

Cherwell District Council

Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 16 October 2012 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Jon O'Neill
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Douglas Williamson
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Substitute Members: Councillor Andrew Beere (In place of Councillor Patrick Cartledge)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Neil Prestidge

Officers: Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Joanne Kaye, Service Accountant - Community & Environment Directorate
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

32 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

34 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

36 **Capital Budget 2013-14 to 2016-17**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Resources which sought agreement on recommendations to the Executive for the Capital Programme for 2013-14 to 2016-17.

The Chairman opened the discussion with a brief resume of the work that the Board had undertaken to review the capital bids for 2013-14. The bids received were reviewed at an informal budget scrutiny meeting on 24 September 2012 and had been scored using a standard score card taking into account:

- Drivers (compulsory/legal; highly recommended; or desirable)
- Strategic Objectives (direct and significant to a strategic objective; indirect; or, not applicable)
- Consultation Priority
- Impact on performance or service deliver
- Organisation risk
- Efficiency (positive revenue with figures provided)

Executive Lead Members and Heads of Service had attended the second informal budget scrutiny meeting on 2 October 2012 to provide the Board with additional information on a number of bids and respond to any queries raised by Board members.

In considering the bids the Board agreed that it was important to take account of the score including the reason for the proposed capital expenditure, how the money was allocated by quarter and any requirements in future years.

The Board agreed that the following bids which all had with a score of 24 or more should be recommended to the Executive for inclusion in the capital programme 2013/14: Bid 7 Cherwell Community Centre – Roof Covering Replacement; Bid 17 Units 6 & 7 Thorpe Way – Replacement Roof Covering; Bid 19 D & PS Access Audit 2012; Bid 23 Bicester Sports Village Phase 2; Bid 26 Stratfield Brake Repair Works; Bid 36 Vehicle Replacement 2013/14; Bid 30 Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants; Bid 34 Recycling Bank Replacement 2013/14; Bid 38 Vehicle lifting equipment; Bid 40 Microsoft Licensing; Bid 41 Desktop PC Replacement; Bid 44 Visualfiles Upgrade; Bid 43 Server Replacement Package; Bid 2 23 & 24 Thorpe Place – Replacement Roof Lights; Bid 45 Financial System Upgrade;

Members were satisfied with the information and justification for each of these bids however it was noted that there were a number of bids relating to the replacement of items which would have a limited life span and therefore

require repair or replacing again as well as . Members commented that due to the limits on the capital pot consideration should be given to services building up funds to cover future replacements and ongoing costs.

Members also agreed that Bid 37 – Wheeled bin replacement scheme; Bid 8 – Works in Connection with Condition Survey; Bid 24 Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre Astro Turf Replacement; Bid 25 North Oxfordshire Academy Track Refurbishment; and, Bid 29 Discretionary Housing Grants should be recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2013/14.

The Board agreed that two bids should be recommended for inclusion in the 2013/14 Capital Programme subject to conditions: Bid 32 - Kidlington Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 2, subject to negotiation and agreement being reached with Kidlington Parish Council for the ongoing maintenance of the bollard; and, Bid 21 - Community Facilities Grant Scheme, subject to an appropriate policy for the scheme being established, a requirement that any bids over £2000 must have, as a minimum, matched funding and that the Lead Member approve grants.

Members agreed to defer consideration of the following bids: Bid 3 - Replacement Air Conditioning Plant to Main Chamber, Bodicote House; Bid 10 - Highfield Depot – Proposed Redevelopment of Office and Welfare Facilities; 1 - Planning and Building Control replacement of ICLIPSE (Northgate); Bid - 35 - Thorpe Lane Hard Standing Depot; Bid - 39 - Corporate – Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS); and, Bid 42 - Joint Intranet (CDC and SNC) to allow for further information to be presented to the Board in due course.

It was agreed that the following bids should not be recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2013/14: Bid 33 - Bartec expansion; Bid 5 - Replacement CCTV and Intruder Systems District Wide; Bid 22 - CDC and SNC Customer Services Desktop as a Service (DaaS); Bid 27 - Town Centre Visitor Information; and, Bid 6 - Lighting to Main Chamber, Bodicote

The Board agreed that the following bids did not meet the capital requirements and should therefore not be included in the 2013/14 Capital Programme: Bid 4 - Bradley Arcade – Promenade Deck Repairs to Shops; Bid 9 - Stable Restaurant Alterations; Bid 11 - Repairs to Lighting Protection at Bodicote House and Banbury Bus Station; Bid 12 - External / Internal Painting; Bid 13 - Retained Land Backlog Maintenance; Bid 14 - Street Furniture; Bid 16 - Unit 18 Thorpe Way - clearance of unit; Bid 18 - Unit 6 & 20 Thorpe Place – Improvements; Bid 28 - CDC Community Development Strategy; Bid 28 - Cherwell Allocations Review and Implementation; and, Bid 31 - Work-in-default.

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendations, conclusions and comments relating to the Capital Budget be submitted to the Executive for consideration as part of draft 1 of the 2012/13 budget.

Environmental Services and Homelessness Budgets

The Chairman reminded Members that at the Board meeting of 4 September 2012 Members had received an extensive briefing from the Head of Environmental Services during which Members were advised that Environmental Services delivered many of the front line services of the Council, including Waste Collection, Street Cleansing, Public Conveniences and Landscape Management. These services were the services that the Council was most well known for amongst residents and accounted for a significant percentage of overall Council expenditure. The overall revenue budget for Environmental Services was £5.86 million.

In considering the Environmental Services budget, Members noted that waste collection from residents in the district was the primary function of the waste service but considered that the collection of commercial waste could generate an income for the Council. It was acknowledged that the cost of such a service could outweigh any benefits and agreed that giving consideration to the feasibility of offering such a service through a cost/benefit analysis would be the most appropriate course of action in the first instance.

The Board had undertaken a detailed review of the Council's partnership with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) in 2010/11 and retained the item on their work programme to monitor in light of uncertainty about the financial arrangements.

The Director of Community and Environment advised the Board that there was still considerable uncertainty about the financial arrangements and, in particular, the payments to collection authorities from the county council. The issue was under discussion by Leaders and Chief Executives across the county and would also be considered by the OWP at their next meeting.

Members agreed that this should remain on their work programme and requested that the Head of Environmental Services provide updates to the Board as appropriate.

In terms of the homelessness budget, at their September meeting the Board had been advised that the Council's homelessness budget had remained relatively stable for the previous two years and the Government had confirmed that the Council's homelessness grant would remain the same for the next two years, but this was not ring fenced. Members had considered that as a consequence of the Government's Local Government Resources Review and Welfare Reforms, the Board agreed that they should retain a watching brief through the Finance Scrutiny Working Group.

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendations, conclusions and comments relating to the Environmental Services and Homelessness budgets as set out at appendix 1 to these minutes be submitted to the Executive for consideration as part of draft 1 of the 2012/13 budget.

38 **Readmittance of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

39 **Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2012/13**

The Board considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance which presented the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board work programme 2012/13 for consideration.

Resolved

- (1) That the Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board work programme 2012/13 be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Chairman:

Date: