

Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Date: 10 April 2017

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017 AT 6.00 PM

at

**THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK,
CROWMARSH GIFFORD**

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MARGARET REED
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Note: Please remember to sign the attendance register.

Agenda

Map

A map showing the location of Howbery Park is attached, as is a plan showing the location of the Fountain Conference Centre on the Howbery Park site.

1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2 Minutes (Pages 6 - 21)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meetings held on 16 February and 10 March 2017 – attached.

3 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6 Petitions

To receive any petitions from the public.

7 Report of the leader of the council

To receive any updates from the leader of the council.

8 Questions on notice

No questions have been submitted from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33.

9 Motions on notice

No motions have been submitted from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

10 Exclusion of the public

To consider whether 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 1 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 Appointment of political assistants

To consider the confidential report of the chief executive on the appointment of political assistants.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services



Birmingham airport

B4009 Watlington
M40 J6

A4074 Oxford

A4130 Didcot



Sat Nav: OX10 8BA

Brightwell

A4130

WANTAGE ROAD

A4130

Wallingford

HITHERCROFT RD

CASTLE STREET

Centre for Ecology
& Hydrology
South Oxfordshire
District Council

THE STREET

Crowmarsh
Gifford

BENSON LANE

A4130

A4130 Henley
M40 J4

A4074 Reading

London Heathrow

A329

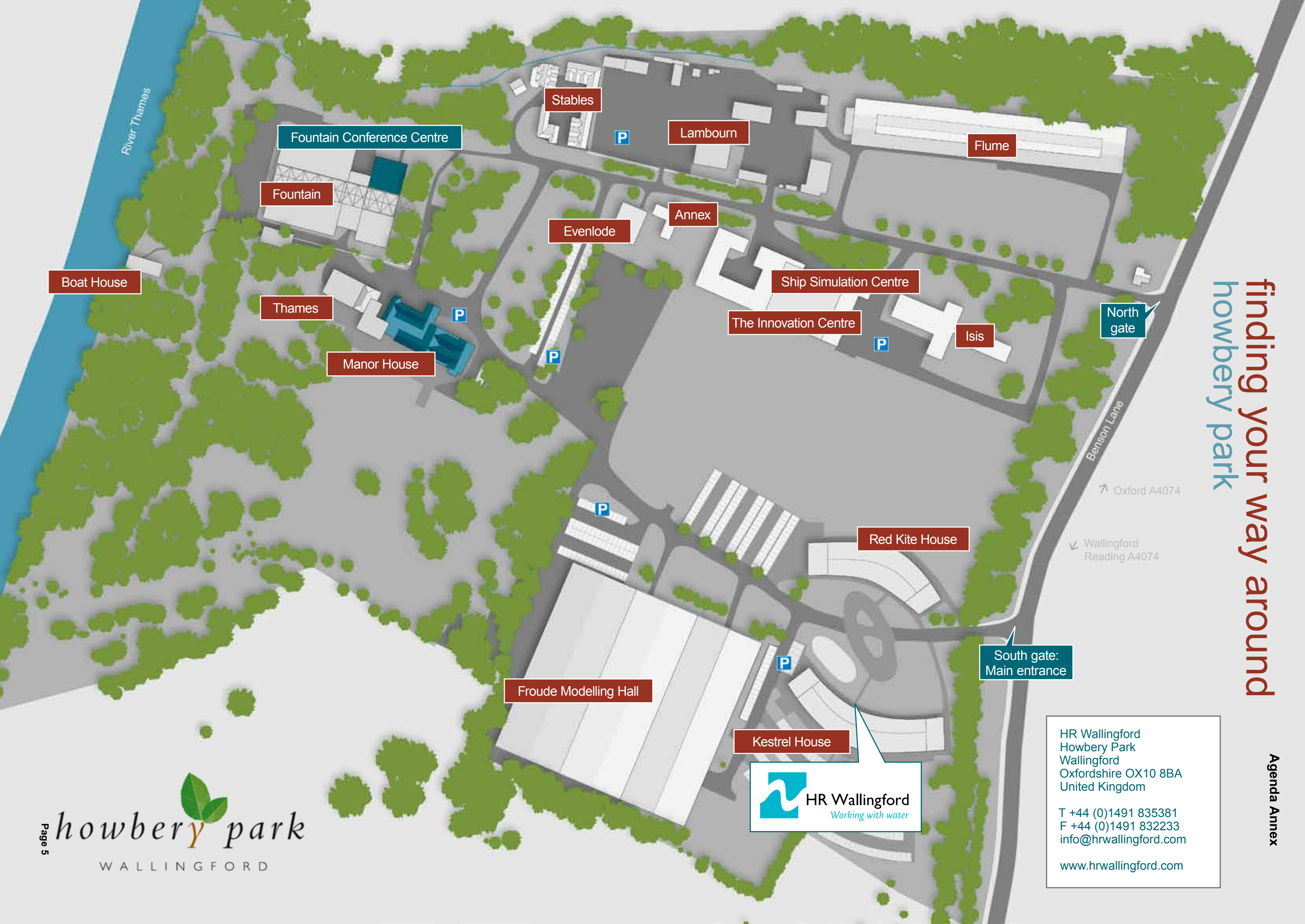
A4130

A4074

Agenda Annex

finding your way around howbery park

Agenda Annex



Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Council



Listening Learning Leading

HELD AT 6.15 PM ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017

**THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK,
CROWMARSH GIFFORD**

Present:

Paul Harrison (Chairman), Charles Bailey, Felix Bloomfield, Kevin Bulmer, Nigel Champken-Woods, Steve Connel, John Cotton, Pat Dawe, Anthony Dearlove, David Dodds, Stefan Gawrysiak, Elizabeth Gillespie, Will Hall, Stephen Harrod, Lorraine Hillier, Elaine Hornsby, Sue Lawson, Lynn Lloyd, Jeannette Matelot, Jane Murphy, Anthony Nash, David Nimmo-Smith, Richard Pullen, Bill Service, Robert Simister, Alan Thompson, David Turner, John Walsh and Ian White

Apologies:

Margaret Davies, Toby Newman and Margaret Turner tendered apologies.

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Matthew Gaskin, Simon Hewings (Capita), David Hill, William Jacobs, Alice Lynch and Margaret Reed

46 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

47 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

48 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

There were no items of urgent business. The Chairman provided housekeeping information and advised that his civic dinner would be held on Friday 31 March at the Phyllis Court Club in Henley.

Council agreed to suspend council procedure rule 80 insofar as it requires councillors to stand when speaking at Council meetings.

49 Public participation

The Chairman advised that Mr Julian Brookes, Mayor of Henley Town Council, and Ms Lisa Grant, General and Financial Manager of the YMCA, had registered to address Council on agenda item 8 on an application for a community loan from Henley YMCA.

50 Petitions

None.

51 Appointment of external auditors

At its meeting on 23 January 2017 the Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered a report on appointing external auditors and recommended that Council opt in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of external auditors.

RESOLVED: to opt in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of external auditors.

52 Community Loan - Henley YMCA

At its meeting on 1 February 2017 Cabinet considered a report on an application for a community loan from Henley YMCA and agreed to recommend Council to approve the award of a community loan.

Mr Julian Brookes, Mayor of Henley Town Council, and Ms Lisa Grant, General and Financial Manager of the YMCA, addressed Council in support of the application and responded to questions.

RESOLVED: to

1. approve the award of a community loan of £169,950 to Henley YMCA;
2. authorise the head of finance and the head of legal and democratic services to agree the conditions of the loan and the loan agreement;
3. approve a supplementary estimate of £169,950 to be added to the approved capital programme.

53 Treasury management mid-year monitoring 2016/17

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 1 February 2017, on the treasury management activities for the first six months of 2016/17.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee had considered the report at its meeting on 23 January 2017 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy as a result of the first six months' activities. Likewise, Cabinet concluded that the treasury management activities had operated within the agreed parameters set out in the approved treasury management strategy.

RESOLVED: to approve the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2016/17.

54 Treasury management strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 1 February 2017, on the approval of the council's treasury management strategy (TMS) for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 23 January 2017 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy. Cabinet agreed to recommend Council approve the strategy.

RESOLVED: to approve

1. the treasury management strategy 2017/18 set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 1 February 2017;
2. the prudential indicators and limits for 2017/18 to 2019/20 as set out in table 2, appendix A to the head of finance's report; and
3. the annual investment strategy 2017/18 set out in appendix A (paragraphs 26 to 66) and the lending criteria detailed in table 5 of appendix A to the head of finance's report.

55 Medium term financial strategy 2017/18 - 2021/22

Council considered Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 1 February 2017, on the medium term financial strategy for 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Cabinet supported the draft strategy, however, it believed that it should be adjusted to state that the council would not borrow to fund capital expenditure unless financially advantageous to do so.

RESOLVED: to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017/18 to 2021/22 as attached to the head of finance's report to the Cabinet meeting of 1 February 2017, subject to amending paragraph 2.1 (b) of the strategy to read: "To retain our debt-free status, i.e. we will not borrow to fund capital expenditure, unless financially advantageous to do so".

56 Revenue Budget 2017/18 and Capital Programme to 2021/22

The Chairman referred to regulations that require councils to record the names of those councillors voting in favour, against or abstaining from any vote on the budget, including amendments, and the council tax. In accordance with the regulations he would call for a named vote on each of these matters at this meeting.

The Chairman reminded councillors that they were not entitled to vote on any issue affecting the level or administration of the council tax or other decisions which might affect the making of any such calculation such as the budget, if they were over two months in arrears with their council tax payments. Where such circumstances applied, councillors were under a statutory obligation to disclose the restriction placed on them and refrain from voting at the relevant meeting. No councillor made any such declaration.

Council noted the report of the chief finance officer on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.

Mrs Murphy, Cabinet member for finance, presented the Cabinet's proposals for the revenue budget 2017/18 and capital programme to 2021/22. On behalf of the council she thanked officers for their part in continuing to control costs and in preparing the draft budget.

Mrs Murphy moved and Mr Hall seconded a motion to approve Cabinet's recommendations as follows:

That Council:

1. sets the revenue budget for 2017/18 as set out in appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 1 February 2017;
2. agrees that the capital schemes listed in paragraph 33 of the head of finance's report remain in the capital programme
3. approves the capital programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 as set out in appendix D.1, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D.2 to the head of finance's report;
4. sets the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the head of finance's report;
5. approves the medium term financial plan to 2021/22 as set out in appendix F to the head of finance's report;
6. allocates £1,000,000 to fund the Communities Capital and Revenue Grant Scheme.

Mr Turner moved and Mr Gawrysiak seconded an amendment to the above budget in the following terms:

"That the ongoing revenue savings proposal "Reduction in funding to Thames Valley Police" of £99,190 shown in Appendix B.2 on page 99 not be taken".

Those councillors who spoke in support of the amendment stated that if Thames Valley Police (TVP) were unable to bridge the gap in funding there could be a reduction in the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO). This could

have an adverse impact on the feelings of safety for elderly and vulnerable people particularly in rural areas where the PCSOs have had a positive impact particularly on youth crime and disturbance.

However, the majority of councillors were of the view that responsibility for funding PCSOs was a matter for TVP. In addition the nature of policing was changing with resources diverted to other means of tackling crime.

The Chairman called for a recorded vote on the amendment which was lost with the votes recorded as follows (Mr Service had left the meeting prior to the vote):

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Stefan Gawrysiak	Charles Bailey	
David Turner	Felix Bloomfield	
	Kevin Bulmer	
	Nigel Champken-Woods	
	Steve Connel	
	John Cotton	
	Pat Dawe	
	Anthony Dearlove	
	David Dodds	
	Elizabeth Gillespie	
	Will Hall	
	Paul Harrison	
	Stephen Harrod	
	Lorraine Hillier	
	Elaine Hornsby	
	Sue Lawson	
	Lynn Lloyd	
	Jeannette Matelot	
	Jane Murphy	
	Anthony Nash	
	David Nimmo-Smith	
	Richard Pullen	
	Robert Simister	
	Alan Thompson	

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
	John Walsh	
	Ian White	
2	26	0

Mr Turner moved and Mr Gawrysiak seconded an amendment to the above budget in the following terms:

“That an ongoing revenue growth bid for the sum of £24,147 for “air quality” be added to the budget”.

Those councillors who spoke in support of the amendment expressed the view that the growth bid would be used to fund an education programme to encourage residents to take action and change their behaviours to improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions.

The majority of councillors referred to the current work being undertaken by the council to address air quality including the provision of electric car charging points and work on an air quality action plan which would identify measures to reduce harmful emissions.

The Chairman called for a recorded vote on the amendment which was lost with the votes recorded as follows (Mr Nimmo-Smith had left the meeting prior to the vote):

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Stefan Gawrysiak	Charles Bailey	
David Turner	Felix Bloomfield	
	Kevin Bulmer	
	Nigel Champken-Woods	
	Steve Connel	
	John Cotton	
	Pat Dawe	
	Anthony Dearlove	
	David Dodds	
	Elizabeth Gillespie	
	Will Hall	
	Paul Harrison	
	Stephen Harrod	
	Lorraine Hillier	
	Elaine Hornsby	

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
	Sue Lawson	
	Lynn Lloyd	
	Jeannette Matelot	
	Jane Murphy	
	Anthony Nash	
	Richard Pullen	
	Robert Simister	
	Alan Thompson	
	John Walsh	
	Ian White	
2	25	0

Councillors supporting the Cabinet's budget revenue and capital budget proposals supported the view that the council continued to manage its financial matters sensibly while maintaining services and continuing its capital programme with no increase in this council's element of the council tax in 2017/18. Councillors supported additional investment to support the regeneration of Berinsfield, money to help Superfast Broadband reach more communities across the district and councillor ward budgets to support community projects and to help raise further funds for local voluntary and community groups.

The Chairman called for a recorded vote on the motion which was carried with the votes recorded as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Charles Bailey	Stefan Gawrysiak	
Felix Bloomfield	David Turner	
Kevin Bulmer		
Nigel Champken-Woods		
Steve Connel		
John Cotton		
Pat Dawe		
Anthony Dearlove		
David Dodds		
Elizabeth Gillespie		

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Will Hall		
Paul Harrison		
Stephen Harrod		
Lorraine Hillier		
Elaine Hornsby		
Sue Lawson		
Lynn Lloyd		
Jeannette Matelot		
Jane Murphy		
Anthony Nash		
Richard Pullen		
Robert Simister		
Alan Thompson		
John Walsh		
Ian White		
25	2	

RESOLVED: to

1. set the revenue budget for 2017/18 as set out in appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 1 February 2017;
2. agree that the capital schemes listed in paragraph 33 of the head of finance's report remain in the capital programme;
3. approve the capital programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 as set out in appendix D.1, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D.2 to the head of finance's report;
4. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the head of finance's report;
5. approve the medium term financial plan to 2021/22 as set out in appendix F to the head of finance's report;
6. allocate £1,000,000 to fund the Communities Capital and Revenue Grant Scheme.

57 Report of the leader of the council

In light of the comprehensive officer briefing provided to councillors prior to the Council meeting on proposals for a unitary authority in Oxfordshire and the motion to be considered later in the meeting, the leader of the council had no updates.

58 Council tax 2017/18

Council considered the report of the head of finance on the setting of the Council Tax for the 2017/18 financial year.

In accordance with regulations requiring councils to record the names of those councillors voting in favour, against or abstaining from any vote on the council tax the Chairman called for a recorded vote which was carried with the voting being as follows (Mr Simister and Mr Walsh had left the meeting prior to the vote on this item):

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Charles Bailey		
Felix Bloomfield		
Kevin Bulmer		
Nigel Champken-Woods		
Steve Connel		
John Cotton		
Pat Dawe		
Anthony Dearlove		
David Dodds		
Stefan Gawrysiak		
Elizabeth Gillespie		
Will Hall		
Paul Harrison		
Stephen Harrod		
Lorraine Hillier		
Elaine Hornsby		
Sue Lawson		
Lynn Lloyd		
Jeannette Matelot		
Jane Murphy		
Anthony Nash		
Richard Pullen		
Alan Thompson		
David Turner		
Ian White		

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
25	0	0

59 Pay policy statement 2017/18

Council considered the report of the head of HR, IT and technical services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

RESOLVED: to approve the pay policy statement for 2017-18 attached to the report of the head of HR, IT and technical services to Council on 16 February 2017.

60 Changes to the council's constitution

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services and monitoring officer on a proposed change to the council's constitution to clarify the decisions which can be taken by full Council.

RESOLVED: to

1. amend Article 4 of the current constitution with immediate effect to provide for full Council to be responsible for the adoption or approval of a plan or strategy (other than a plan or strategy forming part of the policy framework), where Council determines that it should take the decision whether to adopt or approve that plan or strategy;
2. amend the full Council section of Part 2: Decision Making of the revised constitution agreed by Council on 15 December 2016 with effect from 1 March 2017 to provide for full Council to be responsible for the adoption or approval of a plan or strategy (other than a plan or strategy forming part of the policy framework), where Council determines that it should take the decision whether to adopt or approve that plan or strategy;
3. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to update the constitutions to reflect the agreed amendments;
4. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make any minor or consequential amendments to the constitutions for consistency and to reflect the council's style guide;
5. determine that Council should itself take the decision whether to adopt or approve any proposals for unitary local government for Oxfordshire (including submitting the same to the Secretary of State and all further decisions following the Secretary of State's response), having considered recommendations of the Cabinet.

61 Questions under Council procedure rule 34

None.

62 Motions under Council procedure rule 41

Motion moved by Mr Cotton and seconded by Mrs Murphy:

‘This council supports proposals for a new countywide unitary authority and authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the council, to work with other partner councils to develop a proposal for the creation of a new unitary council for Oxfordshire and present a detailed report to Council in due course.’

An amendment moved by Mrs Gillespie and seconded by Mr Dodds was, with the consent of Council, accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion as follows with deleted words shown by a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold:

“This council supports ~~proposals for a new countywide~~ **the principle of a single** unitary authority **in Oxfordshire** and authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the council, to work with other partner councils **that support the same proposal for reorganisation** ~~to develop a proposal for the creation of a new unitary council for Oxfordshire~~ **to develop the terms of a submission for local government change in Oxfordshire** and present a detailed report to Council in due course”.

Councillors supported the principle of one single unitary authority for Oxfordshire which would transform the way services are delivered to the people of Oxfordshire, maintain high quality services and secure investment in infrastructure. However, a number of councillors expressed concern regarding the current One Oxfordshire proposal put forward by Oxfordshire County Council. The view was expressed that the current proposal required improvement to ensure local accountability with decisions taken at a much more local level than that offered by the area executive board model. Locally held reserves should be used for the benefit of local residents and there should be a commitment to ensure service improvement through any new unitary authority as well as a commitment to making savings.

RESOLVED:

That this council supports the principle of a single unitary authority in Oxfordshire and authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the council, to work with other partner councils that support the same proposal for reorganisation to develop the terms of a submission for local government change in Oxfordshire and present a detailed report to Council in due course.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

Chairman

Date

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Council



Listening Learning Leading

HELD ON FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2017 AT 6.00 PM

DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN

Present:

Paul Harrison (Chairman), Anna Badcock, Charles Bailey, Joan Bland, Felix Bloomfield, Kevin Bulmer, Nigel Champken-Woods, Steve Connel, John Cotton, Margaret Davies, Pat Dawe, David Dodds, Elizabeth Gillespie, Will Hall, Tony Harbour, Lorraine Hillier, Elaine Hornsby, Sue Lawson, Lynn Lloyd, Jeannette Matelot, Jane Murphy, Anthony Nash, Toby Newman, David Nimmo-Smith, Bill Service, Robert Simister, David Turner, John Walsh and Ian White

Officers:

Pat Connell, Steven Corrigan, Steve Culliford, Alice Lynch, David Hill, and Mark Stone

Also present:

Robin Rogers (Oxfordshire County Council)

63 Apologies for absence

Councillors Anthony Dearlove, Stefan Gawrysiak, Stephen Harrod, Imran Lokhon, Richard Pullen, Alan Thompson and Margaret Turner had all sent their apologies for absence.

64 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None

65 Chairman's announcements

The chairman alerted attendees to the emergency evacuation arrangements, asked everyone to switch the mobile phones to silent, and asked the public to remain silent and listen to the debate.

In view of the significance of the issue before the Council at this meeting, the chairman proposed that Council procedure rules 44 and 45 were suspended to allow unrestricted length of speeches by councillors. Council agreed the proposal.

RESOLVED: to suspend Council procedure rules 44 and 45 to allow councillors unrestricted time to make their speeches at this meeting.

66 Public participation

Mr Neville Harris had registered to address the Council.

Mr Harris informed Council that he was in favour of the proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire. However, if the proposals were to be a stepping stone, it was vital to adopt an inclusive form of local government for Oxfordshire, where representative democracy, elected member involvement and participation were maximised at the centre of decision making. This must not remain the prerogative of a minority of councillors as at present in the two-tier system, where the majority group elect a leader, who appoints a cabinet. The electorate believed that all councillors made a difference. All councillors should have a more inclusive role to play in decisions that affect our everyday lives. The proposals before Council were focussed on the status quo; instead they should be neutral. This was a matter for the first elected unitary council to decide on which form of governance it adopted.

The report before Council was asking councillors to abdicate their responsibilities on this important issue. It recommended delegating authority to officers, leaving little involvement for backbench councillors. He believed all elected representatives should decide on a material change in wording, and to decide on the terms of reference of the joint committee. Too much would be decided by too few.

He asked councillors to ensure that the proposals did not espouse the status quo and were at least neutral in their final recommendations. These proposals would mean life in Oxfordshire was a postcode lottery; in some places 'yes' to certain services, in other places 'no'. Delegation was not devolution. If things were to really change for the better, a unitary council would evolve with the passage of time.

The chairman thanked Mr Harris for his statement.

67 Single unitary council for Oxfordshire

Council considered the report of the chief executive on proposals for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire. Council recalled that at its meeting on 16 February 2017, it had passed a motion supporting the principle of a single unitary council and authorised the chief executive and leader of the council to work with partner councils that supported the same proposal, to develop the terms of a submission for local government change in Oxfordshire, and to submit a report to Council in due course.

Since that meeting, the chief executive and leader had worked with the leaders of Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council to improve the county council's One Oxfordshire proposal to form a new submission 'A New Council for a Better Oxfordshire'. The Better Oxfordshire proposal was now presented to Council. The proposal had already achieved the support of Vale of White Horse District Council and would be put before Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet on 14 March 2017.

The chief executive's report had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 2 and 9 March 2017. The committee had recommended to Cabinet and Council to:

- (a) note a number of concerns raised on matters of detail; and
- (b) support the proposal for the future organisation of local government in Oxfordshire as set out in the chief executive's report to Cabinet and the "A New Council for a Better Oxfordshire" proposal.

Cabinet had met on 10 March 2017, prior to the Council meeting, and had supported the recommendations set out in the chief executive's report, with the amendment of recommendation 7 to read (additional words shown in **bold type**):

"authorise the head of legal and democratic services, **in consultation with the leader and the chief executive**, to agree the terms of reference of the joint committee, which will include making recommendations regarding the initial functions of the implementation executive, and to make this council's appointments to the joint committee".

Tabled at the meeting were three additional documents to provide clarification:

- 1. A vision of a governance structure for the new unitary authority;
- 2. A model of council tax in Oxfordshire; and
- 3. A comparison of the Better Oxfordshire proposal with the One Oxfordshire proposal and the governance arrangements in Cornwall and Wiltshire.

Cabinet noted that the council tax modelling was based on figures published in the Oxfordshire districts' and county council's medium term financial plans, and assumed council tax increases across these councils in the lead up to the new unitary council being established. The figures also assumed that there would be a new council for the city of Oxford, setting a precept of £150 in a new town council role. The model showed that it would be possible to achieve levels of council tax no higher than would be expected under the current two-tier principal council system in Oxfordshire.

The leader of the council introduced Cabinet's recommendations, explaining that he had worked with the leaders of Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to improve the One Oxfordshire proposal and develop the Better Oxfordshire proposal. This offered the opportunity for greater efficiencies and improved governance arrangements with some decisions being made by executive area boards. The detailed proposals would be developed by a new joint committee. He offered to bring any significant changes back to Council for debate.

Council debated the proposal and welcomed the progress made since the last Council meeting. Councillors believed that this single unitary council bid presented the best opportunity for an efficient form of local government in Oxfordshire. A single unitary council would be easier for the public to understand. Councillors supported the proposal but recognised that the detail would require careful consideration, especially around local decision-making. Council accepted that this work should be conducted by the new joint committee. All principal councils in Oxfordshire should be invited to participate in the joint committee.

Although it was recognised that in developing the detail the council would have to make concessions, Council hoped that its reserves, built up through years of careful financial management, would be retained for use in South Oxfordshire and would not be used to support services across Oxfordshire. The leader reported that he would bring back proposals to Council later in the year on how the council's reserves could be used.

The leader offered to engage with Council on the unitary council as often as it wished. Councillors expressed confidence in the leader and chief executive to achieve the best deal for South Oxfordshire.

Some councillors expressed disappointment that the proposal had not been supported by Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The leader was hopeful that these councils would support the Better Oxfordshire bid once it had been submitted to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED: to

1. note and commend the approach taken by the Leaders of Vale, South Oxfordshire, and the County Council in putting the interests of residents, business and communities first in bringing forward these proposals;
2. consider the proposals, in particular taking note that 70 per cent of those responding to the County Council's representative household survey supported the proposal for a new unitary council for Oxfordshire;
3. respond to the recent letter from the Secretary of State and submit proposals to Government subject to any amendments required provided that they are materially in accordance with the attached proposal;
4. delegate the power to make such amendments to the chief executive in consultation with the leader and with South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council;
5. ask officers to seek local support from key stakeholders and the wider public to promote the proposals to government and respond to any subsequent consultation undertaken by the Secretary of State;
6. support the further development of the Area Executive Board model, a joint committee, open to all Districts and City Councils across Oxfordshire and the County Council, should be formed as early as possible. This joint committee should work with the existing County Council advisory group, local communities, Town and Parish Councils, and key delivery partners to develop detailed proposals that articulate the role, powers, format, scale and responsibilities of the Area Executive Boards which will be submitted to the Implementation Executive for inclusion with the proposed constitution of the new council;
7. authorise the head of legal and democratic services, in consultation with the leader and the chief executive, to agree the terms of reference of the joint committee, which will include making recommendations regarding the initial functions of the implementation executive, and to make this council's appointments to the joint committee;
8. ask officers to take steps to establish the City Convention to work with residents and local stakeholders to design the new model of governance in Oxford; and

9. in light of the above decisions, and the absence of unanimity among the current local authorities, confirm that Council does not support the proposals for a Mayor and Combined Authority as being the best structure for Oxfordshire.

The meeting closed at 6.54 pm

Chairman

Date