded an amendment to the above budget in the following terms:

That Council sets the revenue budget for 2012/13 at £12,326,324 taking account of the proposed changes as set out in the schedule "revenue budget 2012/13 - opposition forum proposal" - (attached to the minute book copy of these minutes).

The amendment proposed an increase in Community Investment Fund (CIF) funding of £250,000, grant funding for Oxfordshire Association of Young People (OAYP) and funding for three apprenticeships/work experience places to be employed by the council on 23 month contracts for employment with the council or on secondment to council sub contractors.

A number of councillors spoke in support of the amendment. The proposed increase in CIF funding would benefit local organisations and assist with the development of local amenities. The proposal to grant fund OAYP and the apprenticeships would make a contribution to the work of youth clubs and provide employment/training opportunities for young people. The Cabinet's proposed reduction in council tax would have longer term negative consequences whilst the proposed amendments would not lead to an increase in the current level of council tax and would generate local benefits.

A number of councillors spoke against the amendment. Whilst acknowledging the excellent schemes funded by the CIF a number of councillors noted that these funds were generated from interest on council investments. At a time when interest rates were very low the council could not justify taking money from reserves to support the CIF. The council already funded youth groups with revenue grants and OAYP could apply for such a grant. However, a number of councillors also noted that the district council could not fill the gap caused by cuts to Oxfordshire County Council funded youth related work. The council would continue to investigate further opportunities for apprenticeships and work experience to build on those already in place. Opportunities existed for young people to gain apprenticeships through central government schemes. A reduction in council tax would benefit all households in the district.

On being put the amendment was declared lost.

On being put the original motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. set the revenue budget for 2012/13 at £12,154,358, as set out in appendix A1 to the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
2. agree that the capital schemes listed in paragraph 23 in the report of the of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012 remain in the capital programme;
3. approve the capital programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 as set out in appendix C of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
4. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix F of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
5. approve the medium term financial plan to 2016/17 as set out in appendix G of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;
6. allocate the interest earned on community investment balances in accordance with the proposal in paragraph 42 of the report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet on 13 February 2012;

### **38. Council Tax 2012/13**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance on the setting of the Council Tax for the 2012/13 financial year.

Mr Dodds moved and Mrs E A Ducker seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED**

1. to **note** that at its meeting on 15 December 2011 the council calculated the council tax base 2012/13:
  - (a) for the whole council area as 55,652.2 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and.
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as in column 1 of appendix A to the report of the Head of Finance to Council on 23 February 2012.

2. that the council tax requirement for the council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding parish precepts) is £6,713,881
  
3. that the following amounts now be calculated for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) £63,638,999 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils.
  - (b) £52,985,598 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £10,653,401 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (3)(b) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31 B of the Act).
  - (d) £191.43 being the amount at (3)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1)(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts).
  - (e) £3,939,520 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, as set out in column 2 of appendix A to the report of the Head of Finance to Council on 23 February 2012.
  - (f) £120.64 being the amount at (3)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (3)(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no parish precept relates.
  
4. to **note** that for the year 2012/13 Oxfordshire County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	£774.47
Band B	£903.55
Band C	£1,032.63
Band D	£1,161.71
Band E	£1,419.87
Band F	£1,678.03
Band G	£1,936.18
Band H	£2,323.42

5. to **note** that for the year 2012/13 the Thames Valley Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	£102.87
Band B	£120.01
Band C	£137.16
Band D	£154.30
Band E	£188.59
Band F	£222.88
Band G	£257.17
Band H	£308.60

6. that, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in appendix C as the amounts of council tax for 2012/13 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown in appendix C to the report of the Head of Finance to Council on 23 February 2012.
7. to determine that the council's basic amount of council tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

### **39. South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan 2012-2016**

Council considered the Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 13 February 2012, on the council's corporate plan 2012-2016.

Mrs E Hards moved and Mrs M Davies seconded an amendment to remove reference to a reduction in the district council's council tax by 2.5 per cent in 2012/13 because Council had agreed this earlier in the meeting and the corporate plan is a forward looking document. On being put the amendment was declared lost.

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the 2012-2016 corporate plan contained in Appendix B to the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy to Cabinet on 13 February 2012.

### **40. Pay policy statement 2012-13**

Council considered the report of the Head of HR, IT and Customer Services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

In response to a question Mr Andrew Down, Head of HR, IT and Customer Services reported that the 2 per cent salary increase to staff below chief officer level had been agreed following negotiations with UNISON.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the pay policy statement attached to the report of the Head of HR, IT and Customer Services to Council on 23 February 2012.

#### **41. Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on council size**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the number of councillors.

**RESOLVED:** to authorise the Chief Executive to submit the proposal on council size contained in appendix one of the report of the Chief Executive to Council on 23 February 2012 to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman