

ITEM CA3

CABINET – 6 DECEMBER 2005

Minutes of the Meeting commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4:30 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillor Keith R Mitchell - in the chair

Councillor Roger Belson
Councillor Louise Chapman
Councillor Jim Couchman
Councillor John Howell
Councillor Ray Jelf
Councillor David Robertson
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor C.H. Shouler
Councillor Michael Waine

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Colin Lamont (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Terry Joslin (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Anne Purse (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Jean Fooks (for Agenda Item 6)
Councillor Barbara Gatehouse (for Agenda Item 7)
Councillor Liz Brighthouse (for Agenda Item 7)
Councillor Bob Johnston (for Agenda Items 7, 8 & 9)
Councillor Janet Godden (for Agenda Item 11)

Officers:

Whole of meeting: Chief Executive, J. Leverton and M. Bayliss.

Part of meeting: C. Cousins, H. Crozier, R. Dix, K. Haines, F. Upton (Environment & Economy); P. Edwards (Chief Executive's Office); R. Capstick, K. Griffin, R. Leach, M. Mill, R. Pal (Learning & Culture); L. Peretz, N. Welch (Social & Health Care).

The Cabinet considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in

the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

240/05. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5: Draft South East Plan - Housing Distribution

Councillor K.R. Mitchell declared a personal interest, on the grounds that he was the Chairman of the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA).

Item 7: Charges for Residents' Parking Permits

Councillor Bob Johnston declared a personal interest on the grounds that he frequently undertook survey work for the Office for National Statistics in areas of the City affected.

241/05. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2005 were approved and signed, with the following amendments in Minute 230/05:

- In the fourth line of the final paragraph on page 4 the word "not" to be omitted;
- in the third line of recommendation (a), "Approach 1" to appear in place of "option 1".

242/05. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:-

Request from	Agenda Item
7. Charges for Residents' Parking Permits	Mr Brian Lester (Chairman of Blackbird Leys Parish Council) Councillor Gill Sanders (Ward City Councillor for Littlemore) Councillor David Rundle (Ward City Councillor for Headington)
11. Matthew Arnold School	Dr Tony De Vere (Chair of Governors of John Mason School, Abingdon)

243/05. DRAFT SOUTH EAST PLAN - HOUSING DISTRIBUTION

(Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet considered a report (CA5) on the response to consultation on the future development strategy for Central Oxfordshire and the distribution of houses for the sub-region and the rest of the county up to 2026. The advice would be incorporated into the South East Plan that SEERA were expected to agree in February and submit to the Government in March 2006.

Councillor Lamont, speaking on behalf of the group of members appointed by the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee, emphasised the points made by the group and reported in the schedule of addenda, stressing in particular what he considered to be inadequate reporting of the responses received and the unjustified differentiation of those received as a result of local campaigns.

Councillor Joslin, speaking as a local member, criticised the consultation as not having asked the right questions and for not having been aimed at the population directly affected. He considered that it would be wrong to disregard the weight of

opinion expressed in the responses in favour of an Oxford-based strategy.

Councillor Purse, speaking as Shadow Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, expressed strong support for the principle of opposing incursion on the Green Belt but expressed concern about proposals to allocate development to Wantage/Grove in view of the poor prospects for overcoming the area's infrastructure shortcomings.

Councillor Belson responded to the comments made. He accepted that the consultation process had not been flawless but stressed the very limited timeframe and limited budget prescribed for the consultation. He put forward a motion in the terms now set out in the resolution below.

In debating the motion, members of the Cabinet commented in particular on the issue of preservation of the Oxford Green Belt and the principle adopted by SEERA that there should be no strategic green belt reviews; the economic and out-commuting problems of Bicester; the relative economic strength and potential of settlements in the southern part of the County; the infrastructure problems of all the potential areas for development and the need to secure provision as development took place; and the scope for sharing the development allocations between settlements in order to lessen their impact on any one area.

Councillor Belson referred to the imminent change in responsibilities of Ms Upton and expressed appreciation and thanks, which the Cabinet endorsed, for her work and support for members in relation to the Structure Plan and the South East Plan.

RESOLVED (unanimously, save as mentioned in relation to paragraph (a)(1) and (2)) to:

(a) (Councillors Belson, Chapman, Couchman, Howell, Jelf, Mitchell Robertson and Seale voting in favour and Councillors Shouler & Waine abstaining) in accordance with the Council's advice, noting that SEERA had ruled out strategic green belt reviews:

1. that the proposals to be submitted to SEERA on the future distribution of housing should not involve encroachment upon the Oxford Green Belt;
2. that those options identified in consultation responses which would involve such encroachment (such as those based on major development on the southern edge of Oxford or at Shipton Quarry) should not be adopted;

(b) that the district housing distribution and strategy for the Central Oxfordshire sub-region for submission to SEERA comprise the following:

3. the remaining 7,300 houses in Central Oxfordshire to be distributed as follows:
 - 2,000 houses at Bicester;
 - 3,000 houses at Didcot;
 - 1,400 houses at Wantage/Grove;
 - 300 houses within Oxford in addition to the 6,700 houses already identified, on the basis of the possible release of some safeguarded land;
 - 600 houses to be divided equally between South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire to allow some flexibility to plan for more local housing needs within the sub-region;
2. in the rest of the county area, the proposed distribution to allow for limited

development to meet local needs, and organic growth at Banbury;

as set out in more detail in [Annex A](#), and subject to the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure;

(c) that the statement of consultation in Annex 1 to the report and the information in Annexes 3-9 should be submitted to SEERA as technical supporting information as required by SEERA, subject to authorising the Head of Sustainable Development to make the amendments necessary as a consequence of the Cabinet's decision on the housing distribution in (b) above, and to carry out minor editing before submission;

(d) to request SEERA to amend the sub-regional boundary to include RAF Benson within Central Oxfordshire;

(e) to request SEERA to amend the boundary of the Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley sub-region to exclude the small part of South Oxfordshire from that sub-region;

(f) to record that in the opinion of the Cabinet these decisions were urgent in that advice was required to be submitted to SEERA by 9 December and the delay which would be caused by the call in process would therefore seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests; and that in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule (17)(a), subject to the concurrence of the Chairman of the Council, the call-in procedure should not apply.

244/05. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet considered a report (CA6) which set out the Council's performance to date for 2005/2006.

Councillor Fooks, speaking in place of Councillor Alan Bryden as Shadow Cabinet Member for Change Management, commended the success in achieving the PSA7 target. She expressed concern that PSA9 & PSA11 had been on target for the previous quarter were no longer.

Councillor Belson advised that the PSA9 target was expected to be fully achieved but that PSA11 was subject to take up by individual key workers.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

245/05. CHARGES FOR RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS

(Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet considered a report (CA7) which outlined issues relating to the introduction of charging for residents' and visitors' parking permits in Oxford.

Mr Lester was concerned that the residents' parking scheme in the area surrounding Kassam Stadium should remain free as it had been introduced for the protection of residents when the stadium had been imposed upon them.

Councillor Gatehouse, speaking as a local member, endorsed Mr Lester's comments. She suggested that undertaking consultation on a proposal to charge would not be productive as

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(Minute 243/05)

POLICY CO2 - SCALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSING

Provision will be made for 1,700 additional dwellings per year in Central Oxfordshire and for 660 additional dwellings per in the rest of Oxfordshire for the period 2006 to 2026. The provision will be distributed as follows:

District	Central Oxfordshire 2006-2026	Rest of Oxfordshire 2006-2026	District Total 2006-2026
Cherwell	5,800	6,000	11,800
Oxford	7,000	N/a	7,000
South Oxfordshire	7,500*	2,700^	10,200
Vale of White Horse	10,500*	1,000	11,500
West Oxfordshire	3,200	3,500	6,700
Totals	34,000	13,200	47,200

^ New housing to be accommodated within the area of South Oxfordshire that is within the Western corridor and Blackwater Valley sub-region of about 10 dwellings per year is included within the figure for the rest of the county.

** About 3,000 dwellings are proposed at Didcot 2016 - 2026. For illustrative purposes this has been split equally between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts.*

DETAILED HOUSING DISTRIBUTION : TABLE 4, ANNEX 3

Central Oxfordshire

District	Total Provision 2006-2026	Total Housing Potential 2006-2026	Distribution of total remaining Housing provision 2006-2026 see notes
Cherwell	5,800	3,800	2,000*
Oxford City	7,000	6,700	300#
South Oxfordshire	7,500	5,800	1,700^
Vale of White Horse	10,500	7,400	3,100^
West Oxfordshire	3,200	3,000	200
Total for Central Oxfordshire	34,000	26,700	7,300

*Cherwell figure includes provision for about 2,000 dwellings at Bicester

#Includes provision for about 300 dwellings on safeguarded land or from other potential sources in Oxford City

^About 3,000 dwellings are proposed at Didcot. For illustrative purposes ONLY this figure has been split 50:50 between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse (about 1,500 dwellings for each district)

Rest of County

District	Total Provision 2006-2026	Total Housing Potential 2006-2026	Distribution of total remaining Housing provision 2006-2026
Cherwell	6,000	5,200	800
Oxford City	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Oxfordshire	2,700	2,100	600
Vale of White Horse	1,000	500	500
West Oxfordshire	3,500	3,100	400
Total for Rest of Oxfordshire	13,200	10,900	2,300

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