

# County Council 2 April 2013

**Schedule of Business** 

# **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 2 APRIL 2013**

# **SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS**

N.B. Councillors are reminded that the play "Chelsea's Choice" will be performed at 4.00pm in County Hall

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS  (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
1.	1	30 mins	10.00	Minutes  Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2013 (CC1).  Members are asked to note the following corrections to the Minutes:  Page 5, 3rd paragraph – replace Councillor Alan Armitage with Councillor Roz Smith;	
2.	1			Apologies for Absence	Cllr Peter Jones
3.	2			Declarations of Interest	

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4.	2			Official Communications	
5.	2			Appointments  The Leader of the Council, Councillor Hudspeth has given notice to transfer responsibility for the Voluntary Sector from Councillor Chapman's portfolio (now known as Cabinet Member for Children) to Councillor Heathcoat's portfolio as Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities. The change having been duly notified took effect from Friday 15 March 2013.	

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6.	2			Petitions and Public Address	<ul> <li>Public Address</li> <li>Ms Julie Mabberley on behalf of Wantage &amp; Grove Campaign Group in support of Item 16 (Motion From Councillor Zoe Patrick);</li> <li>Mr David Hammond, Chairman of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council in support of Agenda Item 17 (Motion from Councillor Tony Crabbe);</li> <li>Mrs Julia Wells on behalf of Swyncombe Parish Council in support of Agenda Item 17 (Motion from Councillor Tony Crabbe).</li> </ul>
7.	2			Questions with Notice from Members of the Public	

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8.	2			Interim Arrangements for taking Emergency Decisions immediately following the County Council Elections	(M) Seale (SEC) Hallchurch
9.	3	30 mins	10.30	Improved Member Engagement and Streamlined Governance: Governance Review	(M) Lindsay-Gale (SEC) D Turner S Patrick S Pressel S J Sanders S Brighouse S Tanner

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS  (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
10	4	1hr 20 mins	11.00	Report of the Cabinet	
				Leader (lan Hudspeth)	Q. R.Smith (1), Patrick, Lilly (2)
				Deputy Leader (Rodney Rose)	Q. Armitage, Pressel (3), Fooks, Armitage (5), Tanner, J Sanders, Mathew(6),
				Adult Services (Arash Fatemian)	Q. Hannaby, Pressel (7), Hannaby, Stevens (8), Brighouse, Greene(9), Hannaby, Stevens (10),
				Education (Melinda Tilley)	Q. R. Smith (12), Gearing (14)
				Growth & Infrastructure (Hilary Hibbert-Biles)	Q Mathew (17), Purse, Lilly (18) Purse, Tanner, Fulljames, Lilly, Greene (19),
				Police & Policies (Kieron Mallon)	Q Shouler (21)
				Safer & Stronger Communities (Judith Heathcoat)	Q. Pressel (23)

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS  (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
11.	4	10 mins	12.20	Audit & Governance Committee – Annual Report	(M) Wilmshurst (SEC) Mathew S R. Smith
12.	4 CH	30 mins	12.30	Questions With Notice From Members of the Council  (1) Lilly to Hudspeth (2) Newton to Tilley (3) Mathew to Hibbert-Biles (4) L Sanders to Tilley (5) L Sanders to Hudspeth (6) Patrick to Hudspeth (7) Godden to Rose (8) R Smith to Rose (9) J Godden to Rose (10)J Godden to Rose	- See Annex 2
LUN	CH	1.00 pm			

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS  (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
13.	4	30 mins	2.00	Motion From Councillor Anne Purse	(M) Purse (SEC) Fooks S Godden S Armitage S Patrick S R. Smith S Rose S Greene
14.	4	1hr	2.30	Motion From Councillor John Tanner	(M) Tanner (SEC) Brighouse S Armitage S Godden S D Turner S R Smith S Purse S V Smith S J Sanders S Pressel S G Sanders S Stevens S Hudspeth S Mathew S Hibbert-Biles S Tilley S Fatemian S Lilly

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15.	5			Motion From Councillor Stewart Lilly	(M) Lilly (SEC) Gearing (AM) V Smith (see Annex 1) (SEC) Tanner (AM) Fooks (see Annex 1) (SEC) Purse S Patrick S Pressel S Brighouse S Lindsay-Gale
16.	5			Motion From Councillor Zoe Patrick  Members are reminded of the Public Address by Julia Mabberley at Agenda Item 6)	(M) Patrick (SEC) Godden (AM) Lilly (see Annex 1) (SEC) Mathew S Hannaby S Purse S R. Smith S Brighouse
17.	5			Motion From Councillor Tony Crabbe  (Members are reminded of the Public Address by David Hammond and Julia Wells at Agenda Item 6)	(M) Crabbe (SEC) Newton S Armitage S Pressel S Skolar

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS  (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
18.	6			Motion From Councillor Jenny Hannaby	(M) Hannaby (SEC) Godden S Fooks S Brighouse
19.	6			Motion From Councillor Keith Mitchell Withdrawn - Councillor Mitchell has indicated that he will not propose	
20.	6			Motion From Councillor Stewart Lilly	(M) Lilly (SEC) Mathew S Purse S Armitage S Darke S Greene
21.	7			Motion From Councillor Larry Sanders	(M) L Sanders (SEC) Sherwood S Pressel S Fatemian S Skolar

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22.	7			Motion From Councillor Larry Sanders	(M) L Sanders (SEC) Sherwood S Pressel S Fatemian S Skolar

#### **AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Agenda Item 15 - Motion From Councillor Stewart Lilly - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Val Smith

#### Add to the end of the Motion:

...This Council also recognises that for the people of Oxfordshire to take up new exciting possibilities brought about by economic growth that more Homes are needed and will they work (as they do already) with the Districts to ensure this happens - particular in areas like Grenoble Road in SODC. An important aspect of growth in the City is reducing the travel to work numbers. Grenoble Road will do this."

# Agenda Item 15 – Motion From Councillor Stewart Lilly – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jean Fooks

"This Council welcomes the news of the "City Deal", and its significant benefits to all of Oxfordshire. This success in moving to the next stage recognises the tremendous efforts of this Council & its staff in the valuable contribution that Oxfordshire can and will make to bringing the country's economy out of recession. Government clearly recognises that this authority has worked tirelessly in recent years to promote the County for economic growth. The University, the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, and the people of Oxfordshire now have exciting futures. Developing the detail of **the** proposals **following public consultation** will ensure that Oxfordshire's important infrastructure will be able to progress and also provide much needed additional employment.

This Council wishes the next administration to build upon this success and commit to continued partnership working with the City and district councils, business community and universities in developing the deal."

# Agenda Item 16 – Motion From Councillor Zoe Patrick – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Stewart Lilly

"This Council recognises the importance of housing development being planned in a sustainable way with the infrastructure required in place at an early stage.

The County Council Developer Funding Team have had success in gaining infrastructure for some larger developments in various parts of the county in the past. However, there are many smaller developments in parts of Oxfordshire where numbers of houses

are built without apparent input and without any objections from the highways officers, in spite of the extra traffic being created on existing roads. There is also concern that not enough priority is being given to ensure there are enough school places within existing schools when these developments are agreed. In some cases, new schools will be needed to cope with the demand. This is especially a problem when there are repeated applications in an area, that over a couple of years add up to many hundreds of houses, which would have triggered road and education infrastructure if in a single application.

As the County Council will be responsible for maintaining our roads and ensuring there are enough school places for our children, it is important that this is dealt with as a matter of urgency. This Council therefore urges the Cabinet to **continue to** take heed of these problems and to work with officers to find urgent solutions to this **these issues**, including closer working with district planning officers and improved liaison with local members."

# Agenda Item 19 – Motion From Councillor Keith Mitchell – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Zoe Patrick

"Council recognises the value provided to many young people by school cadet corps many youth organisations and asks the Cabinet in the new Council to consider how to encourage Oxfordshire state schools to promote school cadet corps all extracurricular youth activities."

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

#### Questions

#### 1. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY

As Science Vale UK is one of the most opportunities important economic benefit the entire County, can the Leader please confirm that this County Council will support and ensure that appropriate priority will be given to ensure the success of this Enterprise Zone. This will create many jobs for residents of our County. Will the County Council be seeking to take the "Lead Role" in liaison with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to ensure the right promotions, resources and dialogue with Government officials are made to ensure the success of this opportunity for all in Oxfordshire?

#### Answers

# COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The County Council is supporting and prioritising the Enterprise Zone and will continue to do so. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is responsible for the delivery of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) project and there is an agreed governance structure in place to ensure the progression of the project is appropriately managed and monitored. The County Council and LEP have three interrelated priority areas (Science Vale, Oxford, Bicester) to ensure the success of Oxfordshire as a whole.

Our commitment and support of the Enterprise Zone is demonstrated by the fact we now have a Locality Manager for Science Vale and that to date the County Council, in partnership with the LEP and Science Vale UK delivery partnership, has;

- Secured over £6m of growing places fund to support and drive growth in the EZ. Projects include schemes to improve access to both sites and a project to provide the EZ with global quality broadband.
- Supported, a small, but growing forensic science company in securing a small Growing Places Fund loan to support its expansion to the EZ.
- Through 'Invest in Oxfordshire': (Part of the County Councils Economy & Skills)
  - Secured Element 6 a South African company currently fitting out their new premises in the EZ that will bring over 120 jobs.
  - Supported Element 6 through this process by providing a 'soft landing'
     a holistic support service for new investors that offers end to end support from assistance in finding premises, providing detailed socio-

- economic data and supporting recruitment, through to information on the local housing markets, schooling and leisure.
- Supported Element 6 with a recent regional growth fund bid to further accelerate growth.
- Been working with the European Space Agency in a similar vein to secure over 70 jobs at the EZ.
- Attended conventions to support the area. We are attending the US Bio Convention in April and Space Symposium in May where the EZ will be heavily promoted, along with meeting senior overseas UKTI personnel to promote our offer.
- Supported the development of an EZ skills pathway, led by David Martin
  of Culham resulting in a recent £2m employer ownership of skills bid
  to govt.
- Worked closely with Milton Park and The Vale of White horse to secure a Local Development Order for the Enterprise Zone and wider Business Park.
- Working closely with the Highways Agency to improve access for Harwell-Oxford Campus at Chilton Interchange
- Submitted of a funding bid to the Department for Transport for improvements at Milton Interchange.

#### 2. COUNCILLOR CAROLINE NEWTON

Is the Cabinet Member pleased with the progress our children are making in schools?

# COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

In short, yes I am, overall, although, there are, of course, inevitably areas of relative strength and weakness and there is always more that can be done and more we shall do, in partnership with schools, through, for example, our Education Strategy.

Progress from KS1-KS2 is very good. In 2012, 91% of pupils in Oxfordshire made the expected two levels of progress in English and 88% in Mathematics. This is a sharp increase from the results in 2011 and Oxfordshire currently performs above the national and statistical average for this measure.

When compared with its statistical neighbours, Oxfordshire has the greatest

proportion of pupils making at least the expected progress in English and Mathematics.

I am pleased to report that our countywide reading campaign, delivered by the National Literacy Trust on behalf of the County Council, with a focus on approximately 80 schools, is making its mark and is valued by staff and children alike. The project is expected to deliver substantially improved reading standards as measured at level 2b+ in KS1 tests; contribute to wider improvements in education outcomes; raise the aspirations of children and families; foster a culture of reading and a love of books; and engage the whole community in the pursuit of high standards of literacy. As one of the members of staff involved with the scheme has said: "I must say I have never worked with a programme that has accelerated a child's learning and confidence in reading in such a short time."

At secondary level, the proportion of pupils making the expected three levels of progress in Mathematics from KS2 to KS4 increased by 3.5% in 2012, placing the County above the national average and in the second quartile nationally.

In English, however, the proportion of pupils making the expected level of progress from KS2 to KS4 fell by 4.6%, but this did follow the national pattern of a significant drop for 2012.

# **COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW**

Local residents have made clear their need for continuing a recycling facility at Stanfordin-the Vale. Would Councillor Hibbert-Biles please comment on the Council's plans to keep open this facility, which delivers an important local service?

# COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE

We know the residents value this centre and we are looking at ways to make sure it stays open.

#### 4. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS

The Children's Society recently did a study of the number of children who are defined as living in poverty who do not receive Free School Meals. They observed that many of these children come to school without lunch of the means to pay for it.

How many children in Oxfordshire live in poverty and do not receive Free School Meals; what has the Council done in the last year to reduce this number and what plans does it have for the coming year?

# COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

It is important to distinguish between the number of Children in Poverty and the number eligible for Free School Meals , the former being much higher than the latter,

which is one of the points made by the Children's Society report referred to by Cllr Sanders. The criteria for eligibility are those set by the DfE.

In Oxfordshire we estimate that, using the Children's Society definitions, there are c. **19,511** children from families in poverty.

The number of children taking Free School Meals in Oxfordshire is 8,680.

Rather than comparing take up of Free School Meals with the number of children from families living in poverty, a more meaningful comparison would be with the number of children *eligible* for Free School Meals. Unfortunately these data are not available (we don't know how many families choose not to claim) but we can estimate that number (extrapolating from Children's Society data). On that basis, we estimate that there are very approximately, 13,020 families eligible for Free School Meals in Oxfordshire. Which, in turn, means that very approximately **4,340** eligible pupils do not receive Free School Meals.

Food With Thought (FWT) actively encourages parents of primary school children to claim FSM if they are eligible. This is done, for example, by :

- reminding parents on the flier which is distributed to all parents when the menu changes (twice a year)
- alerting parents at the point of starting primary as part of an information pack
- via the FWT website

Of course these reminders are only available to parents of pupils who attend primary schools which are served by FWT.

Schools have also been encouraged in the recent past to maximise the take up of Free School Meals in their schools because the Pupil Premium which they receive is directly related to it.

#### 5. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS

How many people in Oxfordshire are living in fuel poverty (they would need to spend at least 10% of their income on fuel in order to provide themselves with adequate warmth)? How many of these are children; how many are older people?

What has the Council done in the last year to reduce these numbers and what success has it had? What plans are in place for the coming year?

# COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The table below shows the number of fuel poor households in Oxfordshire.

Area	All	Fire! Door	
	Households (estimated)	Fuel Poor Households	Fuel Poor (%)
Cherwell	56,306	5,447	9.7%
Oxford	56,204	7,086	12.6%
South Oxfordshire	52,955	5,701	10.8%
Vale of White Horse	48,300	5,056	10.5%
West Oxfordshire	42,705	4,714	11.0%
Oxfordshire	256,470	28,004	10.9%
South East	3,473,397	401,054	11.5%

Data relates to 2010 and is taken from the Department of Energy & Climate Change published on 22 January 2013

The data sets available do not allow us to draw explicit conclusions about the number of children and older people currently in fuel poverty; however they do provide estimates of vulnerable households currently in fuel poverty.

A vulnerable household is defined as one containing children, the elderly, and/or someone with a long-term illness/disability. The table below sets out those estimates in Oxfordshire

Area	Fuel Poor (%)	Estimated percentage of vulnerable households who are Fuel Poor (%)
Cherwell	9.7%	10.7%
Oxford	12.6%	13.9%
South Oxfordshire	10.8%	11.9%
Vale of White Horse	10.5%	11.6%
West Oxfordshire	11.0%	12.1%
Oxfordshire	10.9%	12.0%

The calculation of estimated percentage of fuel poor vulnerable households is based on the national rate for vulnerable households which is 1.1% greater than the overall rate.

This winter Oxfordshire has again been successful in bidding for central government funding to address fuel poverty through the Warm Homes Healthy People fund.

Oxfordshire has received funding of £152,754 to deliver programmes and initiatives addressing fuel poverty and to prevent vulnerable people across the county suffering from excess cold.

The grant received from the Department of Health has provided the following practical help for people in need:

- Practical refurbishments for households vulnerable to the cold (over 60's and other vulnerable groups)
- Delivery of additional benefit entitlement checks
- Free membership to an oil bulk-buying scheme for up to 250 households
- Provision of 'Fuel Vouchers' & Food Boxes

- · Specialist energy advice training
- Talks and events for relevant groups (WI's, over 60's social groups, young parents, community groups, etc.)
- The project has a dedicated telephone support line: 0800 107 0044

# By March 2013 we will have:

- Completed at least 300 benefit checks for vulnerable clients and 200 vulnerable people have increased their income
- Distributed £25,000 of extra fuel or food vouchers to a minimum of 80 people who are identified as vulnerable and in fuel poverty
- Distributed £45,000 of practical refurbishments to assist 140 vulnerable households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes
- Delivered energy efficiency training to at least 20 volunteers
- 10 community action schemes will have identified a minimum of 150 vulnerable isolated older people in their local communities
- Piloted the use of 'smart meters' in 35 households to test the effectiveness of smart meters in better managing fuel use. To be used as a model to engage other registered social landlords
- Recruited 75 more households to the Oxfordshire bulk oil buying scheme and fund their membership for one year

# **Partners**

The following partners are involved in the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund

- NHS Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire
- Citizens Advice Oxfordshire
- Age UK Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
- Oxfordshire Community Foundation
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxford City Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Vale of Whitehorse District Council

- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Oxfordshire Supporting People
- United Sustainable Energy Agency
- Home Improvement Agencies throughout Oxfordshire

#### **Promotion**

The Warm Homes Healthy People fund has been promoted widely across the county. OCC's has been actively taking the message and information to vulnerable people via its social workers, occupational therapists and other key staff that come in to contact with our vulnerable residents. We have also promoted the fund through our online resource, libraries and via OVCS.

Priority 10 of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is *'Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing'*. As part of this priority the Health Improvement Board is working to improve the co-ordination, sustainability and profile of work to counter fuel poverty across the county.

The following possible roles and recommendation were put to Health Improvement Board on the 20 March 2013:

- To promote sustainability and wider participation in the work of the Affordable Warmth Network to ensure the work can continue beyond the period currently funded. This may include future bids for Warm Homes Healthy People grants.
- Monitoring progress on current work and giving it a higher profile through the H&WB. This can be achieved by including relevant indicators in the "basket of indictors for housing and health" but also by setting outcomes for 2013-14 for reduction in fuel poverty in the County.
- 3. Assisting with surveillance and interpretation of data to ensure efficient and effective targeting of limited resource to the areas / sectors with worst fuel poverty outcomes.

#### 6. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK

Will the Leader of the Council be taking up the recent launch of Norman Baker's door-todoor strategy, the coalition government's vision for a flourishing, joined-up, sustainable transport system which is encouraging councils to take up multi-operator ticketing systems?

# COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

I'm sure that Councillor Patrick can remember that in the budget I set aside £50,000 to investigate the possibility of a fully integrated ticket, not just for buses but one that can be used across all forms of transport, including car parks. I have always had the desire to have a modern 21st century fully integrated system for Oxfordshire and I am therefore delighted that Norman Baker is following my example.

#### 7. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN

In the light of the Prime Minister's recent much publicised praise for the campaign for a community path from Eynsham to Botley, is the Cabinet now prepared to back the efforts of Bike Safe and support them in seeking additional funding to make the community path a reality?

# **COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER**

I congratulate all at Bike Safe for their continued campaign for a community path from Eynsham to Botley. I do support this initiative, while regretting that the County Council has no financial or officer support at this time.

#### 8. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH

The London Road from Sandhills to Headington Centre and the Slade Road are reported as in the top ten of the country's most congested roads. Drivers experiencing such congested roads will inevitably find other routes, often through residential side roads, to shorten their journey times. What are the council's plans to mitigate these congested roads and to stop 'rat-running' through residential roads?"

# **COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER**

It's no secret that Oxford's road network experiences significant congestion problems during peak hours, and that the City was never designed to cope with the volume of traffic passing through it today. Much work has been done and continues to be done to address these issues, not least the highly successful Park & Ride sites which have been instrumental in reducing the number of cars coming into the City Centre. We are in the process of creating an extra 500 spaces at Thornhill Park & Ride, provide more capacity for Headington commuters.

"Oxford is also very well served by bus services and cycle routes and we always encourage people, where possible, to consider these extremely viable alternatives to the car. The County Council recently brokered a Smartcard

deal with the City's two major bus companies which has made bus travel easier than ever before.

"We have also launched the Oxfordshire Car Share scheme, a project aimed at helping the environment, cutting congestion and saving money for motorists at a time when the cost of running a car is more expensive than ever. This scheme continues to grow and we now have thousands of registered members making many hundreds of shared journeys between Oxford and the wider County.

#### 9. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY

I thank the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board for answering my question to Cabinet regarding delayed transfers of care.

I am aware of the implementation of discharge to assess and fully support the initiative, to the extent the Liberal Democrat alternative budget rejected by the ruling group had funded a further five occupational therapists.

The success of this system depends entirely on partnership co-operation, comments made at the Health & Wellbeing Board gave the impression that this is not happening. Is it not the duty of the Health and Wellbeing board to monitor working practices and if found lacking send out strong warnings further delays due to non-co-operation will not be tolerated.

# COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Council and the NHS are building on good relationships established over many years to get us all through a period of change. There is strong commitment to working together for the benefit of the people of Oxfordshire. This commitment is demonstrated by a Joint Commissioning Strategy for older people, active discussions about integrated health and social care teams working on the front line and a proposed larger pooled budget. Furthermore the Director of Social Services has based himself at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's HQ in recent months to help build new relationships with GPs.

We all recognise that despite some tricky negotiations from time to time, we have to work together to get the best outcomes for local people.

#### 10. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN

Recent NICE advice on active travel, <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?act">http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?act</a> ion=byID&o=13975

addressed specifically to directors of Highways and of Public Health requires them to

- Ensure that local, high-level strategic policies and plans support and encourage both walking and cycling. This includes a commitment to invest sufficient resources to ensure more walking and cycling – and recognition that this will benefit individuals and the wider community.
- Ensure that the walking and cycling aspects of these plans are developed in conjunction with relevant voluntary and community organisations.
- Assess the impact of relevant policies and decisions on people's ability to walk and cycle. Where necessary, amend them to ensure support for walking and cycling.

What action will the Cabinet be taking with regard to this advice? Does the Cabinet plan to apply for additional monies from the Department of Transport that will enable it to put this guidance into practice for the benefits of Oxfordshire?

# **COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER**

We recognise the vital role that walking and cycling play in keeping people of all ages active and healthy. Walking and cycling is a low-cost option for individuals, and can be built into the daily travel routine, unlike other forms of physical activity. In particular, we recognise that our transport policy needs to support efforts to tackle obesity, and help people to maintain health in old age through remaining active. Encouraging greater use of public transport is also important, because journeys by bus or train usually involve some walking or cycling, whereas journeys by car usually involve very little.

Our Local Transport Plan 3, which is the overarching transport policy document for transport in Oxfordshire, contains strong policies supporting walking and cycling (see attached). When we update LTP3 this year we will be looking to further strengthen these policies, and the document will make clearer links than before to public health, referencing the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The updated LTP3 will be drafted for members' consideration after the county council elections, through the proposed Transport Advisory Panel (if adopted by the new Council), and is expected to be published for consultation in the autumn.

When we develop walking and cycling infrastructure schemes, we will involve local users and potential users to ensure we get the detail right. We have a successful track record of carrying out community walking and cycling audits, which are extremely useful in finding out exactly what is needed. We also build in consideration of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists in the development of, and decision making on all highway improvement schemes.

We remain committed to seeking external funding to support the implementation of our ambitions to improve walking and cycling infrastructure, in particular to support housing and employment growth. We will take up opportunities to bid for government funding for schemes and programmes, focussing on those where there is a match between the criteria and our strategic priorities, and where we have schemes developed to a sufficient level, including options appraisal and preliminary design.