

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Council



Listening Learning Leading

**Held on Thursday 11 July 2024 at 6.00 pm
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN**

Present:

Councillors: Kellie Hinton (Chair), David Turner, Ken Arlett, James Barlow, Robin Bennett, Sue Cooper, Stefan Gawrysiak, Mike Giles, Ali Gordon-Creed, Kate Gregory, Georgina Heritage, Sam James-Lawrie, Katharine Keats-Rohan, Mocky Khan, Axel Macdonald, Denise Macdonald, Zia Mohammed, Leigh Rawlins, Jo Robb, David Rouane, Anne-Marie Simpson, Ian Snowdon, Andrew Tinsley and Tony Worgan

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager, Simon Hewings, Head of Finance and Vivien Williams, Head of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer (interim).

10 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024 as a correct record and agree that the Chair sign them as such.

11 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pieter-Paul Barker, Tim Bearder, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Peter Dragonetti, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Alexandrine Kantor, James Norman, Andrea Powell, Ed Sadler and Freddie van Mierlo.

12 Declarations of interest

None.

13 Urgent business and chair's announcements

There were no items of urgent business. The Chair noted what a privilege it was to represent the district council at such a varied number of events across the district.

The Chair congratulated those councillors who had stood as candidates at the recent parliamentary elections held on 4 July 2024 and particularly Freddie van Mierlo who was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Henley and Thame Constituency.

14 Public participation

None.

15 Petitions

None.

16 Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) - Round 3

Council considered Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 27 June 2024, to add additional funding to the approved capital programme to purchase homes under Local Authority Housing Fund 3 (LAHF 3).

Council was advised that Cabinet had resolved to accept the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' grant of £840,500 (indicative Local Authority Housing Fund 3 allocation) to deliver four homes that meet the eligibility criteria outlined within the Local Authority Housing Fund 3 prospectus. The remaining funds would come from the council's capital programme.

RESOLVED: to add £1.864 million to the approved capital programme, part funded by Local Authority Housing Fund 3 funding of £840,500, to purchase four homes under this scheme.

17 Report of the leader of the council

Councillor Roane, Leader of the council, provided his update report. He thanked all staff who he assisted with the delivery of the parliamentary election. He noted that South Oxfordshire District Council were the top recycling area in England.

18 Questions on notice

None.

19 Motions on notice

None.

20 Exclusion of the public

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. they involve 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.

21 Application for Grant Funding by Soha Housing Ltd – Windmill Road, Thame

Council considered and agreed Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 27 June 2024, on the provision of grant funding using S106 commuted sums held by the council, towards an affordable housing project being delivered by Soha Ltd in Thame.

See confidential minute.

22 End of Capita contract in September 2025 and options for the services still within the contract

Council considered a confidential report on the decisions taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 27 June 2024 regarding the end of the initial period of the Capita contract in September 2025 and the provision of services in the future.

Council noted the decisions taken by Cabinet and agreed to the cost of the proposed service arrangements set out in the report.

See confidential minute.

The meeting closed at 6:58pm

Chair

Date